

AtlanticRhodo

www.AtlanticRhodo.org

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February 2004



Rhododendron Society of Canada - Atlantic Region

Positions of Responsibility 2003 - 2004

President	Penny Gael	826-2440	Director - Horticulture	Audrey Fralic	683-2711
Vice-President	Available		Director	Anitra Laycock	852-2502
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Director - Education	Jenny Sandison	624-9013	May - Mini Show	Jenny Sandison	624-9013
Director - Communications	Christine Curry	656-2513	May- Public Plant Sale	Duff & Donna Evers	835-2586
Director - Social	Sandy Brown	683-2615			



Membership

Fees were due on January 1, 2004. Annual dues are \$ 15.00 for individuals or families. Make cheques payable to Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society. Send them to **ARHS Membership Secretary, Betty MacDonald, 534 Prospect Bay Road, Prospect Bay, NS B3T1Z8**. If you have not renewed your membership please do so now. When renewing, please include your telephone number and e-mail. This information will be used for Society purposes only (co-ordination of potluck suppers and other events) and will be kept strictly confidential. **A separate renewal form is included with this issue for your convenience.** Thanks!

The Website address for the American Rhododendron Society is **www.rhododendron.org** for those wishing to renew their membership or become new members of the ARS.

AtlanticRhodo is the Newsletter of the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society. We welcome your comments, suggestions, articles, photos and other material for publication. Send all material to the editor.

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Cover Photo:

R. 'Scotian Reef' an evergreen azalea hybrid bred by John Weagle. [Photo John Weagle]



Calendar of Events

All R.S.C.A.R. meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nova Scotia Museum Auditorium, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, unless otherwise noted. Paid parking is available in the Museum lot. Friends, guests and anyone interested in rhododendrons, azaleas or companion plants are always welcome at meetings or events.

6 January

Meeting: John Brett "Moving a Garden"

John has recently moved to another house and will share his experiences of moving plants (some of them big rhodies) and making a new garden.

3 February

Meeting: Colour in the Winter Garden Speaker to be announced.

Workshop: Ken Shannik will preview the plants in the members' sale.

2 March

Meeting: To be announced

6 April

Meeting: To be announced

4 May

Meeting: To be announced

Please Note: Some members, who have environmental sensitivities, are asking their fellow members please to use no perfumes, scented soaps, etc., on the days or evenings of RSCAR events, in order to minimize the risk of allergic reactions.



A very warm welcome to our new and returning R.S.C. Atlantic Region members who have joined since the October 2003 Newsletter:

Alison Bowness
Barbara Downham
David Johnson
Laura MacDonald
Ruth Peppard
Dwayne Tattrie
Tony Tomlik

Lower Sackville
Bedford
Halifax
Halifax
Kinsac
Lower Sackville
Antigonish

ARHS Library

By Shirley MacIntyre, Librarian

This fall we've added quite a number of lovely new books to our library. Partly to keep these and other books circulating for the benefit of all, I'll go over the library procedures.

Borrowing Procedure:

Take card from pocket at the back of the book.

Write in the current month, your name and your phone number.

Put the card in the filebox behind the current month.

If there isn't a card PLEASE DO NOT MAKE OUT A NEW CARD or take the book. Speak to the librarian. Duplicate cards means that it appears that James had a book out when in reality he returned it and Jane now has it out.

Try to return the book the following month or at the latest within two months.

Returning a Book:

There is a box to deposit returned books in. Either deposit your books there or look up the card in the small file box. Look behind the month that you took the book out. When you find the correct card, cross out your name on the card, put the card in the pocket at the back of the book and the book can now go in the circulating boxes.

Following these procedures helps to keep the library running smoothly and allows you as members to enjoy these books.

New Books in the ARHS Collection

Taylor, Patrick	500 Best Garden Plants
Newsholme, Christopher	Willows: The Genus Salix
Nicholls, Graham	Alpine Plants of North America
Di Sabato-Aust, Tracy	The Well-Tended Perennial Garden
Dirr, Michael	Manual of Woody Landscape Plants
Veertrees, J. D.	Japanese Maples
Darke, Rick	The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses
Grey-Wilson, Christopher	Poppies
Schenk, George	The Complete Shade Gardener
Lima, Patrick	The Art of Perennial Gardening
Chatto, Beth	Beth Chatto's Woodland Garden
Grey-Wilson, Christopher	Gardening with Climbers
Armitage, Allan M.	Garden Perennials
Keenan, Philip E.	Wild Orchids Across North America
Lewis, Peter	Campanulas: A Gardeners' Guide
Yeo, Peter	Hardy Geraniums, 2 nd ed.
Di Sabato-Aust, Tracy	The Well-Designed Mixed Garden

Swedish Translation

Can any member translate from Swedish to English? John Weagle has articles from Sweden that require translation for the Newsletter. Please contact him directly at InsigneGdn@aol.com.

