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Society's Purpose

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

Membership Benefits

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

To Join the Society

Membership categories:

(January 1 – December 31)

Student (include proof if over 18)	\$10.00
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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.**



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Vireya *R. jasminiflorum* hybrid.
Photo by Mansur Kiadeh.

ARS Digital

Website: www.rhododendron.org

Office: www.arsoffice.org

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

JARS back issues: <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS> [to Vol. 54, 2000]

Archives: www.lib.virginia.edu/small

ARSSStore: www.ARSSStore.org

Blog: <http://rhododendron.org/blog/default.asp>

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

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

From the President

Bob MacIntyre
Bandon, Oregon



This issue of the President's letter contains several items relating to the changes now taking place in the ARS organization. Laura Grant, our Executive Director, is retiring after eleven years of exemplary service at the end of this year's Annual Meeting being held in Williamsburg, VA. A big Thank You, Laura, for your leadership and help to all ARS members.

A Transition and Search Committee was established according to the Policies of

the ARS Board at the last ARS Annual Meeting in Sidney, BC. The team is comprised of the following: Ann Mangles, Senior Vice President; Ken Webb, Western Regional Vice-President; Bruce Feller, Past President; Linda Derkach, Secretary; and David Banks, District 9 Director and Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Assisting this committee has been Sam Burd, Treasurer.

This Committee has done an outstanding job. They have thoroughly studied the activities and procedures of the office of the ARS, and have recommended changes to the structure and assignment of duties in order to run our organization more efficiently and cost effectively.

Members of the By-Laws and Policies Committee have reviewed the recommendations of the Transition Committee and have recommended to the Board any necessary changes to the By-Laws and the Policies of the Board .

The results of the committees work were presented at the April BOD meeting and at the General Meeting in Virginia. These are positive changes to move the ARS forward in the changing environment of declining membership, i.e., declining income. This is a time for all members to pull together, stand behind the changes and help us move forward.

I also want to express my sincere Thanks and Gratitude to the exemplary group of volunteers who have put in many hours to help make this all happen. Thank You, Thank You, and Thank You! It has been a privilege to watch the Transition Team work together and do what is best for the organization without personal biases or agendas.

On another matter, I have had requests from both ARS members and non-members asking where they can find answers to many common questions about rhododendrons, and pictures of them. I am listing here the sites I commonly visit.

American Rhododendron Society:

rhododendron.org

RHS Rhododendron, Camelia and Magnolia Group:

www.rhodogroup-rhs.org

Rhododendron Species Foundation:

rhodygarden.org/cms/

Other sources of information are chapter newsletters and websites, with links to chapter websites on the OARS website. Two websites in particular that I use are those of the Potomac Valley Chapter (www.arspvc.org) and the Portland Chapter (www.rhodies.org), which contains David Goheen's "ABC's of Rhododendrons". That should get you started in answering any questions!

From the Editor

Glen Jamieson
Parksville, BC
Canada



It's hard to realize how fast time flies, and that spring is once again upon us. It's March 1, and in the Pacific Northwest, we have had a very mild but wet winter, a relief after the dry winter we had had last year! Snowdrops and crocuses are now finished, with many early rhodos, flowering plums and cherries, daffodils, bergenia and so on in full flower. We've been gardening since December on days when it's not too wet, so our garden is beginning to look great. Back east, it seems to have been a strange winter for many, with dramatic quick changes from below normal to above normal temperatures, and I see that today there is a major snow storm hitting the northeast! Such is life it seems these days!

As mentioned in the recent winter *JARS*, there are now significant changes between the printed and online *JARS*. Additional content in the online *JARS* has been added, so this format now has more photos and some added species rhodo content in comparison to the printed *JARS*. This is possible because there are no ARS printing costs involved with the online *JARS*, although because of a now slightly larger pdf file size, download times may be slightly longer. However, a downloading need only occur once, as once downloaded, the pdf can be saved for later easy access. If you have not yet accessed the online *JARS*, I encourage you to now do so and see what it offers. As in the past, I welcome suggestions on how either the printed or online versions of *JARS* can be improved so that member's needs and interests can be best addressed.

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Fig. 1. Vallarta Botanical Garden Vireya House. Photo by by Iván Jiemenz.

Vireyas at the Vallarta Botanical Garden

Deanna “Dee” Daneri
Palm Desert, California



Just ten years ago, in November 2005, a new botanical garden, the Vallarta Botanical Garden (VBG), opened its gates for the first time. Located just 23 km (14.3 miles) south of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, the 11.25 ha (27.8 acres) property already boasted a 557 m² (6000 ft²) building where fine Mexican cuisine was being served and concerts were being held. Bob Price, the owner of the property, had a great passion and enthusiasm for plants, but his professional interest was primarily in the restaurant



Fig. 2. 'Rosy Posy' vireya. Photo by Mansur Kiadeh.

business. He and his supportive mother Betty bought the over-grazed parcel of land with a vision of turning it into a “jewel box” filled with plants. Its location in Cabo Corrientes, a part of the Sierra Madre, already boasted fabulous native trees of the region, and native vanilla orchids hung from trees in the area. A crystal clear stream ran through the property, and the birds of the region enjoyed the pure clean air in this tropical paradise.

In January 2006, a few plant geeks decided to drive up the mountain and learn more about this new venture. The owner himself was conducting tours, and his excitement and vision for the VBG's future was very contagious. Shortly after our tour, we found ourselves enjoying fabulous views over the Sierra Madre from the terrace of his restaurant. Bob Price soon joined us and shared more of his vision for the future. I mentioned that I had recently retired from my job working for the ARS, and we quickly agreed that environmental conditions were not appropriate for a rhododendron dell in this tropical garden.

During that year I enjoyed a pleasant email exchange with Bob Price, and realized that he might be in need of the kind of help that I could give. Thus, in January 2007, I arrived at the Vallarta Botanical Garden, where I would live for the next few weeks. Price had already realized that his grand dream could not come true with only the income from

the restaurant, so I suggested associating his garden with a membership organization and registering it for a 501 (c) 3 (this would allow tax deductible donations from US citizens) to encourage tax-deductible donations. This was achieved, and special events were planned. Because the original vision included a restaurant and display pavilion, the building now known as Hacienda de Oro soon became recognized throughout Puerto Vallarta as a fabulous venue for an evening under the stars or a Sunday afternoon concert.

The Vallarta Botanical Garden was always intended to function as a public place. From the onset, trails were already being created and the public was welcome. Plant growers and specialty nurseries throughout the region were visited, and many collections were started at the VBG. And so it has come to pass, that in just ten years (infancy for a botanical garden), the VBG is now considered by the Canadian Garden Tourism Council as one of the “Top Ten Gardens in North America Worth Travelling For.”

But what about rhododendrons! We quickly discovered that the beautiful Pana’wea Rainforest Zoo and Gardens in Kea’au, Hawaii, was at the same latitude as the Vallarta Botanical Garden. Its altitude above sea level, which influences both temperature range and rainfall, was also perfect. The VBG subsequently started growing and propagating vireya cuttings and determining which species and hybrids survived best. This evaluation greatly benefited from the help and good advice from ARS members.

However, two major challenges in maintaining vireyas were encountered. Hawaii has no leaf-cutter ants, while the jungles of Mexico not only have leaf-cutter ants but tropical rains of such great intensity that growing vireyas occasionally suffered storm damage. The leaf-cutter ant problems were resolved by placing vireyas in pots or



Fig. 3. 'Taylora' vireya. Photo by Iván Jiemenz.



Fig. 4. *R. jasminiflorum* "Pink" hybrid vireya. Photo by Mansur Kiadeh.



Fig. 5. Unknown vireya. Photo by Gerardo Luna.



Fig. 6. *R. aurigeranum* x *R. zoelleri* vireya. Photo by Mansur Kiadeh.

creating moats around their displays, and some selective spraying was also done. Trying to grow vireyas under trees was also deemed unacceptable, as the litter from the trees was both unsightly and unhealthy to showcase vireyas. Consequently, it was ultimately decided that the vireya rhododendron collection at the VBG would need to be roofed. Now, less than 10 years after VBG establishment, we are pleased to announce that the vireya collection at the VBG is covered by a roof (Fig. 1)! Some of the vireyas being grown are shown in Figs. 2-6.

There is much to celebrate as we reflect back to the beginning of the Vallarta Botanical Garden, and the introduction of rhododendrons to the Garden. Please visit the VBG website at vbgardens.org to learn more about the many activities and projects which have become a reality there in just ten years, and soon to be added information on the vireyas there. Better yet, plan a visit. Now we know why one can say “Viva Vireya” in Mexico!

Dee Daneri is the past ARS Executive Director, Chair of the ARS Honors Committee, a member of the Eureka Chapter, and a keen rhodo (mostly vireya) enthusiast.

Exploring Sikkim: Rhodos and Plants of the Day

Glen Jamieson
Parksville, BC,
Canada



Photos by the author
unless noted

From May 12 to June 4, 2015, 18 rhodoholics (Canada: Tony and Jackie Clayton, Brenda Macdonald, Sean Rafferty, and myself; USA: Kristi Beddow, Ava Grego, Roger Harris, Dale Lindsley, Jason Martinez, Chip Muller, Carol Stanley, Mike and Maria Stewart, Garratt Richardson, Paul Thompson, and Keith White) led by Steve



Fig. 1. 2015 Sikkim participants in front of a large *R. glaucophyllum*. Back row (left to right): Thupten Tsering (guide), Garratt Richardson, Dale Lindsley, Carol Stanley, Keith White, Mike and Maria Stewart, Sean Rafferty, Chip Muller, Tony Clayton, Glen Jamieson and Steve Hootman. Front row: Sailish Pradhan (organizer), Roger Harris, Paul Thompson, Ava Grego, Brenda Macdonald, Jackie Clayton, Neelam Basnett (guide), Kristi Beddow and Jason Martinez. Photo by Jason Martinez.



Fig. 2a. Map of Indian states. Sikkim is a tiny Indian state nestled between the countries of China, Nepal and Bhutan.

Hootman, Executive Director & Curator, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Federal Way, WA, (Fig. 1) travelled to Sikkim and West Bengal, India (Fig. 2a), for three weeks of rhododendron exploration. Sikkim has 38 native rhodo species, and we were going to try and find them all in the wild. As it turned out, we found 35 of them, with *R. edgeworthii*, *R. lindleyi* and *R. pumilum* being the only ones we did not encounter.

The trip consisted of three main components (Fig. 2b)—a six day tenting trek in West Sikkim from Yuksam to Dzongri return, complete with 22 pack horses and supporting horsemen, cook and guides (centre red line in Fig. 2b; see Dzongri trek online photos on p. 20) three days of exploration of the Yumthang Valley in North Sikkim by vehicle from Lachung (right red line in Fig. 2b; see Yumthang Valley online photos on p. 23);

and four days of exploration of the Tonglu–Sandakphu Ridge in Singalila National Park in West Bengal, either by walking or riding in vintage land rovers and staying in trekkers huts (left red line in Fig. 2b; see Sandakphu Ridge online photos on p. 26). In between these components, we had a few days relaxation in Gangtok (Sikkim, see online photos on p. 30), Kalimpong or Darjeeling (both West Bengal).

We lucked out with the weather, as while we were in pre-monsoon cloud at elevation on many days, we only had one hour of heavy rain during the days when we were exploring for plants, and that was at about 4000 m (13,000 ft) at Dzungri. We were also lucky enough to be able to see Mt. Kangchenjunga (8,586 m; 28,169 ft) on the Sikkim/Nepal border, the third highest mountain in the world, briefly early one



Fig. 2b: A Google Earth map of Sikkim and northern West Bengal, showing the major place names mentioned in the text and main areas explored (red lines) for rhododendrons. Left red line: Tonglu–Sandakphu Ridge, centre red line: Dzungri trek, and right red line: Yumthang Valley.

morning from Dzongri Dhoring at 4250 m (13,945 ft) and again early in the morning from Sandakphu!

I am not going to describe in detail the many amazing experiences we had on this remarkable trip here (see White 2016), such as our great guides Neelam Basnett and Thupten Tsering, and our very helpful local organizer, Sailish Pradhan; the narrow, freaky, single-lane roads with no guard rails; the shooting stones (landslides), and the leeches, but am instead going to describe some of the more remarkable plants we saw.

At the end of each day, we all gathered together and reviewed the day's plant sightings. We then voted and by majority, chose both a rhodo and non-rhodo that most impressed us that day. Here, I will report on what these species were, and give some description of them and some explanation as to what made them so interesting. The species chosen were not necessarily the most abundant or largest, and were sometimes especially unique, either because they were rare or had qualities not previously observed. A major challenge was species nomination, what with seeing so much and having so many people involved!

PLANTS OF THE DAY

1) Dzongri Trek (West Sikkim)

Day 1: *R. dalhousieae* var. *dalhousieae* (see Letter to editor, p. 85) is a lower elevation, and hence somewhat tender species of subsection *Maddenia*. This was the first rhododendron we saw, and it was high on a cliff near the bridge over the Paha River at 1796 m (5892 ft). This species can be found in Sikkim, Nepal and Bhutan from 1850-3000 m (6000-9500 ft), so our first specimen was at its lower range elevation. It is often epiphytic and grows to a height of 1-3 m (3-10 ft). Although all the plants we saw over the entire trip were located too high to reach, its flowers are 7-9.5 cm (2.8-3.7 in) long, are very fragrant and are whitish/creamy in colour (Fig. 3).

We observed a number of *Begonia* species, with *B. picta* with its small white flowers the most common. The one that captured most attention, though, was a small-leaved, unknown species observed to be growing in only one location—on a moist embankment covered with moss. What made it so stunning was the electric blue iridescence from its tiny leaves, only poorly captured by a photo (Fig. 4). It was a real surprise to see the leaves glinting like jewels against the damp green background, and catching everyone's attention, it was selected as the first non-rhodo of the day!

Day 2: We climbed higher the next day, and the next rhodo species of the day was *R. falconeri*. This is a large species in the subsection *Falconera*, growing 3-15 m (10-50 ft) in height (Fig. 5a), and is found from Nepal east to West Arunchal Pradesh and Assam, India, at an elevation of 2500-3400 m (8000-11,000 ft). It has large trusses of white to yellowish flowers with a dark purple or pink blotch. Its leaves are large, ranging from 12.5-32.8 cm (5-16.8 in) long. This species was very abundant and impressive with its



Fig. 3. *R. dalhousieae*.



Fig. 4. An unknown begonia species with electric blue iridescence on its tiny leaves.

brown, flaking bark (Fig. 5b).

With its extravagantly enlarged, rolled spathe flaring and spreading up to 25 cm (ten in) across, *Arisaema griffithii* var. *pradhanii* (Fig. 6) is a spectacular plant, and was a clear favourite for non-rhodo of the day. Sometimes as a group called the cobra lily or Jack-in-the-pulpit, we found it growing under trees or shrubs in dappled shade, where it was often quite abundant. The brilliant yellow-green tracing and mottling in among the rich burgundy coloration on the spathe was stunning. The Sikkim form of this magnificent Himalayan species is prized for the more prominent yellow striping on the spathe and was named in honour of Rai Saheb Ratna Bahadur Pradhan of Rhenock, Sikkim. The spadix appendage can be over 50 cm (20 in) long.

Day 3: Climbing higher, *R. pendulum*, a relatively small (0.3-1.2 m, 1-4 ft), often epiphytic species, impressed everyone. It is in the subsection *Edgeworthia* and can be found from Nepal to SE Tibet at an elevation of 2300-3650 m (7500-12,000 ft). It has white suffused with pink or yellow flowers, with the corolla scaly on the outside. Its most distinctive features are leaves with a dense, brown wooly indumentum that extends slightly beyond the leaf margin (Fig. 7), making a most attractive small plant.

The purple golden-eyed primrose, *Primula calderiana*, is a beautiful high-altitude primrose (Fig. 8a) found in NE India. Flowers are dark purple to magenta with a golden eye, borne in umbels atop leafless stems 5-30 cm (2-12 in) tall. This

was the most common primrose seen, and was particularly abundant in the Yumthang Valley in North Sikkim (Fig. 8b), where it was again non-rhodo of the day on Day 3 in that area. Leaves are spoon-shaped to inverted-lance shaped, and are toothed. The flowering stem is much taller than the leaves, and flowers are up to two cm (0.8 in) across, with overlapping petals. Purple golden-eyed primroses are found in alpine meadows (and stream sides at altitudes of 3800-4700 m (12,470-15,420 ft) in Bhutan, NE India, Nepal and Sikkim.

Day 4: In alpine areas, two dwarf species were common—*R. anthopogon*, section *Pogonanthum*, and *R. setosum*, section *Rhododendron*, subsection *Fragariiflora*. In many ways, both species were quite similar, even though they were taxonomically quite distinct. Both grew about 0.15-1.5 m (0.5-5 ft) high, had similar elevation ranges (2750-5050 m, 9000-16,500 ft), and while only *R. anthopogon*'s range extended further west to Kashmir, both went east to Tibet. *R. anthopogon* has mostly white flowers although we did see some pink to red at the base of the corollas, while *R. setosum* has pink to reddish-purple flowers. They also differ in their leaves, with the upper surface of *R. setosum* being quite scaly, a feature not found with *R. anthopogon*. *R. anthopogon* (Fig. 9) was selected as the rhodo of the day, perhaps because it was generally more colourful and abundant this day. Both species also have aromatic leaves, and were on occasion collected by our guides for burning as incense



Fig. 5a. *R. falconeri* tree, being photographed by Sean Rafferty.



Fig. 5b. *R. falconeri* bark.



Fig. 6. *Arisaema griffithii* var. *pradhanii*.



Fig. 7. *R. pendulum*.

in ceremonies, such as on the highest ridge we attained at 5 a.m. when we first observed Mt. Kangchenjunga.

The hairy throated primrose, *Primula primulina* (Fig. 10), is a tiny plant with a rosette of numerous toothed leaves, and a dense umbel of 2-4 violet, purple, or rarely white flowers, atop a slender up to 8 cm (3.2 in) stem. Flowers can be easily distinguished by the tuft of white hairs in the throat, which often covers the throat. Flowers are 0.8-1.2 cm (0.3-0.5 in) across, with deeply bilobed petals that do not overlap. Leaves are coarsely and deeply rounded-toothed, softly hairy. This plant was not common and we only found it once.

Day 5: We followed the same route down, so this gave us opportunity to revisit many of the species we saw going up, allowing us to reassess their features and to include some other notable candidates!