Alex and Anna Muntz's Gift of Rhododendrons

By Bob Pettipas



The volunteer crew ready to tackle the big move. [Photo Bob Pettipas]

Alex and Anna Muntz's rhododendron gardens are situated in Clementsport, Nova Scotia. This area is blessed with mild winters. The climate allowed the Muntzes to grow rhododendrons that were not hardy in the rest of Atlantic Canada. In 2001 Alex passed away. One of his last wishes was to have some of his plants displayed in gardens in Nova Scotia. I was asked by Anna to assist her in making his dream come true. I was honored to assist.

The plants were located on two properties, one at the house and one on another property located a few kilometers away. This additional property was used as Alex's growing on area and for an overflow from the main garden. This garden affectionately became known as the lower 40. It was decided that the plants in the lower 40 would be redistributed to other gardens in Nova Scotia.

Alex was a rhododendron breeder and propagator. Living in the banana belt of Nova Scotia he used plants that were good performers in that area. Alex made a cross of 'Jock' with *R. fortunei*, a species that does well in the milder areas of Atlantic Canada. 'Jock' is a tender hybrid that only does well in the mildest areas of Nova Scotia (near Yarmouth and Digby). This cross produced several great plants. The best of these are unregistered hybrids known to the ARHS members as 'Anna Muntz' (Jf #2 pink) and 'Susan Muntz' (Jf #1 white with a red centre). Alex also made crosses of *yakushmanum* and 'Atroflo'. Yaks are hardy for most areas of Atlantic Canada and 'Atroflo' is not quite as hardy. This cross has the potential to do well in most of Nova Scotia. It produced another great plant with pointed, slightly indented leaves and an interesting speckled flower.

Alex made these crosses many years ago and some of the plants are 4 to 6 meters tall and almost as wide. Finding a suitable home and moving these plants required some

detailed planning. Some of them were not tagged and there was no plot plan. Although we could probably guess the parentage of the plants, the hardiness and plant qualities were not reliably documented.

Mother Nature provided us an opportunity to evaluate these plants for hardiness; the winters of 2001-02 and 2002-03 were cold, below -21C. Plants with leaf-burn and bud blast were not hardy and not garden worthy. I made several trips to view the plants in bloom. Suitable plants were tagged and photographed.

It was decided that the more tender plants and those too large to move a long distance would be planted in the Annapolis Historic Gardens and the more hardy plants would be planted in the Sullivan's Pond area in Dartmouth.

The Moves

In the fall of 2002 Karen Achenbach and her gardening team from the Annapolis Gardens moved the rhododendron known as 'Anna Muntz' and a hybrid known as 'Spellbinder' to the Historic Gardens. These plants were huge and it took most of the day to move them. This however allowed us to learn from their efforts and we hoped the next move would be a bit easier.

It was kind of amazing that none of us had moved plants of this size before or attempted to move so many in such a short period of time. We had reviewed the earlier move to Annapolis and with a revised plan we were ready. In September 2003 the remaining plants were moved to Annapolis and Dartmouth. We hired a tractor to lift and move the plants and a small excavator to dig them. I must say the digging and moving went better than expected. It was surprising to see this happen in such a short time.

We relied heavily on the tractor and the excavator to do most of the work. Our tractor / excavator operator was Bill Wambolt, whose ability to operate these machines is truly remarkable.

The excavator was used to dig around the plants and performed all the light and finesse digging. We then placed a metal cable around and under the base of the root ball. The cable was pulled under the roots to free the plants from the soil. The large tractor was used to perform all of the heavy lifting. We replaced the front bucket with a large set of forks which were inserted under the root ball and the plants were lifted onto wooden pallets. The plants and pallets were loaded onto a truck and transported to their new homes. All plants were dug and lifted onto the truck in just four hours. The next day the Halifax-bound plants were planted in the Sullivan's Pond area of Dartmouth and the

Annapolis-bound plants were planted at the Historic Gardens. It was decided that an especially tender plant named 'Susan Grondquist Muntz' and an interesting cross of 'Jock' x *fortunei* were not suitable for Annapolis or Dartmouth. These plants were moved to the Yarmouth area.