At our highest elevation (we took four days to go up—this jokingly set a record according to our guides for being so slow, but apart from mostly being seniors, we did do a lot of botanizing—and two days to go down), *R. wightii* dominated the hillsides below the alpine (Fig. 11a) and there was no doubt amongst us that this was the rhodo of the day here. This species is in the subsection *Taliensia* and was quite abundant, particularly on exposed locations on mountain ridges and slopes. It is only 2-6 m (6.5 -20 ft) tall and its leaves have a pale fawn to brown indumentum (Fig. 11b), with a relatively large inflorescence of 12-20

flowers. Petals are 2-4 cm long and are white to pale yellow.

The popular poppy name *Meconopsis* is usually applied to *Meconopsis* that grow quite tall (1-1.5 m, 3-5 ft) and that have beautiful blue flowers. However, there is a second group of *Meconopsis* that is quite different in habit and appearance from the big perennial blue poppies. The most important difference is that they are monocarpic. This means that the plants behave like annuals and die after flowering and setting seed, i.e., they are not indefinitely perennial. However, unlike annuals that go through their whole lifecycle in one year or less, the process of growing to maturity and flowering with these plants takes several years. *Meconopsis paniculata* (Fig. 12) is one of these plants. Its lovely golden rosette of massive, felted, bear's ear-like leaves lasts over several years of growing, getting larger year by year. The time will come, though, after two, three or four years and when sufficiently large, for a stout flowering stem, up to 2-3 m (6.6-9.8 ft) tall, to arise from the rosette of leaves and bear a spire of yellow flowers. The flowering period can extend over more than a month, during which the first flowers fade and attractive seed-capsules become prominent in their place. Typically, abundant small, but plump, fertile seeds develop within the capsules as they mature. After seed-setting the plant dies. We did not see this plant in flower, but were greatly impressed by its large golden rosettes that stood out in the leaf litter.



Fig. 8a. The purple golden-eyed primrose, *Primula calderiana*.



Fig. 8b. *Primula calderiana* meadow.



Fig. 9. *R. anthopogon*.



Fig. 10. Hairy throated primrose, *Primula primulina*. Photo by Carol Stanley.



Fig. 11a. *R. wightii* hillside.

Day 6: Although we had seen it in profusion on Day 2, *R. thomsonii* (Fig. 13), subsection *Thomsonia*, lost out to *R. falconeri* that day, but on Day 6, it finally achieved rhodo of the day. It truly is a spectacular rhododendron, reaching 1-6 m (3.5-20 ft) in height with smooth, brownish flaking bark. Its flowers are deep blood red to deep rose, and the species ranges from Nepal to southern Tibet at an elevation of 2400-4300 m (8000-14,000 ft). The hillside above where we camped on Day 3 was crowded with this species, and along with *R. falconeri*, *R. barbatum* and *R. lanatum* in particular, we were surrounded by flowering rhododendrons, creating a spectacular vista.

Abies densa (Himalayan alpine fir) is a dominant conifer (Fig. 14a) in the family *Pinaceae* in the upper coniferous cloud forest belt of the central and eastern Himalayas from Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, adjacent Tibet and into Burma (Myanmar) at altitudes between 2800-3700 m (9200-12,150 ft). It is a tree normally up to 30-40 m (98-130 ft) height, but can reach to 60 m (197 ft), with trunk diameters sometimes reaching 2.5 m (8.2 ft). The bark becomes fissured and coarsely platy with age, and its needles are up to 4.5 cm (1.8 in) long, with somewhat recurved margins. The bluish gray or dark blue female cones (Fig. 14b) are striking, and can be up to ten cm (four in) long. It was seen at altitude on all the locations we visited, and is truly an impressive tree.



Fig. 11b. *R. wightii* indumentum.



Fig. 12. A young *Meconopsis paniculata*, showing its golden rosette of felted, bear's ear-like leaves.



Fig. 13. *R. thomsonii*.



Fig. 14a. *Abies densa* with snow-capped Mt. Pandim (6691 m, 21,952 ft) sunlit in the centre.

2) Yumthang Valley (North Sikkim)

Day 1: Again at a lower elevation, we saw our only specimen of *R. maddenii*, which like *R. dalhousieae* is also in the subsection *Maddenia*. It occurs from 1500-2750 m (5000-9000 ft) in Sikkim and Bhutan. It has large 6.5-10 cm (2.6-3.9 in) long, fragrant whitish flowers, sometimes suffused with pink



Fig. 14b. *Abies densa* female cones.

Dzongri Trek (West Sikkim)



Keith White, Mike Stewart and Roger Harris hiking on Day 1 of the Dzongri trek.



One of our pack horses crossing a bridged creek on Day 1 of the Dzongri trek.



Pack dzos (cow/yak hybrids) passing Sean Rafferty.

Dzongri Trek (West Sikkim)



Our Phedtang campsite, Day 3.



R. hodgsonii forest.



Fig. 15. *R. maddenii*. Photo by Jason Martinez.



Fig. 16. *Arisaema costatum*.



Fig. 17. *R. baileyi*.

and sometimes with a greenish or pink blotch. The one plant we saw was on a rocky outcrop above the road (Fig. 15). Because of its rarity for us in Sikkim and its stunning inflorescences, it was the rhodo of the day.

Arisaema costatum (Fig. 16) was the other plant of the day. It is found in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet at elevations up to 2400 m (7875 ft) and was commonly seen growing on cliffs, in open woodlands, and in the grassy clearings in forested areas. It is a stunning-looking plant with an elegant maroon-chocolate-brown hooded spathe that is striped dramatically with highly contrasting, transparent, white vertical markings. From this cobra-like inflorescence, an elongated spadix emerges with a thin appendage that can dangle like a fishing-line or twist up on itself in an eccentric knot. Its foliage is highly attractive and consists of a very large trifoliolate leaf with distinctive lateral veins that run in parallel and are raised in pale ridges on the underside of the leaf.

Day 2: For the next two days, we explored this spectacular valley by vehicle, ultimately up to the snow line. *R. baileyi* (Fig. 17) is a medium-sized species (0.6-1.8 m, 2-6 ft) in its own subsection *Baileyi*. It is a higher elevation (2440-4270 m, 8000-14,000 ft) species with flowers of a reddish-purple to deep purple colour, and it was exciting to see this species for the first time. Although not a big plant, it stood out because of its flower colour and the fact that it was found by us only in this valley. It is found

in Sikkim, Bhutan and southern Tibet.

Meconopsis simplicifolia (Fig. 18), sometimes called the common blue poppy, is a deciduous monocarp or perennial, has a rosette of leaves with bristly hairs, and blue or purple flowers on leafless stems. Like the more commonly cultivated *M. betonicifolia*, it is an impressive plant and it was exciting to see it growing in the wild. It is native at altitudes of 3450–5450 m (11,300–17,900 ft) from central Nepal to southeastern Tibet. It was the only *Meconopsis* we saw in flower, and as with all tall blue *Meconopsis*, stood out, both because of its refreshing blue-coloured flowers and its stately appearance.



Fig. 18. Common blue poppy, *Meconopsis simplicifolia*.

Day 3: On this day, we reached our highest elevation in the valley at 3525 m (11,564 ft). Our rhodo of the day here was one of the smallest species we saw on the whole trip (Fig. 19a), the high alpine *R. nivale* (Fig. 19b). It is a small shrub 8-30 cm (3-12 in) in height found from Nepal to southern Tibet at elevations ranging from 3000-5800 m (10,000-19,000 ft). It is in the subsection *Lapponica* and like other members of this group, occurs in moorlands at high altitude. Consequently, it typically grows well in cultivation only in colder climates. We unfortunately could not find the other high altitude species, *R. pumilum* (3500-4300 m, 11,500-14,000 ft), which also occurs in Sikkim but is even smaller in size, being only 5-13 cm (2-5 in) high.



Fig. 19a. *R. nivale* bush.



Fig. 19b. *R. nivale* flowers.

The other plant of the day here was *Primula calderiana*, which was its second non-rhodo of the day and was described above in Day 3 on the Dzongri Trek (Fig. 8a).

Yumthang Valley (North Sikkim)



The road into the Yumthang Valley.



The winding switchbacks up into the Yumthang Valley.

Yumthang Valley (North Sikkim)



Kristi Beddow in a thicket of *R. wallachii*.



R. campanulatum subsp. *aeruginosum*
near the head of the Yumthang valley.



Tibetan prayer flags in the Yumthang
Valley.

3) Sandakphu Ridge (West Bengal)

Day 1: After leaving the Yumthang Valley, we drove west via Gangtok and Kalimpong to Maneybhanjyang in West Bengal, right on the Indian-Nepalese border, where we were taken up to Tonglu via World War II-vintage land rovers to hike in India's Singalila National Park. This park is right on the Indian-Nepalese border and is inaccessible from Nepal, and some of the trekker's huts we stayed in were just over the border in Nepal.

Our first rhodo of the day was *R. grande* (Fig. 20), subsection *Grandia*, which as its name implies, is a magnificent, large rhododendron, growing to 3-15 m (10-50 ft) in size, with large leaves up to 30 cm (11.8 in) long and 13 cm (5.2 in) wide. It has rose or pink flowers that fade to almost white, in trusses of 15-25 flowers. It can be found at an elevation of 1700-3600 m (5600-12,000 ft) from Nepal east to Assam. The plants we saw had largely finished flowering, like the *R. falconeri*, but were nevertheless spectacular

The other plant of the day was a *Lithocarpus* tree (sometimes called stone oaks, a genus in the beech family *Fagaceae*, differing from *Quercus* in having erect male spikes) that was covered with epiphytes. Because of its large size, it was not readily photographed but was truly impressive because of its significant epiphyte loading of



Fig. 20. *R. grande*. Photo by Jason Martinez.



Fig. 21. A stone oak. *Lithocarpus elegans*
Photo by Jason Martinez.

ferns, orchids and *Vaccinium*. There are about 300 species, mainly in Asia, with one distantly related species in western North America. We previously observed *Lithocarpus pachyphylla* at around 2030 m (6660 ft) on the Dzongri Trek around where *R. dalhousieae* was located. *Lithocarpus elegans* (Fig. 21) was observed here in West Bengal when we trekked from Chitrey (2400 m, 7872 ft) to Tumling (2895 m, 9200 ft).

Day 2: We saw magnificent *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *cinnabarinum* Blandfordiiflorum Group, subsection *Cinnabarina*, in the Yumthang Valley, where it unfortunately lost out to *R. baileyi* as rhodo of the day. Here we saw *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *cinnabarinum* Roylei Group (Fig. 22), our rhodo of the day, which has flowers of blood red with a waxy bloom, whereas the flowers of Blandfordiiflorum Group are yellow and orange bicolor. This species grows from Nepal east to southeastern Tibet at an elevation range of 2150-4150 m (7000-13,500 ft). Plants range in height from 1.2-5.5 m (4-18 ft). This rhododendron was abundant under an open canopy of *Abies densa*, and I spent a long time watching fire-tailed sunbirds (*Aethopyga ignicauda*) feeding from its flowers.

The non-rhodo of the day was *Pleione hookeriana* (Fig. 23), one of the peacock orchids, which we also saw on both the Dzongri trek and in the Yumthang Valley. *Pleione* are grouped into two groups—spring and fall-flowering species, and this species is spring flowering. *P. hookeriana* is found from the eastern Himalayas, east to Thailand, Laos and southern China, in mixed bamboo and rhododendron scrub on mossy rocks and trees in deep shade at elevations of 2200-4200 m (7200-13,800 ft) as an epiphyte, lithophyte or terrestrial species.



Fig. 22. *R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *cinnabarinum* Roylei Group.



Fig. 23. *Pleione hookeriana*.

Sandakphu Ridge (West Bengal)



Elevation features of the Sandakphu Ridge trek in Singalila National Park along the Indian-Nepalese border. We hiked from Chitrey to Sandakphu.



Trekking the Sandakphu Ridge.

Sandakphu Ridge (West Bengal)



Walking through *R. wallichii* thickets.



At the end of our trip! The Elgin Darjeeling Hotel's welcoming khatas (scarves) and drinks. Tibetan khatas are usually white, symbolizing the pure heart of the giver. Chip Muller, Maria Stewart, Ava Grego, Paul Thompson, Garratt Richardson and Glen Jamieson.

Day 3: *R. arboreum* (Fig. 24), subsection *Arborea*, has many subspecies, and the one we picked as rhodo of the day was subspecies *cinnamomeum* var. *roseum*. The species is wide-ranging, occurring from Kashmir through to Assam at an elevation of 1200-3350 m (4000-11,000 ft). Its trusses typically have 15-20 flowers, which can range in colour from red to deep crimson, pink or even white.

Fritillaria cirrhosa, the yellow Himalayan fritillary (Fig. 25), was the non-rhodo of the day and is a wide-ranging species of lily, occurring from Sichuan, China, to Myanmar to Pakistan. Flowers are bell-shaped, yellowish-green to brownish-purple and usually with a chequered pattern in dull purple. The plant is commonly found in alpine slopes and shrub lands at altitudes of 2700-4000 m (8850-13,100 ft). We found this specimen on a ridge immersed in cloud, where because of its bright green colour, it stood out from the surrounding duller vegetation.



Fig. 24. *R. arboreum* subspecies *cinnamomeum* var. *roseum*.



Fig. 25. Yellow Himalayan fritillary, *Fritillaria cirrhosa*.

PLANTS OF THE TRIP

After much discussion and perhaps more than a little libation, the majority vote for Rhodo of the Trip was for *R. thomsonii* (Fig. 13) and for Non-rhodo of the Trip, much to Steve's surprise, for *Abies densa* (Fig. 14a). He was sure that an orchid at least would have won out, but the striking memories of these

beautiful firs silhouetted against stunning snow-capped mountains took the day! *R. thomsonii* was also a worthy winner, as it was abundant, lower-growing (and hence readably observable), had beautiful red flowers that were in flower during our trip, and for me at least, it was great to see one of the more common garden rhodo species in the wild. A day-by-day account of activities and observations on our trip has been summarised by White (2016).

Finally, no article on Sikkim would be complete without a few pictures of its spectacular mountains and landscape. Mt. Kangchenjunga (Fig. 26) is the highest mountain in India and second highest in Nepal and is the easternmost 8000 m peak. The mountain is in the Kangchenjunga Himal, a high mountainous region bounded on the west by the Tamur River and on the east by the Teesta River. Kangchenjunga lies about 120 km (75 miles) east southeast of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world. The name Kangchenjunga translates “Five Treasures of Snow,” referring to Kangchenjunga’s five peaks. The Tibetan words are: *Kang* (Snow) *chen* (Big) *dzö* (Treasury) *nga* (Five). The five treasures are Gold, Silver, Precious Stones, Grain, and the Holy Scriptures. It was first climbed in 1955 by the British climbers Joe Brown and George Band, who stopped just below the sacred summit itself, fulfilling a promise to the Maharaja of Sikkim to keep the summit undefiled by human feet. This tradition has been practiced by many of the climbers who have since reached Kangchenjunga’s summit. On an aside, Mark Twain (1897) traveled to Darjeeling in 1896 and wrote about Kanchenjunga:

I was told by a resident that the summit of Kinchinjunga is often hidden in the clouds, and that sometimes a tourist has waited twenty-two days and then been obliged to go away without a sight of it. And yet was not disappointed, for when he got his hotel bill he recognized that he was now seeing the highest thing in the Himalayas.

So, we were very lucky, as we saw it from two different locations in our 21 days in Sikkim!

Sikkim is a very mountainous region, but what is surprising to many, and certainly me, is just how steep most of the mountain slopes are (Fig. 27). Even the more major roads through the state are mostly only two lane, as a four-lane cut into many of the hillsides they would have to traverse would create too deep a roadcut, with resulting frequent landslides. Sikkim is on the convergent boundary of the Indian and the Eurasian tectonic plates and is subject to frequent earthquakes. Most of the roads in Gangtok (Fig. 28), the state capital, are steep, with buildings built on compacted ground alongside them.

In summary, travelling with this great, knowledgeable group was truly a pleasure, and thanks to both Steve Hootman and Sailish Pradhan for organizing such an interesting



Fig. 26. Mt. Kangchenjunga from Sandakphu, (8,586 m; 28,169 ft) on the Sikkim/Nepal border, the third highest mountain in the world.



Fig. 27. A mountain road in the Yumthang Valley.

Gangtok



Sailish Pradhan with his seedling azaleas.



Fig. 2d. Mike Stewart, Keshab Pradhan and Steve Hootman.



Fig. 28. Gangtok, the capital of the state of Sikkim.

trip in such a beautiful area. Sikkim is an amazing place, with friendly people, beautiful landscapes and an impressive number of native rhododendrons at higher elevations.

Acknowledgements:

Rhodo species descriptions, ranges and elevations mostly came from McQuire and Robinson (2009) and Pradhan (2015). Brenda Macdonald was official secretary who maintained the daily species records and plants of the day. Steve Hootman confirmed many of the species in the images selected and was an amazing asset in species identification on the trip, especially for someone like me who had never before seen most of the species encountered, and I applaud his patience in answering many of the trivial questions I no doubt asked.

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2016 ARS Photo Contest

Instructions

The Contest is open only to ARS members in good standing as of the contest closing date. Judges and their immediate family (spouse, parents, siblings, and children) and household members are not eligible. By participating in the Contest, each entrant fully and unconditionally agrees to and accepts these Official Rules and the decisions of the Judges, which are final and binding in all matters related to the Contest. There are no prizes except bragging rights, and the Editor of *JARS* has the right to publish runner up and winning entries.

All photos submitted must have been taken between August 1, 2015, to July 31, 2016. Entries must be received by midnight PST, July 31, 2016. All entries should prominently feature either rhododendrons, azaleas and/or vireyas in the composition. Competition categories: 1) Flower, truss or spray; 2) Plant in bloom; 3) Landscape or plants in the wild or in gardens; 4) Foliage; 5) People, Insects, or Animals; and 6) Other, for creative or artistic effects of any kind that involves these plants. This could involve the use of software products like PhotoShop.

Photo Guidelines: 1) The Photo must be in .jpg, .jpeg, or .gif; 2) Images submitted should be sent by email and be of modest size, about 1024 to 1280 pixels in length and 480 to 768 in width, which would correspond to a dpi of at least 300 for a 3 x 5 in (7.6 x 12.7 cm) photo; 3) Cropping of digital images and minor adjustments to exposure and color balance is permitted for entries in all categories. Advanced image editing features available in software products like Photoshop should not be used except for entries in category six; 4) The Photo caption and/or description must not exceed 200 characters in length. Provision of some details about the camera and settings for each entry is also required, and for submissions in category 6, include a brief explanation of how the image was created; 5) The Photo cannot have been submitted previously in an ARS contest (chapter contest submissions are acceptable); and 6) The number of entries by any individual per category is restricted to two.

Rhododendrons of the Year, 2016

Ray Smith

Glenwood, Maryland

The ARS Plant Awards Committee has selected the Rhododendron of the Year awards for 2016. Because of climate differences, the committee selects plants for seven regions: an elepidote, a lepidote, a deciduous azalea and an evergreen azalea. The Vireya/Swisher Award is given to a vireya rhododendron.

The first criterion is that the plant performs well in the region, even for a novice. The plant has to exhibit good form, foliage and flowers to prove itself cold and heat hardy for the region and to show resistance to pests and diseases. In addition, the plant must be available in the nursery trade and the name registered by the International Cultivar Registration Authority

NORTHEASTERN REGION

Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Gloxineum'

(parentage unknown). A Dexter hybrid with some of the largest flowers on plants developed on the East Coast; lightly scented, slightly ruffled, speckled gloxinia pink flowers with a golden flare on the dorsal lobe; outstanding foliage with large leaves, especially in shady areas; attractive and vigorous growth habit, quite upright with few branches while young, but widens and branches well as it matures; a large plant like many of the Dexters, growing to 5-6' in ten years, eventually reaching 12' or more; hardy to -20° or even -25° F, with strong limbs that are wind resistant and hold up well in the snow; parentage uncertain, but probably includes *R. fortunei*; a prolific bloomer popular in Europe; sometimes listed as 'Dexter's Gloxineum.'



'Gloxineum'. Photo by J. & S. Perkins.



'Brittany'. Photo by H. Greer.

Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Brittany'

('Bowie' (s) × *R. keiskei* dwarf form). Dense, compact, and mound-like with deep mahogany stems and bronzy-green leaves; has a spreading

habit, reaching 3' x 4'; six broadly funnel-shaped flowers with wavy-edged lobes held in a flat truss, opening pale yellow then maturing to shades of yellowish pink, with moderate pink outside; a mid- to late-midseason bloomer and a very hardy plant, tolerating temperatures as low as -20° F; a study at Holden arboretum showed it to be highly resistant to phytophthora root rot, perhaps due to its *R. keiskii* parentage; a David Leach hybrid.

Deciduous Azalea

***R. schlippenbachii*.** One of the most common shrubs in Korea, often called the royal azalea; the natural range extends from Korea into nearby parts of Manchuria and Russia; the dominant undergrowth plant in many parts of Korea often turns vast areas into waves of pink in the spring; named for a Russian naval officer, Baron Alexander von Schlippenbach, who introduced the plant to the west in 1854; early midseason bloomer, with the funnel-shaped flowers opening to cover the plant as the leaves emerge; large fragrant flowers held in clusters of 3-6 in colors ranging from white to pale pink to rose-pink, with reddish spots on the upper lobes; does its best in light to open shade, protected from the afternoon summer sun, too much of which may cause the leaves to become sunburned; a highlight in the autumn garden with its dark green leaves turning a mix of yellow, orange, and red; a slow growing, upright and spreading plant, reaching 5' to 7' tall in ten years; the multi-stemmed branching results in a rounded plant at maturity, when the height can reach as much as 15'; hardy to -25° F and does better in less acidic soils than most azaleas; the widely available selection 'Sid's Royal Pink' has deeper pink flowers with a more compact growth form.



R. schlippenbachii. Photo by H. Greer.

Evergreen Azalea: 'Ground Hog' *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanensis* × 'Vuyk's Scarlet' open pollinated.. A vigorous and fast growing midseason bloomer, very low growing and spreading with a dense plant habit, developing into a plant 1' x 3' in 7 years; vivid purplish red, broadly funnel-shaped flowers with a large, burgundy-colored, speckled dorsal blotch; 3-4



'Ground Hog'. Photo by J. & S. Perkins.

wavy-edged flowers in a truss; plant hardy to at least -20° F; buds to -10° F; Ed Mezitt/Weston Nurseries hybrid selected in the 1980's.

MID ATLANTIC REGION

Elepidote Rhododendron: *R. hyperythrum*.

Very tough plant, reportedly survived 3' of saltwater storm surge during a hurricane in Tidewater, Virginia; heat tolerant as well as drought, disease, and insect resistant, and cold hardy to -15° F; native to a small area at lower elevations (three to four thousand feet) in the mountains of northern Taiwan; a free-flowering, early bloomer, sometimes affected by late frost; pinkish buds, opening to white funnel-shaped flowers up to 2" in length, with pink, red or purple speckles, with some pure white forms; blooms held in trusses of 7-12 flowers; a compact and rounded plant with a tight, well-branching habit, growing to 5-6' in ten years with a similar width, larger as plant matures; has long narrow leathery dark green leaves, often with recurved margins; highly resistant to phytophthora root rot, maybe due to its vigorous root system; an excellent parent plant, passing on its toughness and root rot resistance to the next generation; becoming popular with hybridizers, the most notable breeding program perhaps being that of Dr. John Thornton of Franklinton, Louisiana, who has a goal of growing plants that resist the heat and root rot of the southern states but are still hardy enough to grow in the Mid-Atlantic Region.



R. hyperythrum. Photo by H. Greer.

Lepidote Rhododendron: *R. minus* var.

***majus*.** Compact to straggly, heat tolerant shrub, more commonly referred to as *R. carolinianum*; normally around 4' in ten years, but up to 10' or more in the native habitat; has varied habits over its rather extensive native range in the woods, on the mountaintops, along streams, and rocky cliffs and ridges in the Carolinas, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama; funnel-shaped flowers, white to pink or purplish-pink, sometimes with greenish spots, held in a compact truss of 4-12 blooms; hardy to -15° F with midseason blossoms; first described



R. minus var. *majus*. Photo by H. Greer.

in 1792 by explorer Andre Michaux, the name (minus meaning smaller) may come from its having smaller leaves than *R. maximum*; an excellent parent with its genes running through most of the popular lepidote hybrids; has been the subject of an ever-changing taxonomic debate regarding the southern lepidotes since shortly after the first description by Michaux over 200 years ago, some previous names being *R. minus*, *R. chapmanii*, *R. punctatum*, *R. carolinianum*, and *R. minus* var. *minus*; *R. minus* var. *majus* is the latest. [For a thorough examination of this ongoing discussion see Donald H. Voss, "A Third Botanical Variety in *Rhododendron minus*," *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*, Volume 68, Number 2, Spring 2014.]

Deciduous Azalea: *R. atlanticum*. A delicate, airy beauty known as the Coastal azalea; native to the coastal plain of the eastern United States from Delaware to Georgia; a midseason bloomer, free flowering from an early age, with very fragrant, sparkling white flowers, sometimes with a yellow blotch, and often flushed with pink or purple in its tubes; a multi-stemmed, open and upright plant that flowers before or with its bright bluish-green leaves; hardy to -15° F, reaching 3-4' in ten years; a tetraploid, having twice the number of chromosomes of most other native American azaleas; stoloniferous, sending out shoots underground to form new plants and will develop into colonies as large as an acre in light sandy soil; makes a nice landscape plant in heavier soils which restrict the spreading habit; easily propagated by division, root and stem cuttings; this property is carried over to hybrid offspring; first collected by John Clayton in 1743 and very popular in England.



R. atlanticum. Photo by D. Hyatt.

Evergreen Azalea: 'Inch' (Alexander) (s) × *R. indicum* hybrid). Very floriferous late midseason bloomer, growing into a low, dense mound almost completely covered with 2¼" single, broadly funnel-shaped, white flowers with 5 wavy-edged lobes, 2 or 3 to a truss, with an abundance of flakes, stripes, and sectors of strong purplish-pink, the markings varying from year to year, and sometimes appearing as solid purplish-pink flowers; a slow grower, remaining under a foot tall after ten years while



'Inch'. Photo by B. Clagett.

spreading 2-3'; hardy to at least -15° F; one of the Bowie Mill hybrids from William L. (Buck) Clagett of Derwood, Maryland, aptly named using the nickname of his middle daughter.

SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Anna Rose Whitney' (*R. griersonianum* (s) × 'Countess of Derby').

Has one of the largest flower trusses, spanning up to eleven inches with as many as 20 deep rose pink blooms up to 4" across; heat and sun tolerant but late midseason flowers are more vibrant with some shade and the plant with its long dark green leaves performs better with some protection from winter winds; a vigorous grower, reaching 6' in ten years, needing plenty of room to grow and develop into a large plant; hardy to -5° F and probably lower; an easily propagated variety, popular throughout the rhododendron growing world; received the Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1987; hybridized by William Whitney of Canus, Washington, and named for his mother.



'Anna Rose Whitney'. Photo by H. Greer.

Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Blaney's Blue' (*R. augustinii* 'Tower Court' × Blue Diamond Group).

A vigorous grower and prolific early midseason bloomer; a great advance over the smaller "blue" rhododendrons; has a lax truss of 3 funnel-shaped 1½" flowers with wavy-edged lobes; registered as being shades of purple, but often described as "sky blue"; foliage is dense and attractive, dark green in summer, with a bronze tone in winter; has a rounded, compact growth habit, growing to 4-5' x 6' in ten years; propagates well and buds at a young age; hardy to -5° F; hybridized by Dr. L. T. Blaney of Oregon State University and introduced by Dr. Robert Ticknor.



'Blaney's Blue'. Photo by D. McKiver.

Deciduous Azalea: *R. colemanii*. Often called the Red Hills azalea, the name deriving from the area where it is found in the Red Hills of the upper Coastal Plain in southern

Alabama and the Chattahoochee River Valley in southeastern Georgia; once thought to be a natural hybrid or variation of *Rhododendron alabamense*, but confirmed to be a true species by DNA testing; distinguished from *R. alabamense* by three basic things: being a much larger plant, blooming about a month later (mid May in its native habitat), and having a broad range of colors, varying from white to pink, yellow, and even orange; the two also occupy different habitats: the Red Hills azaleas primarily in cooler, wetter areas on sandy stream banks and north-facing bluffs in moist,



R. colemanii. Photo by D. Hyatt.

deciduous woods bordering the streams and rivers, unlike *R. alabamense* which enjoys the dry ridges in open, oak woods; also differs from *R. alabamense* by being a tetraploid (having four sets of chromosomes), a characteristic shared with only three other native azalea species (*R. atlanticum*, *R. calendulaceum*, and *R. austrinum*); one of the tallest of the native azaleas, growing as an upright and irregular multi-stemmed shrub, often 7-12' tall, and at times even reaching 15' in height; flowers are funnel-shaped, 1½-2" long, fragrant, and open as the leaves emerge; initially collected and propagated by S. D. Coleman, Sr., a nurseryman from Fort Gaines, Georgia, and named in his honor in 2008.

Evergreen Azalea: 'Chinzan' (sport of 'Osakazuki'). A dwarf and compact plant with small, shiny leaves, excellent for the rock garden or in a low border; 1½-2" pink flowers with a darker blotch, blooming heavily late in the season with some re-blooming in warmer climates; spreads to 2-3' in ten years, eventually reaching as much as 5'; said to be hardy to 5° F but seems to do well in areas at least 10° F colder; a satsuki popular for bonsai; the name means "rare mountain."



'Chinzan'. Photo by H. Greer.

GREAT LAKES REGION

Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Besse Howells'

(Red *R. catawbiense* hybrid × 'Boule de Neige'). Ball-shaped truss with funnel-shaped, ruffled flowers, deep rosy-red with dark red blotch; an early midseason bloomer, very floriferous and hardy to -25° F; a tough plant with a reliable bud set even

in harsh conditions; shiny dark green leaves on a compact grower, reaching 4' in ten years; hybridized by Tony Shammarello of South Euclid, Ohio, and named for Besse Howells, then the Garden Editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Weston's Pink Diamond' (PJM Group (s) × *R. mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink').

One of the earliest rhododendrons to bloom, often a week or more before 'PJM'; has 8-12 frilled, double purplish-pink flowers per truss; a vigorous and well-branched upright plant, reaching 6' in ten years and hardy to -15° F; excellent fall coloring as the fragrant, yellow-green leaves turn to brilliant reds, oranges and yellows persisting for several weeks; loses many of the leaves but the foliage that remains at the tips of the branches is mahogany colored for the winter; the best location is in full sun in an area that avoids the late spring frosts; 1964 hybrid by Ed Mezitt of Weston Nurseries.



'Besse Howells. Photo by H. Greer.



'Weston's Pink Diamond' . Photo by H. Greer

Deciduous Azalea: 'White Lights' (parentage unknown).

Extremely floriferous and extremely hardy (bud hardy to -35° F); light purplish-pink flower buds open to a funnel-shaped, pale purplish-pink flower fading to white with a light orange-yellow blotch; the fragrant clusters of late midseason flowers cover the plant before the leaves emerge; has a rounded, well-branched habit, maturing at about 5' with an equal spread; good fall color, with the narrow, rich green leaves turning to reds and purples in the fall; registered with



'White Lights'. Photo by H. Greer.

parentage unknown, but said to be a hybrid of *Rhododendron prinophyllum* and an unnamed white-flowering Exbury hybrid; introduced in 1984 as part of the University of Minnesota Northern Lights series developed under the guidance of Harold Pellett; while bred for extreme cold hardiness, does well in many different climates.

Evergreen Azalea: 'Komo Kulshan' (*R. kiusianum* selection). Midseason funnel-shaped picotee flowers, vivid purplish red with a white throat; a compact, well-branched plant growing to 2-3' x 3' in ten years and hardy to -15° F; selected from a group of *R. kiusianum* seedlings by Greer Gardens of Eugene, Oregon, and often suspected of being a hybrid; the name comes from the Lummi Indian name for Mount Baker in the Cascade Range near Bellingham, Washington.



'Komo Kulshan'. Photo by H. Greer.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Janet Blair'

(Dexter hybrid × unknown). A vigorous plant with large trusses of up to thirteen funnel-shaped and frilly light pinkish-mauve flowers, 3½" across, with a golden bronze flare on the upper petal; midseason bloomer, hardy to -15° F and heat tolerant, and an excellent parent plant with some fragrance; well-branched, growing wider than tall, with a mounding habit and glossy, dark green foliage, reaching 6' in ten years; sun tolerant, but also does well in partial shade; a Leach introduction of a Dexter hybrid formerly known as 'John Wister.'



'Janet Blair'. Photo by C. White.

Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Ginny Gee'

[*R. keiskei* (prostrate form) × *R. racemosum* (Forrest 19404)]. Two-toned pink and white 1" flowers, changing in color daily as they fade to white, totally cover this dense, compact plant in the early midseason; sun, heat, and drought tolerant, and hardy to -10° F; small dark green leaves turning a lovely dark maroon in the winter; dwarf, growing to 2' x 2' in ten years; does well throughout the United States and Canada and popular all around the rhododendron growing world; recipient of the ARS Superior Plant Award (Northwest) in 1985; hybridized by Warren Berg of Port Ludlow, Washington, and named for Hank Schannen's wife, Virginia.



'Ginny Gee'. Photo by R. Knight.

Deciduous Azalea: 'Gibraltar' (parentage unknown). Has a large full ball truss of 10-12 frilled 2½" vivid orange flowers with a red flush, coming from deep crimson buds; compact growing habit, to 6' in 10 years; a midseason bloomer, hardy to -20° F and heat tolerant; free-flowering and mildew resistant Knap Hill hybrid; very popular and one of the best, most popular, and most reliable deciduous hybrids; does well in a wide range of conditions, and has been the deciduous azalea selection for all the regions involved in the Rhododendron of the Year program.



'Gibraltar'. Photo by H. Greer.

Evergreen Azalea: 'Kirin' (syn. 'Coral Bells') (parentage unknown). Perhaps the best known of the Kurume hybrids which first came to the United States before World War I; one of the earliest azaleas to bloom, the entire plant covered with hose-in-hose coral pink flowers; a dense, compact plant often described as low-growing, but will grow large over time, often growing as wide as tall; hardy to -10° F; introduced by the Domoto Brothers Nursery of Hayward, California; called 'Kirin' by its Japanese breeder; 'Coral Bells' and 'Daybreak' are names given to the cultivar in the United States.



'Kirin'. Photo by H. Greer.

NORTHWESTERN REGION

Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Seaview Sunset' ('Nancy Evans' (s) × 'Canadian Sunset'). Vivid reddish-orange buds open light yellow with a broad band of reddish-orange; a deep yellowish pink outside; 16 wavy-edged flowers, 2" across, in a dome-shaped truss; an early bloomer with a compact habit, 2½-3' in ten years; semi-glossy, dark green leaves; hardy to perhaps 0° F; hybridized by Frank Fujioka of Whidbey Island, Washington.



'Seaview Sunset'. Photo by T. Hewitt.

Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Too Bee'
(**'Patricia'** (s) × *R. keiskei* **'Yaku Fairy'**).

Vivid red buds open to moderate pink flowers, lighter in the throat, with strong red spotting in the throat and a darker pink outside; frilly-edged flowers held with 3-5 in a truss; a well-branched habit, mounding to 1' tall in ten years, becoming perhaps twice as wide as tall; an early midseason bloomer with small, elliptical leaves only about 1" long; hardy to -10° F; a Warren Berg hybrid very popular with rock gardeners.



'Too Bee'. Photo by H. Greer.

Deciduous Azalea: 'Molalla Red'
[(**'Gibraltar'** × **'Favor Major'**) × (**'Gibraltar'** × **'Favor Major'**) (s) × **'Wallowa Red'**].

An upright, spreading plant with a tighter habit than many of the deciduous azaleas, growing to 4' x 5' in 10 years; bright red, wavy-edged, funnel-shaped, tubular flowers, 3" across, held in ball-shaped trusses of 8 flowers, blooming late midseason; bronze over light green foliage turning bronze-red in the fall; hardy to -15° F, perhaps as low as -25° F; hybridized by Ivan and Robertha Arneson in their nursery at Canby, Oregon, in 1974.



'Molalla Red'. Photo by H. Greer.

Evergreen Azalea: 'Glacier' ('Malvaticum' (s)

× 'Yozakura'). An early midseason bloomer with large flowers 2½" to 3" across, white with faint greenish tone; attractive year-round, with its handsome dark, shiny green foliage holding up well in the winter; a vigorous grower forming an erect to spreading plant, reaching 5'-6' in height; hardy to -5° F; ranked in top four of the Glenn Dale group of azaleas in a 1980 Azalea Society of America poll; hybridized by Benjamin Y. Morrison, the first director of the U.S. National Arboretum; introduced in 1947.