A Thank You to the Volunteers

A big thanks to Karen Achenbach and the gardening team from the Annapolis Historic Gardens (I believe that the entire gardening team were there to help dig). Paul and Ron from the HRM Parks and Recreation were there to assist. Bill Wambolt was our expert excavator and tractor operator. The ARHS was represented by Steven Archibald, Shelia Stevenson and Bob and Bonnie Pettipas.

Finally

As most of you know hurricane Juan plowed through Halifax in late September. We were spared any damage from falling trees and high winds. None of these rhodos were damaged. The ARHS has taken cuttings from some of the plants. If all goes as planned we should have some rooted cuttings for sale at the 2005 plant sale.

Plant Summary

Moved to Dartmouth (Sullivan's Pond)

'Mrs. W.R Coe'
'Bellefontaine'
yak x 'Atroflow' (#1 Muntz Freckles)
'Grand Pré'
'County of York'
'Hong Kong'
Several unnamed crosses of *yak* x 'Atroflow'

Moved to Annapolis (Historic Gardens)

'Spellbinder'
'Anna Muntz' (Jf#2)
Several unnamed 'Jock' x *fortunei* hybrids
A very large 'Mrs. W.R Coe'
'Cyprus'
Several unnamed crosses of *yak* x 'Atroflow'

Moved to Yarmouth, (Morris Island)

'Susan Gronquist Muntz' (JF# 1)
Unnamed 'Jock' x *fortunei* (JF# 22?, compact with small leaves, similar to 'Jock') ☞

2004 Seed Exchange...a Few Thoughts

By Sharon Bryson

Welcome to the 2004 seed exchange for the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society. In spite of a season of poor seed set, followed by the devastation of hurricane Juan we are delighted to offer what we think is a great and interesting seed selection.

We wish to thank the many contributors who have made this possible. A bit of "beating the bushes" for seed sources has resulted in some very interesting donations. Some of these have come from plant enthusiasts outside of our regional society, as far flung as The Netherlands, Denmark and the United States, not to mention far afield in Canada. When you look over the list, say a thank you to those contributors.

This seems to be a year of deadline changes, so in keeping with the theme we have changed the ordering deadline to February 28, 2004. We hope that we will get seeds out to growers a bit sooner. This will be helpful for those planning their early spring planting.

We would remind you that the seeds go out on a first-come, first-served basis dependent on seed quantity. Get your orders in early and you have a very good chance of getting everything on your list. It is VERY helpful to list second choices on the order form. If none are listed, we have to read your mind!

We are again anxious to encourage people to try growing rhododendrons and azaleas from seed and to this purpose are offering TWO FREE packages of seed to anyone interested, whether you order any other seeds or not. They are included in the seed list. We ask you send the order form and \$2 to cover postage in the usual way. If you need planting instructions, please ask.

At the end of each seed exchange there are inevitably left-over seeds. Should any of you be affiliated with gardening groups in your local areas and wish to share these please contact me and we can make arrangements (otherwise Bill may feel obligated to plant them!). There is no predicting what may be left, but it could be interesting. Once again we will post the seed list on the Internet and insert some images along the way. Check this out at www.infinitymedia.ns.ca/willowgarden. Follow the links for "growing rhododendrons".

Stories of your past successes or failures with seed growing will be most welcome. Remember this need for feedback! Comments or suggestions regarding the seed exchange are also encouraged. You can send a note with your order or an email to sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca

Have a fun time planning and planting from this year's list.

ARHS 2004 Seed Exchange

Instructions

Seed packets are \$2.50 CDN each for collected wild, \$2.00 CDN each for hand-pollinated and \$1.50 CDN each for open-pollinated seed. One packet per lot per person. More may be ordered but are subject to availability. **All orders must be on the form provided and should be received by February 28, 2004.** Save this seed list as seed will be identified by number only.

Send all orders to: Sharon Bryson, #407 Old Maryvale Rd., RR#3 Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2L1 CANADA
Please make your cheque or money order payable to 'Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society'. Add \$2.00 CDN for postage & padded envelope. Please list substitutes as quantities for some lots are small.

Many of our members who utilize the seed exchange reside in the United States. US regulations require an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate. We are willing to post seed orders to you but unfortunately we are not able to provide the necessary documentation and can bear no responsibility should you not receive your seed. We welcome your input on how we may be able to better serve you in future years.