'Glacier'. Photo by H. Greer.

SOUTHWESTERN REGION

Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Nancy Evans'

(‘Hotel’ × ‘Lem’s Cameo’). Floriferous plant with a well-branching and compact rounded habit; flowers from a young age, with orange-red buds opening to wavy-edged, hose-in-hose, light yellow blooms with shades of orange, held in a ball-shaped truss of as many as 19 flowers; reaches about 3' x 3' in ten years with good foliage and a bronze touch on the new growth; a midseason bloomer, hardy to 5° F and popular with breeders; hybridized by Dr. Ned Brockenbrough in 1970 in Bellevue, Washington, and named to honor the former first lady of Washington.



'Nancy Evans'. Photo by J. Jones.

Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Seta'

(*R. spinuliferum* (s) × *R. moupinense*). A very free flowering and early blooming plant, occasionally showing its pink and white flowers through the snow when little else is in bloom; upright, tubular flowers shading from a white base to vivid deep pink on the upper lobes, the darker pink outside giving the blooms a striped effect; a densely foliated bush with an upright, rangy growth habit to 4-5'; hardy to 5° F and maybe a little lower; the attractive plant has become quite popular in Australia; hybridized by Lord Aberconway at his estate of Bodnant in Wales; received the Award of Merit in 1933 and First Class Certificate in 1960 from the Royal Horticultural Society.



'Seta'. Photo by H. Greer.

Deciduous Azalea: 'Irene Koster'

(*R. occidentale* hybrid). Single flowers with a sweet fragrance, 2½" wide, white flushed strong pink with a yellow blotch and pink-striped buds contrasting with the flowers; a tall plant, reaching to 8' or more, that tends to be bushier than many deciduous azaleas; a midseason bloomer, hardy to -15° F, that retains its foliage well into winter; hybridized by Koster & Co. in the Netherlands.



'Irene Koster'. Photo by H. Greer.

Evergreen Azalea: 'Elsie Lee' ['Desiree' × 'Rosebud' (Gable)]. An upright grower that can be quite open in shade; hardy to -15° F; the late midseason bloomer has 2-3", semi-double, frilly bluish-lavender flowers; a great plant, hardy and showy, listed as 3' in ten years, but normally grows taller; said to be resistant to lace bug; this Tony Shammarello hybrid is an exceptional parent in hybridizing and a hybridizers' favorite both in America and Europe; received the Award of Garden Merit in 2002 from the Royal Horticultural Society.



'Elsie Lee'. Photo by D. Hyatt.

VIREYA/SWISHER

'Sylvia's Coral Sea' ('Pink Delight' × 'Simbu Sunset'). Very floriferous from a young age, and blooming for much of the year; medium sized, tubular flowers, about 3" across, with yellow tubes and orange-red flowers with a deep yellow center; a stripe of yellow going up each petal from the center gives each bloom a star-shaped effect; has seven flowers to a truss, and sometimes one of the seven stems will produce 2 or 3 more flowers; a compact upright, bushy grower of medium size, reaching about 4' tall and 4' wide in seven years; seems to handle full sun with little problem; hybridized by Sylvia Saperstein of Mullinbimby, New South Wales, Australia; also known as 'Coral Sea' ("Sylvia" having been added during the recent registration process) and 'Coral Seas.'



'Sylvia's Coral Sea'. Photo by S. Bertelmann.

Growing Rhododendrons in Oklahoma

Len Miller
Grove, Oklahoma



Planning and building gardens have been my passion for 45 years. Since I purchased land with tall oak trees, the plants that peaked my interest were azaleas. Soon I had 265 varieties of azaleas of all colors. That was in the early 1970s. I decided to join the ARS at the young age of 32 after we heard about rhododendrons growing in a park in Portland, Oregon. I had purchased and read Ted Van Veen's (1969) book on rhododendrons, so we packed up our two young children and drove to Crystal Springs Park, Portland, Oregon. A three-day drive to an area that we had never seen.

We arrived at noon on Mother's Day, and stepped out to see hundreds of people looking at the beautiful flowering rhododendrons. I spotted Ted among the crowd and recognized him from his picture in his book. He was shocked and amused to meet a family that had driven all the way from Oklahoma to see what was really his park.

I remain fascinated with the genus for 45 years, plowing my efforts and finances into a pursuit of growing rhododendrons in my gardens in Oklahoma. We planned other trips to see flowering rhododendrons and azaleas. Our next trip was to Calloway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA, to view their native azaleas. It was there in the large leaf rhododendron garden that I saw a twelve-foot (3.7 m) rhododendron growing in the South. I stood there in front of this huge plant and decided to try to grow rhododendrons in Oklahoma. I must admit, I wanted to grow a twelve-foot one.

I began to attend ARS conventions, where I was inspired by guys like Dick Brooks and Richard Murcott. I have often said "that the reason Murcott was so enthusiastic about rhododendrons is that he had seen his plants bloom." Betty Spady heard about my efforts and she asked me to speak at a regional conference in Oregon. On Friday night a speaker said dairy manure was the best additive to the soil for rhododendrons. I spoke Saturday night and told the crowd that all research at Oklahoma State University showed that it was really bull manure that was the best. That was the end of a great debate.

I wanted to establish a chapter in my area, so we put together 12 members and

ELK RIDGE GARDEN Rhododendrons

- 'Aileen Burris' * # 6
 'Anna' x *R. degrobianum*
 subsp. *yakushimanum*
 (West Coast) 9
 'Dexter's Apple Blossom'
 13
 'Astrid' 6
 'Babylon' 9
 ('Blue Ensign' x 'Simiarum'
 *) x *R. ponticum* 6
 'Boomer' * # 6
 'Brandi' * # 5
 'Braxton' * # 7
 'Breezy' * # 8
 'Brikoklyn' * # 6
 'Brown Eyes' 7
 'Cadis' 8
 'Charles Loomis' * # 6
 'Charleston' 9
 'City Park' * # 7
 'Consolini's Windmill' 7
 'Cool Cotton' * # 7
 'Cowboys' * # 6
 'Cynosure' 7
 'Cynthia' 6
 'Dandy Man Pink' (Honey
 Creek) * # 6
 'Dark Throat' 11
 'Delp's Red Max' 6
 'Dexter's Harlequin' 7
 and 8
 'Dorothy Amateis' 6
 'English Roseum' 7
 'Florence Parks' * 4
 'Fortune Cookie' 6
 'Freedom Song' * 8
 'Gloxineum' 6 and 7
 'Golfer' 9
 'Hallelujah' 6
 'Hank's Yak' * Seedling 7
 'Hannah Reed' * # 6
 'Helen Everitt' 9
 'Holden' 7
 'Hot Dawn' 4
 'Ingrid Melquist' 6
 'Janet Blair' 12
 'Janet Miller' * # 6
 'Jim Lynch' * # 6
 'John Creech' * # 6
 'Ken Janeck' 8
 'Landmark' 9
 'Lendonwood' * # 7
 'Lisenne Rockefeller' * # 7
 'Lisetta' 3
 'Lucky Star' * 8
 'Makinoi Caperci' * 10
 'Maud Corning' 4
 'Michele Smith' * # 6
 'Mission Bells' 8
 'Mist Maiden' 9
 'Mrs W.R. Coe' 6
 'Nova Zembla' 13
 'Pam Morris' * # 6
 'Peppermint Twist' # 9
 'PJM-K' * 7
 'Hachmann's Polaris' 7
 'Prides's Early Red' * 5
 'Pseudo Pseudo' * 9
 'Queen Anne's' 7
 'Rabat' 6
 'Red Cadis' * 7
 'Red River' 9
 'Rimini' 4
 'Roseum Two' * 6
 'Ruby Magee' * # 9
 'Ruth Davis' 8
 'Senator Henry Jackson' 8
 'Solidarity' * 8
 'Sooner' * # 6
 'Spring Fragrance' * 4
 'Tiana' 8
 'Todmorden' 6
 'Tyler Morris' * # 7
 'Voluptuous' 6
 'Weston's Aglo' 6
 'White River' * # 6
 'Winter Spice' * 4
 'Yaku Angel' 9
 'Yaku Prince' 7
 'Zeb's Smirnowii' * 7
R. aberconwayi 8
R. degrobianum 'Ly-Ho' *
R. degrobianum 8
R. degrobianum Exbury x
 R. degrobianum FCC
R. degrobianum subsp.
 heptamerum 8
R. degrobianum subsp.
 heptamerum x *R.*
 hyperythrum #8
R. degrobianum subsp.
 yakushimanum FCC
 X *R. makinoi* 10
R. hyperythrum #90-
 451rsf 7
R. hyperythrum x 'Boule
 de Neige' # 5
R. hyperythrum x *R.*
 maximum # 7
R. maximum x *R.*
 calophytum 9
R. smirnowii 7
R. smirnowii Narrow
 Leaf 9
R. smirnowii x 'Yak
 Partain' * 9

LENDONWOOD GARDENS Rhododendrons

'Anita Gehnrich' 15	'Dexter's Peppermint' 15	'PJM Regal' 4
'Anna Marie' * # 16	'Dolly Madison' 10	'Hachmann's Polaris' 15
'Babylon' 15	'Elizabeth Ard' * # 17	'Solidarity' * 10
'Blinklichht' 15	'Gomer Waterer' 17	'Summer Summit' 16
'Braxton' * # 16	'Gordon Jones' 15	'Tanyosho' * 15
'Brikoklyn' * # 16	'Grand Lake' * # 16	'Tiana' 15
'Brown Eyes' 15	'Great Eastern' × <i>R. adenopodum</i> 16	'Tiawan Mountain' * # 16
'Caroline' 15	'Hendricks Park' 14	'Vernum' 16
'Catawbiense Bousault' 5	'Janet Blair' 33	'Very Berry' * 14
'Charles Loomis' * # 17	'Kathryna' 16	'Wellsheimer' * 14
'Cinnamon Bear' 15	'Lavender Queen' 14	'White River' * # 17
'City Park' * # 17	'Mardi Gras' 15	'Yaku Angel' 15
'Cool Cotton' * # 16	'Michele Smith' * # 17	<i>R. catawbiense</i> var. <i>album</i>
'Cowboys' * # 16	'Peppermint Twist' # 16	32
'Crest' × <i>R. hyperythrum</i> # 16	'Pink Parasol' 15	

formed the Ozark Chapter. Most members live 300 miles (483 km) apart and thus we meet just twice per year. For years we have been like Johnny Appleseed, giving rhododendron collections to botanical gardens that we visit.

In 1995, I built a botanical garden called Lendonwood Gardens (lendonwoodgarden.com). It is eight acres (3.2 ha), with six acres (2.4 ha) of irrigated gardens. In 1997, I gave it to a "503 nonprofit" corporation. It has six theme gardens and seven collections of plants, one of which are rhododendrons. I purchased named commercial rhododendrons and named varieties from John Thornton of Franklinton, LA. John's *R. hyperythrum* hybrids grew so well that I traveled to his nursery and purchased 60 seedlings from a number of crosses he had made. I planted the seedlings along a path and called it the John Thornton Walk.

Some of these plants have become commercial plants because of their disease resistance and attractive flowers. 'Peppermint Twist' was the first to attract West Coast nurseries because of its three-color flowers and its potential for increasing areas where rhododendrons could then not be sold and successfully grown. 'Breezy' was the second plant introduced because of its large 3 1/2 inch (8.9 cm) pink fading to white flowers. The third plant now being sold is 'Dandy Man Pink'*, which has similar flowers as 'Peppermint Twist' but with more typical *R. hyperythrum* foliage, growing more compactly and being hardier. It was the only rhododendron to bloom at Lendonwood after a winter that had its lowest temperature every recorded here in Grove, OK, -20° F (-29° C). It regularly survives 100-105° F (38-41° C) summers.

The plant is being produced in tissue culture and is being sold by Spring Meadows Nursery. They have touted it as the first rhododendron to be selected as a “Proven Winner.”

In 2000, we moved from Lendonwood to a 19 acre (7.7 ha) place, 12 miles (19.3 km) east of Grove. I retired from Lendonwood and began to build a new garden called Elk Ridge Garden, which is my last effort to raise rhododendrons. It was a new garden when it was on tour at the ARS convention held in Tulsa, OK, in 2008. Cuttings from Lendonwood were taken in 2005 and sold at the convention, and I purchased 50 of these plants. Hundreds of rhododendrons have now been planted at Elk Ridge and they have grown better than at Lendonwood. It is several degrees Fahrenheit cooler at Elk Ridge than in Grove. Other cuttings of John Thornton’s plants that were available at the Tulsa convention were also planted here in 2008 to make a garden largely of *R. hyperythrum* hybrids. Many yak crosses have grown well here at Elk Ridge (Elkridgegarden.com); presently there are three hundred rhododendrons growing there.

I also planted 650 different woody plants and hundreds of perennials. About 50 evergreen and deciduous azaleas were planted but these plants must be covered to prevent deer damage. Some native perennials and other perennials have thrived but they need daily watering. I did a research project to determine if you could grow rhododendrons on a commercial basis here in Oklahoma, and the results are at Elkridgegarden.com under “Research”.

Our weather makes it difficult to grow rhododendrons and azaleas. I have planted thousands of rhododendrons and azaleas in my 45 years of gardening. Extreme weather has consumed most of them. Temperatures of -14° F (-16° C) killed hundreds of my azaleas and drought has taken its toll. “Don’t plant beyond your garden hose” is my advice! Even the great nurseryman Joe Gable lost many great plants and John Thornton has lost many of his plants from both drought and hurricanes. In nature, many rhododendrons live in moist conditions, with rain almost every day in the summer. I have an abundance of water from the lake.

Here is a list of plants that I am growing, and I have several of the same varieties for a total of 300 rhododendrons.

= *R. hyperythrum* hybrids, and the number indicates the plant’s age in the garden in years.

* = not registered.

Reference

Van Veen, T. 1969. *Rhododendrons in America*. Sweeney, Krist & Dimm, Portland, OR. 176 pp.

Len Miller is a member of the Ozark Chapter and a past President of the ARS.



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Society News

Harold Greer
Eugene,
Oregon



ARS 34th Western Regional Fall Rhododendron Conference in Newport, Oregon, Sept. 30–Oct. 2, 2016

Something is coming that you won't want to miss. It is "For the Love of Rhododendrons . . . And Other Good Friends . . .", the 34th Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in Newport, Oregon, on the beautiful Oregon Coast. The dates to plan for are September 30 through October 2, 2016

This Western Regional returns to where it all started at this beautiful hotel in Newport (see photos) that is renowned as the location of some of the best conferences. Further info will be published in the forthcoming Summer *JARS* issue.

The conference will feature outstanding speakers from across North America and the world. This event emphasizes learning about rhododendrons and companion plants for your garden. Oregon sponsored Western Regionals are known for their educational and yet entertaining value. This year it will be held in conjunction with the annual fall Board meeting of the American Rhododendron Society, which will bring attendees from all over North America.

On the agenda on Friday are programs on rhododendrons grown around the world. Saturday morning brings seminars that give many choices of educational subjects from propagation of rhododendrons, to selection of rhododendrons, and a multitude of subjects on plants you might want use as companions for your rhododendrons. Saturday night will feature Don Hyatt, an outstanding and well-known speaker, plus a sight and sound program called "Rhododendrons, Up Close and Personal" which will make you look at rhododendrons in a different way. It promises to be an entertaining way to end the evening.

Sunday morning will bring more educational and fun seminars, and the meeting will then end with an outstanding speaker you won't want to miss. The Oregon chapters of District 4 welcome you to a fun conference that you will sure want to attend.



The Best Western Hotel in Newport, Oregon, the site of the ARS Western Regional Conference, Sept. 30–Oct. 2, 2016.

Society News

Eureka Chapter will Host American Rhododendron Society 2017 Spring Convention: Rhododendrons in the Redwoods

Mark your calendar now for **April 27 through 30, 2017**, for the American Rhododendron Society's annual spring Convention. The Eureka Chapter will host the convention that will bring visitors to world famous Humboldt County, California, from across the nation, Canada, and around the world.

For many seeing the redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must see "bucket list," as is the rugged North Coast of California with its *Rhododendron macrophyllum* and Stagecoach Hill, the home of the Smith/Mossman expedition *Rhododendron occidentale* azaleas.

The Red Lion <http://www.redlion.com/eureka> will be our host hotel with a wonderful rate of \$99 per night per room for the duration of the convention with that rate being extended for visitors coming before or staying after the convention. The rate will include airport shuttle and breakfast. In addition to the hotel's restaurant there are many restaurants within easy walking distance.

The new Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the Red Lion Hotel, will be our meeting and banqueting venue. Visitors can walk to the conference center or drive as there is plenty of off-street parking.

The Convention Committee is working on getting world-class speakers and having tours to highlight the natural beauty of Eureka and Humboldt County as well as public gardens, private gardens and nurseries. We hope to welcome all of our Rhodo friends to our piece of heaven in the world. There will be much more information in the next winter *JARS* issue!

How to Access the Online *JARS*

Go to www.arsoffice.org under title "What's New"—Members: Read the Fall 2015 e-Journal issue. Click on this. Two windows will open. One—use your password, two—set up your password. If you do not have a password yet, you will have to set it up once only. Enter your information including your membership number.

We find many members do not remember their membership number, so we print the membership number on the mailing label. The membership chairs of each chapter have the membership numbers and can always supply them to members that need them.

Our webmaster keeps the information on current members, supplied by our office. If the members do not renew their membership for next year, their password will not work any more. When they renew the membership, their membership number stays the same, but they have to set-up a new password since the old one is no longer valid.

To stop the paper copy just inform your membership chair and he/she will let the ARS office know, or simply email Laura Grant (until mid-April, 2016, after which she is retiring) and she will take care of it.

Society News

Letter to Editor

EDITOR:

There is some confusion with respect to whether *R. dalhousieae* or *R. dalhousiae* is the correct spelling of this rhododendron. The point is that ICN Art. 60.12 states (with respect to modern personal names): “The use of a termination (for example –i, –ii, –ae, –anus or –ianus) contrary to Rec. 60C.1 is treated as an error to be corrected” Except where specifically exempted, its provisions are retroactive and make no allowance for past practice or personal preferences.

This created a problem involving the retroactive application of ICN rules. J.D. Hooker named a remarkable large-flowered rhododendron to honor Lady Dalhousie, wife of the Governor-General of India. The code rule states that a substantive epithet based on a modern personal name ending in a vowel, excluding –a but including –y, (or –er) is formed by adding the Latin genitive ending for the sex of the person; thus, dalhousie+ae.

The ICN has no legal force; it depends on acceptance and application by those in the plant science community. Whether or not to follow the rules or treat them as a sort of buffet table is a choice. Dr. Gandhi at Harvard, who manages the International Plant Names Index (IPNI), follows the ICN rules. Many plants were given the specific epithet *brandegeana* to honor Mrs. Mary Katherine Brandegee; these are now listed as *brandegeana*. Such changes reflect observation of the rule that identifies variation from the recommended treatment of modern personal names as “errors to be corrected.”

Don Voss

[Editor’s comment: Given the above, I will use the correct term *R. dalhousieae* in *JARS*, even though *R. dalhousiae* is most used in practice.]

Rhododendron Calendar

- 2016** ARS/ASA Annual Convention, Williamsburg, VA, April 20-24, Board Meeting
- 2016** ARS Fall Conference, Newport, Oregon. Board Meeting. Sept. 30–Oct. 2.
- 2017** ARS Annual Convention, Eureka, California. Board Meeting. April 27–30.
- 2018** ARS Annual Convention, Germany (decision pending)
- 2019** ARS Annual Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Board Meeting. Dates to be announced.
- 2020** ARS 75th Anniversary Convention, Portland, Oregon. Board Meeting. Dates to be announced.

Society News

In Memoriam

Randall L. Dalton

Randy Dalton, 67, died February 5, 2015, two days after suffering a stroke. Randy was a member of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter and a member of the ARS for more than 25 years. He was always willing to pitch in and help with chapter activities, from toting plants for the annual plant sale to constructing elaborate exhibits for the chapter's annual exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show. One year he organized the creation of a "stone mountain"—actually a huge "papier mache" affair supported by shipping pallets—and another year collected artifacts and props for an exhibit honoring Joseph B. Gable. Indeed, Randy's love of rhododendrons arose through his family, as Joe and Mary Dalton Gable were his great-aunt and -uncle.

He received the ARS Bronze Medal in 1999. With his partner of 34 years, Michael Martin Mills, Randy created a remarkable two-acre garden in the city of Philadelphia, site of garden tours and many Greater Philadelphia Chapter picnics. The first of the Dalton-Mills plantings came directly from Carol Gable and the Gable homestead known as Little Woods.

Randy Dalton was an artist specializing in sculptural lamps made from found objects and was a persistent, enthusiastic champion of the importance of the arts to society. His works appeared in many group and solo exhibitions in the Philadelphia area.

Society News

Individual Donations 1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015

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Laura Grant & Robert Ramik in memory
of Carolyn Smart

\$500–999

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Society News

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Donations to the ARS Research Foundation from Individuals, Chapters and Districts 8/14/2014 through 1/4/2016

\$10,000+

Anonymous

\$1000–9,999

Anonymous

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Valley Forge Chapter

Valley Forge Chapter (District 8 Auction)

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Kukrika)
Middle Atlantic Chapter

Society News

Research Foundation Donations continued

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11/20/2015 through 2/14/2016

Donor	Amount	Source
<u>General Fund</u>		
David & Elaine Sherbrooke	\$10.00	In memory of Carolyn Smart
Douglas G. Crane	\$100.00	In memory of Carolyn Smart
Eugene Chapter	\$15.00	Chapter donation
Eureka Chapter	\$100.00	Chapter donation
Laura Grant & Robert Ramik	\$2,000.00	In Memory of Carolyn Smart
Mildred English	\$25.00	In memory of Carolyn Smart
Tennessee Valley	\$250.00	Chapter donation
William & Mary Stipe	\$50.00	In memory of Carolyn Smart
<u>Endowment Fund</u>		
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Brooks & Mary Loop	\$60.00	In memory of Carolyn Smart
Cascade Chapter	\$75.00	In memory of Carolyn Smart
Dianna Lynn Davis	\$60.00	In memory of Carolyn Smart
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Gail & Rod Ledbetter	\$200.00	In memory of Jerry Reynolds
John C. & Anne Perry	\$10.00	In memory of Dick Brooks
Paul W. Anderson MD	\$20.00	In memory of Carolyn Smart
Robert E. & Coleen George	\$100.00	In memory of Carolyn Smart
Valley Forge Chapter	\$1,005.00	Chapter Donation

Hybridizing with Gibberellic Acid (GA3)

Werner Brack
St. James,
New York



Ever since my interest in gardening and rhododendrons in particular took a turn back in the 1970s and became a serious hobby, I kept coming across little snippets of information about the use of gibberellic acid in horticulture. After a discussion of this topic on rhodo@yahoo.com in October, 2011, I decided to pursue the subject a little further. After doing some due diligence on Google, I found a source on Amazon that sold five grams of 90% GA3 for \$14.95, and soon I was the proud owner of this magic potion.

Gibberellic acid is a natural product produced by a fungus that infects rice plants, among others, and is a powerful plant hormone. GA3 is the commercial grade of gibberellic acid and can not be used in anything related to food as it may contain harmful impurities.

GA3 has been used by a number of rhododendron growers to improve and speed up the rate of seed germination. Russell Gilkey wrote an extensive article in 1991 about his experiments with yak seed. He also sent GA3 treated seeds to the ARS seed exchange for many years. I had the pleasure of meeting Russell during my stint as treasurer of the ARS Research Foundation, when he had the unenviable task of chasing delinquent grant recipients when the required reports were not forthcoming in a timely manner.

My own experiments with GA3 seed treatment pretty much confirmed his findings and I treat all my elepidote seed now before sowing. However, I was curious to see if there might be other uses for GA3, and so I posted an inquiry on the Yahoo rhodo forum to see if anyone had experimented with its use in hybridizing. Bruce Clyburn responded and linked me to an article published by John M. Riley (1987), from which I was particularly intrigued by a paragraph on hybridizing where he stated that pollination between self-incompatible clones and closely related species may be forced by the application of GA3 and cytokinin to the flower at the time of hand pollination.

With this information in hand, I decided to give it a try. I had no cytokinin but decided to proceed anyway. As they say, "Fools rush in where Angels fear to play."

Table 1. Elepidotes

'Phyllis Korn' X 'Stony Brook'	1 seedling
'Stony Brook' X 'Phyllis Korn'	1 seedling
'Phyllis Korn' X 'Jan Dekens'	no seed
'Horizon Monarch' X 'Bud's Yellow'	1 seedling
'Pink Pearl' X 'Jan Dekens'	no seed
'Jan Dekens' X 'Pink Pearl'	no seed
('Voluptuous' x 'Phipps Yellow') X 'Pink Pearl'.	no seed
'Pearce's American Beauty' X 'Jan Dekens'	no seed
'Pearce's American Beauty' X 'C.S. Sargent'	no seed
'C.S. Sargent' X 'Pearce's American Beauty'	no seed

Table 2. Lepidotes

'April Rose' X 'Blaney's Blue'	no seed
'Angel Powder' X 'Blaney's Blue'	lots of seedlings
'Angel Powder' X <i>R. cinnabarinum</i> subsp. <i>xanthocodon</i>	nine seedlings
'Coral Pink Prologue' X <i>R. cinnabarinum</i> subsp. <i>xanthocodon</i>	no seed
<i>R. concinnum</i> X '24 Carat'*	lots of seedlings

The dosage of 800 ppm was based on the recommendation to apple growers in Nova Scotia to improve fruit set. I donned my alchemy hat and brewed up a batch of GA3 solution of ~750 ppm concentration, which was convenient for me to achieve fairly accurately with my limited tools at hand. During my 2015 seasons hybridizing efforts, I have sprayed the nascent seed pods with this solution, taking care not to wet the style and stigma during this procedure. I applied pollen in the usual manner to the receptive (sticky) stigmas, and then waited for the results to appear. The sprayer I used was originally intended to spray a cleaning solution on reading glasses. It is quite small and was of an appropriate size for the job at hand. In retrospect, using a small paint brush might be an even better tool.

This technique was used exclusively on plants that had resisted previous repeated attempts at crossings, namely triploids and others that failed because of mismatched ploidy or a presumed very low fertility. A lot of what I did was based on my own intuition. It was not long before I noticed swelling seed pods on virtually all the treated crossings, and by mid summer some had turned into big “bananas”.

I have made ten GA3 assisted lepidote crosses, and they all produced prominent multiple seed pods. Additionally, I made four lepidote crosses, but there the evidence was not so clear cut. They all showed evidence of the treatment, as little seed pods persisted, whereas with controls on untreated crosses, the seed pods had all fallen off by midsummer.

I was quite proud of myself and had dreams of massive supplies of seed from these unconventional crosses. Of course, a few yellow flags had been raised about the possibility that the seed might not be viable or that little or no seed might be in those big seed pods. After all, rhododendrons are not apples and GA3 is an essential ingredient in producing seedless grapes and tangerines. I was anxiously awaiting August, when I could pick a few preliminary pods to check for seed and viability.

August came and I picked a pod here and there and set them to dry. After a week or so, they started to split and disappointment quickly set in, as there was no seed pouring out of the capsules.

I had evidently produced “seedless lemons”! I also felt sick for an entirely different reason, as I had been infected with Lyme disease.

After three weeks of swallowing massive doses of antibiotics, the Lyme disease was cured and the rest of the pods were left to fully mature, with the hope that something might be saved for my efforts.

By the end of October, I had harvested all the pods. Table 1 shows the final seed and seedling tally. All of the crosses in Table 1 had at least one parent as a tested triploid, with the exception of ‘Horizon Monarch’, which is a tetraploid. As Table 1 shows, it is obvious that I was not going to be the “Johnny Rhododendron Seed” of triploid and other difficult crosses. I had been warned that this might happen, and I was well aware of the potential pitfalls. On the other hand, if you don’t get seed pods, you are guaranteed not to get seed, so perhaps all is not lost.

Now, let’s move on to some better news—my results with lepidotes (see Table 2):

‘Blaney’s Blue’ has not been tested for ploidy, but it is most likely a tetraploid. ‘Angel Powder’ is a tested triploid, while *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *xanthocodon* is a hexaploid and so was the *R. concinnum* used in this experiment.

To put this into perspective, I have tried having crosses on ‘Angel Powder’ to take for the last five years, including with *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *xanthocodon* and they all failed with one minor exception. I have one seedling of ‘Angel Powder’ × *R. augustinii* 2004/145 from the RSBG. Also, my three successful crosses with GA3 this time were duplicated concurrently on the same plants without the GA3 treatment and they all failed. With ‘Angel Powder’ for example: I emasculated several flowers to prepare them for pollination. On half of those flowers, I applied GA3 and the other half no GA3 was applied. Then, two or three days later, when the stigmas were receptive, all the flowers were pollinated, both treated and untreated alike. To identify the treatment regime later, I marked the GA3-treated flowers with a red twist tie. This was all done on the

same plant, actually on the same branch, as my 'Angel Powder' is a large plant covered with thousands of flowers.

In conclusion, I would say this is still a work in progress, but it is showing enough promise to warrant further experimentation. I am particularly suspicious of the GA3 dosage of 800 ppm. I have a feeling that a lower concentration, just sufficient to form a seed pod, might lead to better results. The timing of the application may be important as well, and it might be better to treat the entire flower bud prior to opening to enhance fertility. These are all approaches that might lead to the ultimate success or failure of this chemical application. There are many variables here and it might be a good topic for an enterprising graduate student to study, perhaps with the support of an ARS Research Foundation Grant!

* = not registered.

References

- Gilkey, R. 1991. Germination of *Rhododendron yakushimanum* seed. *J. American Rhodo. Soc.* 45(3): 131
- Riley, J.M. 1987. Gibberellic acid fruit set and seed germination. *Calif. Rare Fruit Growers J.* 19: 10-12.

Werner Brack is a keen rhododendron hybridizer and a member of the New York ARS Chapter.

A garden is always a series of losses set against a few triumphs, like life itself.

May Sarton

Recommended Garden *Rhododendron* Species

Rhododendron macabeanum

Glen Jamieson
Parksville, BC, Canada

Photos by the author



Rhododendron macabeanum, subsection *Grandia*, is one of the hardiest in this series, and is native to Manipur and Assam in eastern India, where it occurs at an elevation of 2450-3800 m (8000-12,500 ft). It can grow to 15 m (50 ft) (Leach 1961), although most in gardens are much smaller. Its leaves are up to 28 cm (11 in) long and 20 cm (8 in) wide, are dark green, are somewhat wrinkled by veining, and when young, have a white tomentum on their upper surface, but this ultimately washes off with rains.



R. macabeanum flowers.



R. macabeanum flowers.

The underside has a thick, woolly whitish or fawn coloured indumentum of hairs.

My plant in Parksville, BC, typically flowers in mid-March, but in 2016, it flowered about two weeks earlier. Trusses have 12-20 flowers, and are yellow to greenish-yellow, with a purple blotch and eight nectar pouches. My flowers open pinkish, then turn a pale yellow, and have the most charming pink stigma.

Because like *R. sutchuenense* it flowers relatively early, late frost can damage the opening or opened flowers, but do not affect the unopened flower buds. With no late frosts this winter, my plant is flowering the best it ever has to date! I grafted a scion for my plant, and it took about seven years to reach a flowering size; its now about ten years old. All my larger leaved rhodos are somewhat

shielded from strong winds (we occasionally have gusts up to 90 km/hr) by other vegetation, and this species should be planted in a sheltered location.

In summary, I strongly recommend this species for your garden, with the caveat that in some years, flowers may be damaged by late frosts. Its foliage is great all year round, and being easy to grow, handsome, large-leaved rhododendron, its sure to be a stand-out in any garden.

Reference

Leach, D.G. 1961. *Rhododendrons of the World*. Charles Scribner's Sons, NY: 544 pp.



R. macabeanum leaves.



R. macabeanum plant.

Rhododendron ririei

Al Campbell

Shawnigan Lake, BC, Canada

There is a good chance that I will receive some feed back when I say that in some instances there can be a silver lining around the thunder heads of climate change. The struggle to grow less hardy plants in a given growing zone is one such instance.

Our garden, Stonefold, is some 50 km (30 miles) north of Victoria on Vancouver Island, BC; half a Hardiness Zone cooler and normally two weeks later in bloom time. This year's milder than normal winter and spring is allowing some plants to flower for the first time. One such plant is *Rhododendron ririei*.

According to the "Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species" (Cox and Cox 1997), *R. ririei* was first discovered in 1910 by the British plant hunter E. H. Wilson. Though placed in subsection *Argyrophylla* that is spread from Tibet through China to Taiwan, *R. ririei* is restricted to the single Chinese province of Sichuan. This mountainous locale gives promise to it being a hardy plant, though its penchant for being one of the earliest elepidotes to bloom sees the flower buds and new growth often damaged by frost in those gardens with fickle weather conditions.

R. ririei is reported to have some variability in leaf, flower, and growth habit. Our plant is an upright grower, now at about 2.1 m (seven feet) high by 0.9 m (three feet) wide. The leaves are 3.8 cm (1.5 inches) wide by 12.7 cm (five inches) long, smooth green above with a very thin white indumentum below. The flowers on our plant opened on February 4 this year and lasted until the end of the month. Our excitement was dampened somewhat with the unveiling of a rather muddy, light lilac purple corolla rather than the reddish purple described by some. A rather loose truss of six flowers with five lobes 5.1 cm (two inches) long in a campanulate shape and a very small calyx



R. ririei. Photo by Glen Jamieson.

the same colour as the flower. However, this *R. ririei* plant redeemed itself when I looked up into its overhead flowers, as deep in the throat were dark, black-purple nectar pouches, a matchless contrast!

Perhaps the question now arises "Why grow a plant whose flower buds rarely reach full florescence?" The answer is twofold: firstly, as with most rhododendron growers with "the species affliction," we wanted to have *R. ririei* in our collection; and secondly, we wanted to have the rhododendron flowering period to be earlier and thus longer in our garden.

R. ririei gave its best to us this year, and so we are now turning our eyes to *R. edgeworthii*, growing in a stump with its flower buds swelling and blushing.

Reference

Cox, P.A. and K.N.E. Cox. 1997. *Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species*. Glendoick Pub., Perth: 396 pp.

Rhododendron sutchuenense

Glen Jamieson
Parksville, BC, Canada

Photos by the author

Rhododendron sutchuenense, subsection *Fortunea*, is found from 1525-2440 m (5000-8000 ft) in the Chinese provinces of Szechuan and Hupeh, and was introduced by Wilson in 1901. It is named for the province of Szechuan. In cultivation, it grows tree-like, ultimately to about 7.7 m (25 ft) and is a good foliage plant year round. It has large mat-green, conspicuously veined leaves up to 28 cm (eleven in) long and nine cm (3.5 in) wide which are held in dense rosettes, and which seem to be particularly resistant to



R. sutchuenense flowers.

spotting. It flowers relatively early, and mine at sea level on Vancouver Island began to flower in mid-February this year. My plants are about 20 years old, stand about 2.1 m (seven ft) high and are about 2.7 m (nine ft) wide. Leach (1961) suggested plants need to be about 10 yr old and about 1.8 m (six ft) before they begin to flower reliably.

The bell-shaped flowers are light pink, spotted on the upper lobes, have a pink stigma, and are up to 7.6 cm (three in) across. Trusses can be up to 20 cm (eight in) across with

8-14 florets in a loose, flat-topped cluster.

According to Leach (1961), It is one of the hardiest Asian species, but because it flowers early, is probably not the best plant if frosts occur after the beginning of March, as in some years in our garden its flowers are frozen and damaged. Not in 2016 though, as at sea level we have not experienced frosts this winter since January 1. Unopened buds are not damaged by being frozen though, and in those years when later frosts do occur (about 50% of the time in Parksville, BC), only the most exposed buds are often damaged, and those towards the centre of the plant are often unaffected, in part perhaps because they tend to open later anyway.

It is one of my favourite plants, both because of its relatively compact form and nice shape, and being one of the earlier rhododendrons to flower in my garden, its bright pink flowers make me happy and remind me that after a typically wet and cloudy winter, my garden will soon be much sunnier and full of flowering plants in a kaleidoscope of colours.



R. sutchuenense leaves.

Reference

Leach, D.G. 1961. *Rhododendrons of the World*. Charles Scribner's Sons, NY: 544 pp.



R. sutchuenense plant.

Restoration of the Historic Lamellen Garden, Cornwall: Passing the Baton to the Fourth Generation of the Magor Family

John M. Hammond
Starling, Bury
Lancashire, England



Photos by the author

Introduction

Some six miles (9.6 km) inland from Port Isaac on Cornwall's rugged Atlantic Coast, and three miles (4.8 km) southwest of Camelford village, the A39 road heading for Wadebridge descends into the wooded valley of the River Allen. Here the narrow road twists and turns amidst the native woodland, as it loses height following the north bank of the river, and shortly before the hamlet of St. Kew Highway is reached, there is a sharp left-hand turn to an access road leading across the river to Lamellen. On passing Lamellen Lodge at the entrance gates, there is no indication of what lies ahead as the Main Drive begins to climb steeply, cut into the eastern bank of a narrow valley. The wooded valley gradually begins to open up with its banks clothed in a myriad of colours of bloom set against a host of shades of green, as the drive climbs for around three-quarters of a mile (1.2 km) to the Picturesque Elizabethan style Lamellen House. The house stands sentinel with a commanding view looking out across the garden, whilst in the valley bottom a stream rushes downhill to meet the river near Lamellen Lodge.

Many members will recall that commencing in 1901, Lamellen Garden was developed by the pioneer plantsman Edward John Penberthy Magor, known as "Mr. Magor" to the many recipients of seed and plant material he distributed to the many parts of the world where rhododendrons could be grown (Hammond 2004). When Mr. Magor passed away in 1941, his son Major Walter M. Magor was in the Armed services in North Africa, and it was not until 1961 that he returned from the army and the diplomatic service to live at Lamellen with his wife Daphne, where they both faced the mammoth task of restoring a garden that had returned to nature over the previous twenty years. With Walter commuting to London each week until he retired in 1971, the garden restoration fell mainly on Daphne's shoulders until she passed away in 1972. Even



Lamellen House terrace provides a commanding view looking out across the valley where hundreds of ornamental plants provide a stunning vista each spring.

enthusiastic, tireless horticulturalists like Walter eventually get old, so Felicity, Walter's eldest daughter, came to live at Lamellen in 1974 with her husband Jeremy Peter-Hoblyn. However, Jeremy's work as C.E.O. of a U.S.A.-based company involved a great deal of travelling and so it was left to Felicity to run the garden.

The Third Generation of Magor Family Continued with the Garden's Restoration

With Jeremy away in the U.S.A. for over 50 percent of each year, Felicity undertook the somewhat daunting task

of caring for the garden and handling the day-to-day running of the estate, as did Daphne before her. One of the major problems of carrying out restoration work, and caring for the existing plantings, was the difficulty of gaining access with tools, equipment and plants to many areas of the garden, as the valley banks became increasingly taller and steeper as the valley fell away towards the Lodge. So, tree-felling, clearance work and replanting an individual area each year was a slow and tiring project. Nevertheless, during the time Jeremy was able to spend at Lamellen over a period of several years, he constructed a network of wide pathways, with the aid of a "yellow digger," which radiated horizontally at various levels from the vicinity of the House or the upper Main Drive. Accessible on foot or by a small tractor or "gator," the paths made the transport of materials and plants much easier, and so it is no longer necessary to possess the sure-footedness of a "mountain goat" to get around the garden.

Most of the early shelter-belt plantings of the fast-growing Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), which seem more at home in the gardens of Devon and Cornwall than in their native California, were planted in 1900 and relatively few trees were planted after that date. By 1975, these pines had become over-mature and needed to be replaced;

indeed, some were felled by the 1987 hurricane that devastated many gardens in the south of England. Whilst Felicity was able to handle the replanting work, it was left to Jeremy to gradually deal with the clearance of the massive pines, which provided high level shelter on the banks around the perimeter of the garden, and then plant a replacement shelter-belt; this was a project that commenced in 1977 and took 25 years to complete. Walter Magor passed away in May, 1995, aged 83, leaving Felicity and Jeremy to continue what has been a labour of love in restoring Lamellen.

During the period 1987-2000 Felicity and Jeremy managed to considerably increase the rate of new mixed plantings, including many *Acer*, *Cornus*, *Sorbus*, *Prunus* and others. In the same timeframe, a large collection of 150 species and hybrid magnolias was established, together with the addition of 150 species and hybrid rhododendrons.

Another significant milestone was the installation of an irrigation system throughout the garden, a major project that brought into play Jeremy's engineering skills in providing water to a three-quarter mile (1.2 km) long valley containing thousands of plants. As the stream runs down the valley, there is a chain of small ponds that serve to reduce the flow speed, as well as providing an ornamental feature. With the passage of time, part of the banks and retaining walls had to be reconstructed and the ponds repaired. In a large garden covering many acres, there is always something that needs attention. Jeremy retired in 2004, as his frequent travelling to California was tiring and with their children all married, he and Felicity then carried out a major renovation of the old barn to the rear of the house. They then moved into it, enabling Lamellen House then to be renovated and be available for family gatherings and holiday lettings.



Huge plants of the various clones of the ubiquitous Cornish Red Group adorn the older gardens of Cornwall. Here at Lamellen are plants of Russellianum Group supplied by Richard Gill's Himalayan Nursery at Tremough.



Pathways radiate from the upper main drive to form terraces running at various levels along the banks of the garden and provide access to the thousands of ornamental specimens.

didn't like to be messed around, and he didn't want to talk about his many achievements in life, unless it was directly relevant to a horticultural matter or on a particular subject that was being discussed. Nevertheless, he was very kind and extremely generous to those with whom he developed a lasting relationship, and he very much enjoyed the opportunity of discussing horticultural matters of mutual interest. Jeremy was a man of many talents and like his father before him, had served with distinction and risen to the rank of Captain in the Coldstream Guards; he was President and C.E.O. of Clean Diesel Technologies, Inc., of Ventura, California; but, unlike many of his counterparts for whom it was sufficient to take-on the leading role of a single company, he was also a Director and at the head of at least two other commercial concerns. His expertise and knowledge extended to many fields of endeavour and in his business life Jeremy was perhaps better known as a highly-regarded inventor of diesel technologies, having 26 patents to his credit. However, it was after he retired in 2004 and was able to turn his active mind to the restoration of Lamellen Garden that he and I became better acquainted.

It is important to remember Jeremy for his many achievements in the horticultural

The End of an Era

It was with great sadness that I learnt that Jeremy had passed away suddenly at home at Lamellen on August 19, 2014, after a short illness. Not only did the Scottish Society lose an active member, but also a kindred spirit in the field of garden restoration and plant conservation.

In many ways Jeremy was a "character" reminiscent of the Edwardian era. He didn't care much for standing on ceremony, he



In the valley bottom the fast running stream has been cleverly contained by a sequence of ponds and inspired plantings that, in turn, have created an enchanting atmospheric vista.

field and in terms of taking on-board a challenge, one particular project typified his actions. Each year a large area of garden was identified for clearance and replanting; this would involve the planting of a number of ornamentals such as magnolias, maples and dogwoods to provide some dappled shade, together with over 100 mainly species rhododendrons. To do this, Jeremy turned his attention to propagating sufficient plant material “in-house” to support the continuing restoration of the garden, and used his experience as an inventor in the construction of a sophisticated propagation unit. This was a project that would have daunted

many an enthusiastic nurseryman, but it provided Jeremy with some of the challenges he had faced in his commercial life and he was rightly proud of the development of a large “state of the art” unit that could propagate rhododendrons, magnolias and other plants on a semi-commercial scale. He designed and had cast a large concrete base with integral drainage and service ducts, then built an office and storage area at one end, and a work area complete with a bench and grafting equipment. Raised high off the floor were two runs of bottom heated propagating benches with heavy plastic curtains down each side so that the humidity could be controlled independently in each bench to suite the raising of seedlings, cuttings or grafts of rhododendrons and magnolias. Beyond the benches in the poly-tunnel, which was climatically controlled, were large areas laid out for growing-on young plants that had been potted-up from the propagation trays and containers. The whole operation was driven by a biomass boiler located in a nearby separate building, and all his horticultural supplies were close at hand and readily available.

Behind the propagation unit was a large holding area that accommodated hundreds

of containers for growing-on plants that had been in the propagating unit for a full season. This area was outside but was well sheltered by adjacent buildings and a tall wall, which was at one-time part of a Walled Garden. A network of heated pipes ran beneath the horticultural matting in each of the bays in the holding area to encourage the plants to put on new growth. When the plants were sufficiently mature, they were then transferred to another nursery holding area to harden-off until they were needed for planting-out in the garden. A wide range of rhododendrons were successfully raised each year, including many large-leaved and tender species, a range of Mr. Magor's own hybrids, and a large number of magnolia cultivars. This project provided the material for replanting large areas of the garden each year, whilst any remaining plants could be exchanged with other gardeners to enable the plant varieties to be added to in most years. The propagation unit was Jeremy's pride and joy, and he actively sought to refine both his methodologies and the climate control equipment to improve his propagation success rates; indeed, shortly before his death, he isolated the cause of liverwort contamination in his propagation beds and containers.

Lamellen House contains an extensive library of horticultural books, amongst which was the rare *The Rhododendrons of Sikkim Himalaya*, published in 1849 by Joseph Dalton Hooker, following his landmark expedition to the Eastern Himalayas. Second-hand copies of this publication are expensive, so to make this old publication more widely available, Jeremy and Dr. Raymond Thornton, another kindred spirit residing in Southampton, arranged for a reprinting in 2007 of a full size limited edition of the book's 30 plates.

Jeremy's interest in the restoration of Lamellen garden drew his attention to many of the wider issues related to garden restoration and the conservation of rare and endangered rhododendrons, both species and hybrids, together with the impact resulting from the *Phytophthora ramorum* and *P. kernoviae* pathogens that took hold in the temperate climate of Southwest England. Jeremy was specifically interested in the innovative micro-propagation techniques being developed at the Duchy of Cornwall College at Rosewarne to raise plants that are disease-free, using plant material from gardens confirmed by the Plant Health Inspectorate to be infected with phytophthora pathogens. DEFRA, the British equivalent of the USDA, have approved the College's methodology for raising plants to replace rare species and hybrids that may need to be destroyed, and would otherwise be lost, as a result of being diseased. With Jeremy's assistance, the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group has been working in partnership with the College to support the propagation work.

In Conclusion

In the Spring of 2011, the American Rhododendron Society at their National Convention in Vancouver, WA, presented the prestigious and rarely given Pioneer Achievement Award, posthumously to Edward John Penberthy Magor in recognition



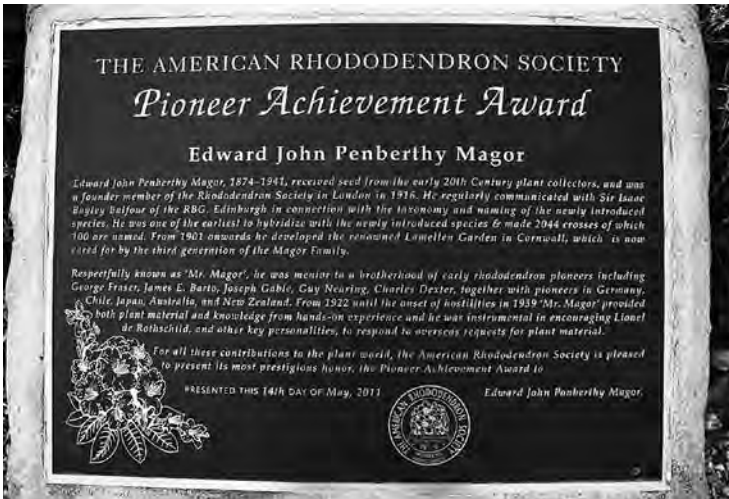
Jeremy and Felicity Peter-Hoblyn discuss the rhododendron plantings on the “James E. Barto Walk” in Hendricks Park, Eugene, in May 2011. Some of the plantings along the Walk were raised in the 1920’s by Barto from seed that originated from Lamellen.



The propagation unit developed by Jeremy was his pride and joy. Here he is explaining some of the attributes of this unit with its multi-climate environmental propagation benches to a group of rhododendron enthusiasts in 2013.



Beyond the propagation benches is a growing on area for the hundreds of plants raised each year from seed, cuttings and grafts. Jeremy was in charge of the propagation work and Felicity potted-up the plants. Cornwall enjoys a benign climate and when this photo was taken in April, 2013, much of the potting-on had been completed and the plants moved to the nursery area.



Jeremy arranged for this specially cast bronze replica of the Pioneer Achievement Award to be placed in the centre of the terrace at the front of Lamellen House to record the garden's historic connections with the early Rhododendron Pioneers in the USA and Canada.

of his work over many years in supplying plant material to the early rhododendron pioneers in the U.S.A., Canada and other parts of the world. Jeremy and Felicity, who had spent more than half their lifetime continuing the restoration of Lamellen Garden, travelled to Vancouver to receive the Award. A few days before the presentation, they visited Hendricks Park Garden in Eugene, OR, that in its rhododendron plantings has a "James E. Barto Walk" dedicated to that pioneer plantsman. The walk contains many plants originally raised at his homestead on the High Pass Road above Junction City, including some raised from Lamellen seed. In the midst of the planting is a nicely made bronze plaque that provides some background details of the Pioneer Achievement Award made posthumously in 1995 to James Elwood Barto. This struck a chord with Jeremy, and on his return home to Cornwall, he had a full-size bronze replica made of the Pioneer Achievement Award citation he had received in Vancouver on behalf of his grandfather-in-law. This he placed on the terrace overlooking the garden at the front of Lamellen House to mark its historical connections.

Jeremy's son Edward noted in a recent letter:

Ironically, if you had told a young Jeremy that he would see out his days as a passionate gardener, giving up his favourite hobbies, shooting and fishing, for it, he would have called for the straight-jacket and had you sectioned. However, gardening and propagating appealed to his scientific mind; while the scale of the challenge matched his abundant energy and determination. My father is the only person I can think of who would ever launch into such a challenge on such an industrial scale.

Jeremy is succeeded by his wife, Felicity, and their three children, Harriet, Edward and Carolyn. Like his father before him, in recent years, Edward has become very interested in the garden and its plant collections, and he and Felicity are continuing the restoration of the garden, which is excellent news in terms of securing the future of Lamellen. It now being supported by a fourth generation of the Magor Family.

Acknowledgements

The author is particularly indebted to Jeremy, Felicity and Edward Peter-Hoblyn who have provided details and access to documents on which much of this article is based.

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Fig. 1. Greer Gardens sign at entrance to retail and mail order location.

Pursuing the Rare and Unusual: The Greer Legacy

Gordon Wylie
Creswell, Oregon

Mike Stewart
Sandy, Oregon

Photos courtesy of
Harold Greer



Gordon Wylie



Mike Stewart

It seems only fitting that in the early 1960s a then quite rural area along Goodpasture Island Road on the outskirts of Eugene, Oregon, would become the home of Greer Gardens (Fig. 1). But land uses would begin to change, most noticeably on a large scale about a mile away with what at the time was claimed to be the largest shopping mall between Portland, Oregon, and San Francisco, CA. As time passed and with

the pressure of an increasing population, smaller commercial ventures, together with residential infill attained a more rapid pace in the late 1970s and into the 1980s.

As a new century arrived, the nursery was the only remnant from that not so distant agricultural past, having been engulfed on all sides by residential housing. Given that and the passing years, the following front-page headline in the Eugene-Springfield daily newspaper, *The Register-Guard*, July 9, 2015, was perhaps inevitable:

“NURSERY UPROOTING”
and
**“GREER GARDENS WILL CLOSE, MAKING WAY FOR A SENIORS
COMMUNITY”**

The article following went on to explain that Harold and Nancy Greer were closing, after fifty years in business selling “... more than 4000 types of rhododendrons, perennials, shrubs and trees ...” from their nursery, and that the “...14-acre wooded

site (would be cleared for) a 216-unit senior and assisted living center.” Thus became public an event already the subject of discussion among avid gardeners at the prospect of losing a paramount source for what has long been termed “... the rare and unusual.”

This dramatically different use of the nursery property will nevertheless honor its history. The Greers have selected and set aside many specimen trees and shrubs from the nursery’s stock, including of course rhododendrons. These will be planted throughout the new development, and will also be on view in a special rhododendron display garden. Thus, while gardening enthusiasts will



Fig. 2. Harold with his mother and sister in 1955.



Fig. 3. Harold's parents home when they first started growing rhododendrons in 1955.

surely miss a long time primary source for a very large variety of rhododendrons and many other uncommon ornamental plants, significant reminders will remain for residents and visitors to learn from and enjoy.

These changes remind us it is timely to pause and look back on a remarkable 70 years of rhododendrons in North America and some antecedents to those years, including also individual involvement with the genus.

Before World War II, a few pioneers on both the east and west coasts of North America were interested in and growing rhododendrons. But the genus had not had nearly the impact as was true in the British Isles during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. That was to change rapidly, as was evidenced in part by the organization and incorporation of the American Rhododendron Society in 1945. Coincidentally, Harold Greer was born the same year in Colorado.

Although purportedly home to a small population of *R. albiflorum*, Colorado surely does not spring to mind when thinking of rhododendrons. Shortly, though, the Greer family moved further west to California and then, in 1953, to Oregon. There they purchased a home in the River Road area northwest of Eugene. Harold's older sister was no longer at home, and he was growing up much as an only child in close contact with his parents (Fig. 2).

Edgar Greer was a life insurance salesman for New York Life who liked ornamental



Fig. 4. First Greenhouse at the Greer home when Harold was a child.

plants. Looking forward to retirement in the 1950s and planning to indulge in and expand that interest, he purchased the empty lot next to the family's River Road home. At the time his interest was largely roses and he knew nothing of rhododendrons. But that changed when Harold's dad, still the salesman seeking out and meeting new people, became acquainted with Joe Steinmetz. Steinmetz was growing rhododendrons from the James Barto collection (see Phetteplace 1960a,b) and he sold around 100 of them to Edgar.

Harold was usually with his father during the plant exploration and buying trips, and began developing his own plant interests. Following the large purchase of rhododendrons from Steinmetz, the great variety of the genus in size, texture, color and growth habit captured his interest and became an intense focus (Fig. 3).

Nancy Greer enters this picture early on. Indeed, one might say that Harold and Nancy have been friends for a lifetime. They first met in the third grade, and both their respective families attended the same church during their childhood and through their teenage years. Nancy's grandmother, who had an interest in rhododendrons and visited Edgar Greer's nursery many times, also had an interest in making sure her granddaughter and Harold would meet again as young adults. That arrangement was skillfully made at a summer picnic and the rest, as they say, is history. Harold and Nancy started dating, working together in the nursery, and then married in 1966.



Fig. 5. Site of the future Greer Gardens taken in 1961. This is the site of their current home and nursery.



Fig. 6. Greer home and nursery in 1964 on the same property as in Fig. 5.

Nancy has played an important part in Greer Gardens Nursery ever since, filling the role of traveling companion during plant buying trips and tours, and as the company's bookkeeper for all these years.

Another important factor in the development of rhododendron culture and interest in the Eugene-Springfield area doubtless had an influence on the later founding and development of Greer Gardens. It began with a small group of hobby gardeners getting together sporadically in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Most were focused on growing camellias but there was also some interest in rhododendrons. Upon organizing more formally in 1944, they adopted the name "Men's Camellia and Rhododendron Society." Yes, the choice of "Men's" was deliberate, but that's another story from a quite different era! Although their emphasis with camellias continued, a few of these men participated in 1945 with like-minded folks from the Portland area in forming the American Rhododendron Society. Eventually, after a number of severe winters adversely affected camellias, attention turned more to rhododendrons, and the local organization became a very early chapter of the ARS (Blackford *et al.*, unpubl. manu.).

Although his father was their contemporary and the nursery proprietor, the more seasoned rhododendron enthusiasts soon noted Harold's knack with plants. Merle Saunders (1966), a founding member of the Eugene Chap-



Fig. 7. Retail parking lot at Greer Gardens, 1993.



Fig. 8. Rhododendrons ready for sale and shipping, Greer Gardens, 1991.

ter, wrote for *The Quarterly Bulletin ARS*:

...Edgar's ace in the hole was his son Harold, who took to rhododendrons like a duck takes to water and having a good memory it wasn't long before he could tell you the parentage of most any rhododendron hybrid in their planting.

And prophetically,

...when a person, such as Harold Greer, starts at such an early age, he is indeed fortunate, as he should have many years.

Without doubt many present day gardeners consider themselves fortunate too in having enjoyed five decades of that which evolved from a little back yard nursery.

In more recent comments, Peter Cox describes an early personal experience, and Harold's later support of rhododendrons:

My memories of Harold date back I think to 1961 when my father and I were over your way. I remember him as a very precocious adolescent with an amazing knowledge of rhododendrons while still in his teens. His knowledge of hybrids is second to none and his books must have helped greatly in keeping the interest in rhododendrons going . . .

And Ken Cox:

In 1981 when I was 17, I took a year out between school and university and went traveling. I managed to get a work permit for the USA and Ted VanVeen and Harold Greer agreed to let me work for them for three months each. I expect they assumed that I knew something about rhododendrons. I have to admit that I knew very little. But by the time 6 months



Fig. 9. Harold Greer in 1967 displaying rhododendrons at Hendricks Park during a flower show.

was up, I knew a lot more, and much of that was learned at Greer Gardens. I learned where to find the huge list of plants on the Greer nursery; each one had a bed location and sometimes it took a long time to locate the only one of the rare species or hybrid that the customer wanted. Harold amazed me with his ability to recognize hybrids from a leaf or two.... I reckon I could give him a run for his money on species... but on hybrids he's the world champion.

Back at their River Road home and the extra lot next door (Fig. 4), the Greers were busy propagating and growing plants from seed and cuttings. The modest enterprise, Colin Kelly Gardens, took its name from a nearby school, which in turn was patriotically named after a B17 bomber pilot lost in action in the Pacific shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack. By the late 1950s there was no more room for plants on the two lots. The back yard hobby business had outgrown its space, and a desire by both father and son to continue propelled a search for more land.

The quest for a new location included not only the Eugene-Springfield area, but extended to the Oregon coast and northeast beyond Sandy, Oregon. It seemed that nothing was quite right but then, in the fall of 1961 during a visit to nurseryman Jack Simons, Simons mentioned he might sell some of his property. As noted earlier, the property and nearby area was at the time zoned for and was primarily in agricultural use. At Harold's urging, he and his father soon returned to the property and a deal was struck for 3.14 acres (1.27 ha) of land (Fig. 5). This location was thus launched on a path to become the core of a major presence in the retail nursery business. Some years later, as



Fig. 10 First Greer's plant catalog, 1968.



Fig 11. Harold as pictured on the back cover of *Greer's Guidebook to Rhododendrons* by Greer (1982).

the business continued to grow, Harold and Nancy expanded the nursery to its final configuration through purchase of eleven adjoining acres (4.45 ha)

A turning point in Harold and Nancy's young nursery business (Fig. 6) happened during and following the ARS Convention held in Eugene in 1968. Greer Gardens was one of the convention tours, and it was during that tour that several people asked for a plant list, hoping to have plants shipped to them. There was particular interest in the species rhododendrons that were on display. During the following months, Harold and Nancy hurriedly developed a list of plants (Fig. 10), and their mail order business was born. Through the years, that feature grew, as Greer

Gardens became one of the world's premier mail order establishments for ornamental trees and shrubs (Fig. 8). At its peak, an astounding 38,000 catalogs went out with each new issue. Over thirty employees were kept busy growing and shipping more than 4000 different taxa all over the world.

Finding, collecting and maintaining the "rare and unusual" was a full time task. Some of the uncommon plants often came from small home hobby operations. The Greers traveled throughout the Northwest building those relationships that are essential to a mail order business of this scope and magnitude. In the earlier days, they purchased stock from area rhododendron pioneers such as Jim Caperci, Cecil Smith, Halfdan Lem, John Eichelser, Bill Whitney, John and Rudolf Henny, Ruth and Marshall Lyons, Carl Petteplace, Ray James and Milton Walker, followed by the TE Bowhan Nursery,

Thompson Nursery, Dover Nursery and many more. The relationships built over the years with these suppliers are some of Harold's and Nancy's fondest and most treasured memories. Even now, many years later, Harold presents programs honoring the memory and contributions of those earliest suppliers.

As rhododendron enthusiasts know, The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden maintained by the Rhododendron Species Foundation (RSF) at Federal Way, Washington, contains one of the world's best collections of rhododendron species. Some events in the often-turbulent early years of the RSF following its formation in 1964 are not, however, as familiar. The initial home for RSF

plants was the Dr. Milton Walker property in Pleasant Hill, Oregon about ten miles (16 km) south of Eugene. In 1970 the Foundation had 1800 newly propagated plants at the Walker property, but no funds to provide care critical to their survival. Somehow, Harold found himself moving those plants to the unplanted portion of his and Nancy's newly completed home near Greer Gardens. It was a fortunate interim solution for the young rhododendrons, which thrived under the Greer's care. Later, these plants were moved to the Jock Brydon property in Salem, Oregon.

From that first hastily constructed plant list in 1968 to more recent years, customers have looked forward to the Greer Gardens Catalog and its trove of available, often rare, plants. Each selection was accompanied by intriguing and informative descriptions, and the reader soon found himself swept up by Harold's infectious passion for plants.



Fig. 12 Harold's photograph published on the cover of the *Smithsonian* (1986).

H. C. “Bud” Gehrlich, a former ARS President observed:

Through the many years that I have known and worked with Harold, I remember mostly his service to the ARS and the high position his nursery always held in the rhododendron world. When rhododendron people questioned where everyone got their information on plant description and hardiness it was always obvious the writer had consulted Harold’s Catalog. The range of hardiness could always be found there as well as the correct flower color and plant description.

His willingness to share his expert knowledge with all of us and (his) innovative presentations with two and three screens were a high point of many conventions and other gatherings of rhododendron enthusiasts.

Other publications have followed through the years. Harold is widely recognized for *Greer’s Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, first published in 1982, followed by a revised edition in 1988 and a third edition in 1996. Considered by many to be the “bible” for information pertaining to rhododendron hybrids and species, it features many photographs taken by Harold, with hybrids categorized by the originating hybridizer as well as color. David Millais wrote:

My father, Ted Millais, had corresponded with Harold Greer for some years, and bought ‘Greer’s Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons’. In those pre-internet days, Harold’s book was one of the best ways to learn about some of the wonderful new varieties which had been bred in the USA, but which had not found their way across the water to the UK. Harold’s book helped my father decide which new plants might be worth the expense of importing and trialing in the UK. When I visited America in 1989, and worked as an intern at Briggs Nursery and RSE, it was Greer’s revised Guidebook which was perfect for me, a real guide to a novice rhododendron enthusiast.

A book written jointly with Homer E. Salley, *Rhododendron Hybrids*, had its beginnings with lists of hybrid parentage Harold began collecting as a teenager. It was published in 1986 by Timber Press, a Pacific Northwest firm specializing in horticultural books, with a revised second edition in 1992. Both editions were lavishly illustrated with color photographs, most of which came from Harold’s expert work with a camera.

And speaking of photographs, Harold has amassed what is likely the largest personal collection of rhododendron photos extant. He is an excellent photographer, and has supplied many publications with pictures and has been most generous with speakers in providing pictures for use in their programs. Perhaps the most widely circulated among the general public is his picture (Fig. 12) gracing the cover of *Smithsonian* and many of his illustrations accompanying the feature article within (Allen 1986).

Regarding photos and related matters, Rich Aaring noted:

I remember a Eugene Chapter Study Group meeting back in 1996. This was one of my



Fig. 13. The Greer Gardens display at the Eugene Chapter flower show.

earliest exposures to Harold. We held these meetings in Harold's business' employee break room (and)...we used his *Guidebook* for the primary source on descriptions and species classification. We used his *Rhododendron Hybrids*, 2nd, which he wrote with Homer Salley, as the source for hybrid parentage. We used his slide collection for the photos. When we wanted to see a live, growing plant, we just went outside to the garden. And when we got things mixed up, he would gently set us straight.

At this one meeting several of us were going through our slide show. Harold had just received a shipment of the *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, third edition. During the meeting Harold went downstairs and got a copy for each of us, inscribed it, and gave them to us. This is just a small example of the generosity of time and spirit that the Eugene Chapter and the Society have benefited from over the last 50 years.

Harold and Nancy have also taken time away from their business to organize and host tours abroad. Many have enjoyed traveling with them as they led groups to Japan, Australia, Great Britain and mainland Europe. Their overseas tours resulted in even farther reaching relationships, not only with their guests, but also with many famous garden hosts in those areas of the world favorable to growing rhododendrons. Greater appreciation of all that can be seen and experienced in any garden is a common result from touring with Harold, as with his keen eye he discerns and points out plant features which would otherwise go unnoticed.

The Greers have been very active in introducing new rhododendron hybrids, a substantial number of which are from Harold's own hybridizing efforts. The latter includes 'Trude Webster', an early cross-made during the fledgling days while still living



Fig. 14. Nancy and Harold with the new retirement development construction in the background.

on River Road. A few other names familiar to rhodophiles include 'Black Magic', 'Cheyenne', 'Everything Nice' and 'Hallelujah'.

John Hammond observed:

From 1955 onwards Harold became a prolific hybridizer and records have been found of 53 of the crosses he named and introduced; however, not all the hybrids were registered so, whilst details for some crosses are incomplete, the list does underline the fact that Harold was an important early hybridizer in the annals of the ARS. (He) named or introduced a further 32 seedlings (by others)... from a wider perspective a considerable range of specialty hybrids have been marketed by Greer Gardens.

Never a man to refuse service, Harold has also benefited the ARS in many capacities. He has served on many Society committees, as Western Vice President and during the years 1987 to 1989, the youngest ARS President (42) in the Society's history, which remains true today. The Eugene Chapter has recognized his exceptional contributions, twice, with the ARS Bronze Medal. In 1989, the ARS acknowledged the importance and comprehensive benefits of Harold's numerous contributions with a Gold Medal, and in 2005, he received the National Federation of Garden Clubs' recognition for "Development and Contribution to the Plant World" award. He was one of the leaders organizing the first ever Western Regional Conference in 1981, and has continued that commitment to many later conferences in addition to leadership roles in four ARS

Conventions in Oregon. A number of prominent figures long active in the ARS have emphasized his contributions to the Society.

Sandra McDonald (long time chair of the ARS Editorial Committee):

I have actually been acquainted with Harold for over 35 years having seen him and his wife Nancy at many ARS Annual Conventions and Board meetings. He was the person who presented me with the Silver Medal at our 1988 Convention in Williamsburg. Harold has helped our ARS Editorial Committee when former Editor Sonja Nelson sought him out for information. He did steer us to a new printer for *JARS* when our previous printer went out of business. . . . when special interest lists became popular (on the Web) Harold became active in those areas. He has generously shared his knowledge and expertise . . . on the Azalea list (with) well over 1000 messages either mentioning Harold or from Harold.

Herb Spady:

How fortunate our Society has been to have a member and leader that began an intense interest in rhododendrons in his youth and continued that interest through the years. It made a big difference in his knowledge base and accumulated resources. Thanks Harold for doing so much and sharing so much.

John Hammond:

. . .at (his) office desk engrossed in a response to an e.mail from Harold Greer requesting details for an upcoming Western Regional Conference. Good Morning Harold. . .knowing with the time difference it's almost midnight in Oregon. . .finish, send it off, then meditate what's next. An incoming e.mail interrupts my train of thought. . .Hello John, it's not yet morning here in Eugene. . .I enjoy working in the late evening and early morning hours when it's quiet. . .Harold is a workaholic, it's the only way he can possibly keep so many balls up in the air connected with his nursery business, whilst having his fingers on the pulse of many day-to-day activities within the ARS.

Fervent gardeners must now look elsewhere for the "rare and unusual." We have no doubt, however, that rhododendron and plant lovers have not heard the last of Harold Greer. Rather, he and Nancy (Fig. 14) will enjoy an active retirement as he continues an energetic role sharing his addiction to and fascination with ornamental plants and gardening.

Acknowledgments

In the course of assembling information for this article we solicited comments from others in the rhododendron community. Excerpts from the responses are included with the author's identity in the text above. We wish to thank each for having so graciously taken the time to respond.

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Gordon Wylie is a member of the Eugene Chapter and Mike Stewart is a member of the Portland Chapter. Like Harold Greer, both are ARS Gold Medal recipients and past presidents of the ARS.

*Life begins the day you start a
garden~*

Chinese Proverb

Book Review

The Public Rhododendron Gardens of Vancouver Island. Ian E. Efford; photography editor Susan Lightburn; chapters on hybrids by Alan Campbell. Paperback: 144 pages, large format, full colour. ARS store price: \$25 Canadian, discount on order of 10 or more.

Reviewed by Ken Cox, Glendoick

I was fortunate enough to tour many gardens on Vancouver Island in May, 2015, when I was invited to speak at the ARS conference in Sidney, BC, where this book was launched. Vancouver Island is undoubtedly one of the best places in the world to grow rhododendrons, a relatively mild, cool climate and fairly dependable rainfall allows a wide range of material to be grown from small alpine rhododendron species to some of the large leaved and *Maddenia* species from lower altitudes. Even in towns such as Victoria, older homes have generous sized gardens and many public parks also have rhododendron collections. This book covers most of the regularly accessible public rhododendron collections and some private ones which can be visited by appointment.

In the book, Vancouver Island is divided into seven sections from the south to the north. Each garden has a double page spread with two to three photos and a description of the garden. Butchart Gardens, which I believe is North America's most visited garden, is included as well as many more which are accessible to the public, if not as well known. These include Towner Crest, Evelyn and the late Nick Weesjes' wonderful woodland on the North Saanich Peninsula and another I really enjoyed visiting, the Abkhazi Garden in Victoria, carved out of a natural rock outcrop. Other great gardens were Finnerty Garden at the University of Victoria; Clayoquot Island, what a strange and amazing place near Tofino, and the Milner Garden in Parksville. The most remote, right up at the north tip of Vancouver Island has a particularly amusing photograph, at least for outsiders. The photo is captioned 'Cunningham's White' but rather more interesting is the "elephant" in the room, in this case a black bear! I also visited a good number of Vancouver Island private gardens, not generally open to the public, which were as good or better than some of the public gardens listed here.

Additional short chapters cover the six native rhododendrons to British Columbia (recently increased as *Ledum* are now rhododendrons), Vancouver Island rhododendron hybridisers and sections on subjects of historical interest such as George Fraser, the Buchanan Simpsons and the Royston nursery. Not all the photographs do justice to the gardens, many taken in bright sunlight, so the contrast is rather high and it is slightly annoying to have to look up all the captions in the index at the back.

If you want a guidebook to explore the riches of Vancouver Island's rhododendron

gardens, you can not do better than to buy this book. It has useful maps, web links and directions to find everything. The books is a celebration of a great area for growing rhododendrons and Vancouver Island is certainly a place that I really recommend any rhododendron fans to visit.



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Newly Registered 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 February 15, 2016, 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) – lepidote 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

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Royal Horticultural Society color numbers in parentheses, unless another system is noted

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(a) 'Beautiful Beth'

Evergreen azalea: 'Ashley Ruth' (s) X *R. kiusianum* 'Komo-kulshan'. H (1999), G (2001), N (2015), REG (2015): Joseph Klimavicz, Vienna, VA. Flrs 2-3/ bud, broad funnel, 2 inches (50mm) wide, 5 broadly rounded, frilly. Bud: strong purplish pink (68B) at tip shading to white at base. Inside: white center with a strong purplish pink (63C and 68B) picotee band on all lobes. Outside: white at base with a strong purplish pink (68B) picotee band on all lobes. White filaments, strong purplish pink (63C) style. Calyx: 0.2 inch (5mm) long, strong yellow green (144C). Lvs 1.2 x 0.6 inches (30 x 15mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (146A), semiglossy. Shrub 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 10 years; intermediate habit, floriferous. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (early May in Washington, D.C., area). Etymology of name: for the mother-in-law of the hybridizer's daughter. Limited propagation under the hybridizer's number, 1K-99-4.



'Beautiful Beth'. Photo by Joseph Klimavicz.

Flowering midseason (early May in Washington, D.C., area). Etymology of name: for the mother-in-law of the hybridizer's daughter. Limited propagation under the hybridizer's number, 1K-99-4.

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(r) 'Carolyn's Carousel'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Midnight Mystique' (s) X 'Goldprinz'. H (2004), G (2010), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA; N (2015): Carolyn Smart, Carnation, WA. Flrs 20/ball truss, broad funnel, 2 inches (51mm) long x 3.1 inches (79mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: dark red (59A). Inside: yellowish white (155D), shading to a strong reddish pink (70B) picotee on all margins; center of dorsal lobe brilliant greenish yellow (4A) with moderate red (185B) spotting; 0.30inch (8mm) basal dorsal flare, moderate red (185B). Outside: yellowish white (155D), shading to a strong reddish pink (70B) picotee on all margins, with strong reddish pink (70B) midvein on each lobe. Brown-and-yellow anthers; light yellow stigma. Truss 5 x 5 inches (127 x 127mm). Lvs 3.75 x 1.5 inches (95 x 38mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), matte. Shrub 3 feet (0.9m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 11 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (early May in Seattle area). Etymology: Named by ARS member Carolyn Smart prior to her death in 2015.

Note: 'Goldprinz' was registered 1995 as 'Goldschatz' (IRRC, p. 532), but that name was later found to be ineligible and the cultivar's registered name has been changed.



'Carolyn's Carousel'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

An advertisement for Wells Medina Nursery. The background is a large, high-quality photograph of the 'Carolyn's Carousel' rhododendron flowers, showing their characteristic multi-colored petals. Overlaid on the top right of the image is the text 'WELLS MEDINA NURSERY' in a large, white, serif font. In the bottom left corner, the following contact information is provided in a smaller, white, sans-serif font: '8300 NE 24th St', 'Medina, WA 98039', 'wellsmedinanursery.com', and '425.454.1853'.

(r) 'Chicken Little'

Elepidote rhododendron: ('Nancy Evans' x *R. bureavii*) (s) X (*R. proteoides* x *R. dictyoanthum*). H (2001), G (2006), N (2015), REG (2016): Frank Fujioka, Freeland, WA. Flrs 14/flat truss, funnel, 2 inches (51mm) long x 1.5 inches (38mm) wide, 5 emarginate lobes. Bud: vivid reddish orange (33A) enclosed by large pale orange yellow (23D) calyx.

Inside: light yellowish pink (19B) with darker pink on margins of some lobes, small brilliant orange (29A) spots on dorsal lobe and delicate reddish midveins. Outside: pale orange yellow (23D) with vivid reddish orange (33A) midveins. Calyx: 1.75 inches (44mm) long; pale orange yellow (23D) with vivid reddish orange (33A) midveins. Truss 3 inches (76mm) high x 5 inches (127mm) wide. Lvs 2.5 x 1 inch (64 x 25mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, downcurved margins, dark green (135A). Indumentum: hairs below, strong orange yellow (163B) maturing to moderate orange yellow (164B). Shrub 2 feet (0.6m) high x 3 feet (0.9m) wide in 14 years; low and dense habit, lvs held 2-3 growing seasons. Hardy to 10°F (-12°C). Flowering early season (early to mid-April in Puget Sound).



'Chicken Little'. Photo by Frank Fujioka.



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(r) 'Coral Dawn'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Wild Ginger' (s) X [('Bambi' x *R. proteoides*) x ('Yellow Saucer' x 'Anna's Riplet')]. H (2006), G (2011), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 12/dome truss, broad funnel, 1.9 inches (47mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: strong red (51A).

Inside: pale yellow green (4D), shading through strong pink (52D) to deep pink (52C) at margins. Outside: strong pink (52D) at base, shading to deep pink (52C).

Truss 4 inches (102mm) high x 5 inches (127mm) wide. Lvs 3.5 x 1.6 inches (90 x 41mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy. Shrub 2 feet (0.6m) high x 3 feet (0.9m) wide in 9 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area).



'Coral Dawn'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

(r) 'Garden Song'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Rocky Point' (s) X 'Tia'. H (2005), G (2010), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup. Flrs 11/dome truss, broad funnel, 2 inches (51mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: red (53B). Inside: pale purplish pink (56B) blending through pale purplish pink (56D) to yellowish white (158D), with a

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0.5-inch (13mm) 360-degree moderate red (185B) basal flare, extending farther in dorsal area, becoming spots in three upper lobes. Outside: pale purplish pink (56B) blending through pale purplish pink (56D) to yellowish white (158D). Calyx: 1.25 inches (32mm) long, pale purplish pink (56D) with moderate red (185B) flare. Reddish brown anthers and stigma. Truss 4.5 inches (114mm) high x 5.75 inches (146mm) wide. Lvs 4.4 x 1.75 inches (111 x 44mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), matte. Shrub 2 feet (0.6m) high x 1.7 feet (0.5m) wide in 5 years; open habit, lvs held 3 growing seasons. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (late April in Seattle area).



'Garden Song'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

(r) 'Ivory Mist'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Recital' (s) X 'Tia'. H (2004), G (2008), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 15/dome truss, funnel, 2 inches (51mm) long x 2.25 inches (57mm) wide, 5 emarginate lobes, wavy margins. Bud: strong red (53D). Inside: yellowish white (155D) with occasional marginal touches of pale purplish pink (56B); strong red (53D) basal flares in all sections, extending 1 inch (25mm) in upper

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segment, less in other segments. Outside: yellowish white (155D) with occasional marginal touches of pale purplish pink (56B). Calyx: 0.5 inch (13mm) long; yellowish white (155D) with two 0.25-inch (6mm) strong red (53D) flares. Truss 4.5 inches (114mm) high x 5.5 inches (140mm) wide. Lvs 3.5 x 1.4 inches (90 x 35mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy. Shrub 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 6 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area).



'Ivory Mist'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

(r) 'Jessica Gustavson'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Violet Mist' (s) X 'Plum Passion'. H (1995), G (2000), REG (2015); Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA; N (2015): Jessica Gustavson, Victoria, British Columbia. Flrs 15/ball truss, broad funnel, 1.9 inches (47mm) long x 2.6 inches (67mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: vivid purple (81B). Inside: light purple (84C) shading to strong purple (84A) at all margins, with large gray red (182B) speckled blotch superimposed over dark greenish yellow (152C) in upper lobe. Outside: light purple (84C) at base shading to strong purple (84A) at margins. White filaments,

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reddish style. Truss 4 inches (102mm) high x 4.75 inches (121mm) wide. Lvs 4 x 1.75 inches (102 x 44mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), matte. Shrub 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 20 years; open habit. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (early May in Seattle area). Etymology: Right to name the cultivar was purchased by the nominant at the ARS convention in Sidney, British Columbia, May 2015.



'Jessica Gustavson'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

(r) 'Ken Gibson'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Lemon Embers' (s) X ('Fortune' x ['Berg's Yellow x *R. proteoides*]). H (2003), G (2013), N (2014), REG (2015): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 19/ball truss, broad funnel, 2 inches (51mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: light greenish yellow (4C). Inside: light greenish yellow (4C) in center



'Ken Gibson'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

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blending to pale yellow green (4D), with 0.5-inch (13mm) strong red flare (53C) at base of upper lobe. Outside: light greenish yellow (4C). Calyx: 0.75 inch (19mm) long, light greenish yellow (4C) with strong red flare (53C), 0.25 inch (6mm). Truss 5 x 5 inches (127 x 127mm). Lvs 4.75 x 2.4 inches (121 x 60mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy. Shrub 4.5 x 4.5 feet (1.4 x 1.4m) in 12 years; leaves held 2 years. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area). Etymology of name: for a noted Canadian rhododendron collector.

(r) 'Loey Jane'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Percy Wiseman' (s) X ('Fortune' x ['Berg's Yellow' x *R. proteoides*]). H (2003), G (2008), N (2015), REG (2015): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 21/ball truss, broad funnel, 1.75 inches (44mm) long x 2.75 inches (70mm) wide, 7 wavy lobes. Bud: strong red (53C). Inside: pale yellow green (4D), blending on upper lobes to light pink (49C) 0.5 inch (13mm) from margin, most evident on



'Loey Jane'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

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dorsal lobe; two 0.75-inch (19mm) flares of strong red (53D) spotting in dorsal area. Outside: pale yellow green (4D) blending to light greenish yellow (4C) at base and light pink (49C) at margins. Calyx: 0.5 inch (13mm) long, pale yellow green (4D). Truss 5 x 5 inches (127 x 127mm). Lvs 5.25 x 2.1 inches (133 x 54mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, downcurved margins, moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy. Shrub 1.5 feet (0.5m) high x 2 feet (0.6m) wide in 5 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 years. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (late April in Seattle area). Etymology of name: for Lois Jane Blackmore of Victoria, British Columbia.

(r) 'Night Melody'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Purple Twilight' (s) X 'Black Widow'. H (2006), G (2010), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 16/ball truss, broad funnel, 1.75 inches (44mm) long x 2.5 inches (64mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: dark red (59A). Inside: 4 lower segments moderate purplish red (59C) shading to dark red (59A) at margins with strong purplish red midvein; upper segment strong purplish red (59D) shading to dark red (59A),



'Night Melody'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

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with dark grayish reddish brown (200A) blotch. Outside: deep purplish red (59B) shading to dark red (59A) at margins. Truss 4.5 x 4.5 inches (114 x 114mm). Lvs 4.5 x 1.75 inches (114 x 44mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, upcurved margins, moderate olive green (147A), matte. Shrub 3 feet (0.9m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 9 years; intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area).

(r) 'Pauline Linda'

Elepidote rhododendron: ('Violet Mist' x 'Black Adder') (s) X 'Holli's Hope'. H (2009), G (2015), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 19/ball truss, broad funnel, 1.75 inches (44mm) long x 2.9 inches (73mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: vivid violet (87A). Inside: strong purplish red (72A) shading to deep purplish red (71A) at margins, with grayish brown (166A) blotch on upper lobe. Outside: strong



'Pauline Linda'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

purplish red (72A) shading to deep purplish red (71A) at margins, with deep purplish red (61A) veins on all lobes. Pale purplish filaments and style, white anthers. Truss 4 inches (102mm) high x 5 inches (127mm) wide. Lvs 5 x 2 inches (127 x 51mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A),

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matte. Shrub 1.7 feet (0.5m) high x 2.2 feet (0.7m) wide in 6 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area). Etymology of name: for Pauline Linda Smith Hobson, a friend of the hybridizer who lives in the United Kingdom.

(r) 'Purple Moon'

Elepidote rhododendron: ('Violet Mist' x 'Black Adder') (s) X 'Holli's Hope'. H (2009), G (2014), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 17/ball truss, broad funnel, 1.75 inches (44mm) long x 2.75 inches (70mm) wide, 5 lobes, frilly margins. Bud: dark red (187A). Inside: strong purplish red (72A) shading to deep purplish red (71A) at margins, with light olive (152A) blotch and moderate olive brown (199A) spots in upper lobe. Outside: strong purplish red (72A) shading to deep purplish red (71A) at margins. Purplish filaments, off-white anthers, reddish stigma. Truss 4.5 inches (114mm) high x 5 inches (127mm) wide. Lvs 4.75 x 2 inches (121 x 51mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy. Shrub 2 x 2 feet (0.6 x 0.6m) in 6 years; intermediate habit, lvs held




'Purple Moon'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

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2 growing seasons. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area).

(r) 'Rose Dancer'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Violet Mist' (s) X 'Plum Passion'. H (2001), G (2008), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 19/ball truss, broad funnel, 1.5 inches (38mm) long x 2 inches (51mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: deep purplish red (61A). Inside: strong reddish purple (70B) shading to deep purplish pink (70C) at margins, with dark grayish reddish brown (200A) blotch on upper lobe, spreading into adjacent lobes. Outside: moderate purplish red (70A) shading to deep purplish pink (70C) at margins. Whitish style, filaments and anthers; reddish stigma. Truss 3.5 inches (90mm) high x 4 inches (102mm) wide. Lvs 4.4 x 1.75 inches (111 x 44mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), matte. Shrub 2 feet (0.6m) high x 3 feet (0.9m) wide in 7 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area).



'Rose Dancer'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

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(r) 'Rose Whisper'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Jonathan Shaw' (s) X ('Rosalie Hall' x 'Hill's Low Red'). H (2006), G (2010), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 15/ball truss, broad funnel, 1.75 inches (44mm) long x 2.5 inches (64mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: strong purplish red (60B). Inside: yellowish white (155D) in center shading to strong reddish purple (70B),



'Rose Whisper'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

with 1-inch (25mm) flare in upper segment, minor side flares and lower nectaries, all moderate red (185B). Outside: deep purplish pink (70C) with midveins and margins of strong reddish purple (70B). Truss 4 inches (102mm) high x 4.5 inches (114mm) wide. Lvs 5 x 2 inches (127 x 51mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy. Shrub 3 feet (0.9m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 9 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (early May in Seattle area).

(r) 'Sun Satin'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Journey' (s) X 'Goldprinz'. H (2003), G (2007), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 21/dome truss, broad funnel, 1.75 inches (44mm) long x 2.5 inches (64mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: strong yellowish pink (38A). Inside: pale greenish yellow (1D) shading on upper lobes to brilliant greenish yellow (1B) at margins, with 2 strong red (53B) flares and spotting. Outside: pale greenish yellow (1D), brilliant greenish yellow (1A to 1B) at base. Truss 4 inches (102mm) high x 5 inches (127mm) wide. Lvs 3.75 x 1.9 inches (95 x 47mm), elliptic, convex, rounded base, broadly acute apex, downcurved margins, moderate olive green (147A), glossy. Shrub 2 feet (0.6m) high x 3 feet (0.9m) wide in 8 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (early May in Seattle area).

Note: 'Goldprinz' was registered 1995 as 'Goldschatz' (IRRC, p. 532), but that name was later found to be ineligible and the cultivar's registered name has been changed.

(r) 'Toti'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Ingrid Mehlquist' (s) X 'Snow Candle'. H (1997), G (2003), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 15/ball truss, broad funnel, 1.5 inches (38mm) long x 2.25 inches (57mm) wide, 5 emarginate lobes, wavy margins. Bud: vivid purplish red (57C). Inside: pale purplish pink (65D) blending with moderate purplish pink (65A), with moderate red (185B), 0.6-inch (16mm) basal flare

in dorsal area, dark toward base. Outside: pale purplish pink (65D) blending with moderate purplish pink (65A), with strong purplish red (64B) midveins. Truss 3.5 inches (90mm) high x 4.5 inches (114mm) wide. Lvs 4.25 x 1.6 inches (108 x 41mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, downcurved margins, moderate olive green (147A), glossy. Shrub 1.5 feet (0.5m) high x 2 feet (0.6m) wide in 5 years; open habit, lvs held 3 growing seasons. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area). Etymology of name: for a friend of the hybridizer, the mononymous artist Toti, of Victoria, British Columbia.



'Toti'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

(r) 'Velvet Morning'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Summer Sunrise' (s) X 'Plum Passion'. H (2009), G (2013), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 17/ball truss, broad funnel, 2 inches (51mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide, 7 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: strong red (53C). Inside: pale purplish pink (56C) shading to light purplish pink (55C), with deep purplish pink (55A) midvein on each lobe, 0.75-inch (19mm) light yellowish pink (29C)



'Velvet Morning'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

throat, and light yellowish pink (29C) spots on dorsal lobe. Outside: pale purplish pink (56C) shading to strong purplish pink (55B), with deep purplish pink (55A) midvein on each lobe. Reddish filaments and style. Truss 5.5 x 5.5 inches (140 x 140mm). Lvs 5 x 1.75 inches (127 x 44mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), matte. Shrub 2.5 feet (0.8m) high x 3 feet (0.9m) wide in 6 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (early May in Seattle area).

(r) 'Wild Plum'

Elepidote rhododendron: ('Purple Amethyst' x 'Plum Passion') (s) X 'Hollis Hope'. H (2006), G (2010), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 15/ ball truss, broad funnel, 1.5 inches (38mm) long x 2.9 inches (73mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: deep reddish purple (77A). Inside: light purple (77C) shading

to deep reddish purple (77A) at margins, with moderate brown (200C) blotch. Outside: light purple (77C) shading to deep reddish purple (77A) at margins, with deep purplish red (71A) midveins. Reddish style and filaments, white anthers. Truss 4.5 x 4.5 inches (108 x 108mm). Lvs 4.25 x 1.75 inches (108 x 44mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, slightly upangled from midvein, semiglossy. Shrub 3 feet (0.9m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 9 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area).



'Wild Plum'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

(r) 'Wind Dancer'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Cimarron Sun' (s) X 'Capistrano'. H (2001), G (2008), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 17/ball truss, broad funnel, 2 inches (51mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: light purplish pink (55C). Inside: yellowish white (155D), shading to pale purplish pink (56C) at margins, with light yellow (11B) throat and dark reddish orange (172B) blotch over most



'Wind Dancer'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

of dorsal lobe, spreading to adjacent lobes. Outside: yellowish white (155D), shading to pale purplish pink (56A) at margins, with light yellow (11B) at base and strong purplish pink (55B) midveins. Truss 5.5 inches (140mm) high x 5.75 inches (146mm) wide. Lvs 4.5 x 1.9 inches (114 x 47mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins, moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy. Shrub 2 feet (0.6m) high x 2.5 feet (0.8m) wide in 5 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (early May in Seattle area).

(r) 'Winter Dreams'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Independence Day' (s) X 'Snow Candle'. H (1999), G (2008), N (2015), REG (2016): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 15/ball truss, broad funnel, 2.5 inches (64mm) long x 3.75 inches (95mm) wide, 5 lobes, wavy margins. Bud: strong purplish pink (63C). Inside: pale yellow green (155A) with dark red

(187B) blotch extending 1.9 inches (48mm) from base into dorsal lobe. Outside: pale yellow green (155A). Truss 5 inches (127mm) high x 6 inches (152mm) wide. Lvs 7 x 2.25 inches (178 x 57mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, upcurved margins, moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy. Shrub 5.5 feet (1.7m) high x 4.5 feet (1.4m) wide in 14 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason (mid-May in Seattle area).



'Winter Dreams'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

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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North Americans: Electronic registration may be submitted at www.rhododendron.org/plantregistry.htm. The site also provides instructions and forms for downloading and completing manually. Those submitting paper applications should use only the current form (revised 2015). The quickest way to obtain paper forms is to ask a friend with Internet access to go to the ARS website and print the form and instructions. Questions, completed paper forms, all photographs and requests for paper forms should be directed to Michael Martin Mills, North American Registrar. There is no fee.

All others: Please direct inquiries to Alan C. Leslie, International Rhododendron Registrar.

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Errata

In the Winter 2016 online *JARS*, page 28, the photo caption for Fig. 13 should be: *Metrosideros excelsa* (pöhutukawa, New Zealand pohutukawa, New Zealand Christmas tree). Arylies.

In the Winter 2016 online *JARS*, page 101, the 2015 Photo Contest runner-up in "Category 5) people, insect or animals" was mistakenly credited to Linda Derkach, when in fact the photo was taken by Don Hyatt.



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