DONORS: **AND** - Shirley & Allan Anderson, Franklin Lakes, NJ USA **BIR** - Jens Birck, Copenhagen, Denmark **CHI** - Min Chiang, Charlottetown, PEI **CLY** - Bruce Clyburn, New Waterford, NS **COR** - Wendy Cornwall, Halifax, NS **DUF** - Roslyn Duffus, Waverley, NS **HAR** - Joe Harvey, Victoria, BC **HIN** - Dave Hinton, Orono, ON **HOP** - Chris Hopgood, Halifax, NS **HUI** - Tijs Huisman, The Netherlands **SHA** - Ken Shannik, Halifax, NS **SMI** - Leo Smit, Mt. Uniacke, NS **STV** - Sheila Stevenson, Ferguson's Cove, NS **WAL** - Patricia Walton, New Jersey, USA **WEA** - John Weagle, Halifax, NS **WEI** - Barbara Weinz, W. Bath, Maine, USA **WIL** - Bill Wilgenhof, Antigonish, NS

Seed List

Rhododendron Species – Collected Wild - \$2.50

The following seed have been provided by our 2003 Steele Lecturer - Jens Birck. The seed is from his 1996 expedition to Yunnan, China. It has been carefully stored, has been tested and is still viable! Many are rare species collected at high altitudes.

- 001 BIR aganniphum BH 015, cw Red Mountain, NW Yunnan, 28.03.92 N, 99.52.52 E
- 002 BIR aganniphum BH 075 cw 4100m, East of Beima Shan, NW Yunnan 28.17.76 N, 99.07.20 E
- 003 BIR balfourianum aff. BH 067, cw 4000m, East of Beima Shan, NW Yunnan 28.17.76 N, 99.07.20 E
- 004 BIR iodes BH 068, cw 4100m, East of Beima Shan, NW Yunnan 28.17.76 N, 99.07.20 E
- 005 BIR lacteum BH 150, cw 3700m, Chang Shan, NW Yunnan
- 006 BIR phaeochrysum BH 016, cw 3900m. Red Mountain, NW Yunnan 28.03.92 N, 99.52.52 E
- 007 BIR phaeochrysum BH 033, cw 4000m. Red Mountain, NW Yunnan 28.03.92 N, 99.52.52 E
- 008 BIR proteoides BH 06, cw 4150m, East of Beima Shan, 28.17.76 N, 99.07.20 E *1
- 009 BIR roxieanum BH 073, cw 4100m, NW Yunnan, 28.17.76 N, 99.07.20 E (Note - with black mid-rib)
- 010 BIR roxieanum BH 077, cw 4100m, East of Beima Shan, NW Yunnan 28.17.76 N, 99.07.20 E

- 011 BIR roxieanum aff. BH 070, cw East of Beima Shan, NW Yunnan 28.17.76 N, 99.07.20 E
- 012 BIR wardii? BH 047, cw Napa Hai, NW Yunnan, 27.56.03 N, 99.36.51 E

Rhododendron Species - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

- 013 WEA aureum
- 014 WEA bakeri 'Sunlight' *1
- 015 WEA camtschaticum
- 016 BIR camtschaticum (Kaenehuset red flower form) - does not cross with other species
- 017 WIL canadense - fuschia (Native Rhodora) - OP but not likely to hybridize
- 018 HIN schlippenbachii *1
- 019 WEA vaseyi 'White Find' *1

Rhododendron Species - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 020 WEI bureavii, good form
- 021 HOP carolinianum - pink
- 022 WIL carolinianum - pink/white
- 023 SMI dauricum 'Madison Snow'
- 024 STV groenlandicum (Labrador Tea) (formerly Ledum groenlandicum) - probably selfed
- 025 SHA kiusianum RSF#79/152 - pale lilac with horizontal spreading habit - probably crossed w/ many other selections/hybrids
- 026 WIL kiusianum - pink
- 027 WIL mucronulatum - pink
- 028 WIL mucronulatum - white

ARHS 2004 Seed Exchange

- 029 SHA mucronulatum v. chejuensis - a twiggy dwarf variety - select smaller, rounded-leaf seedlings for true v. chejuensis - larger pointed-leaf sdls will be crossed with regular species
- 030 WIL mucronulatum ('Woodland Pink' x 'Cornell Pink') seedling - pale pink
- 031 HAR pseudochrysanthum
- 032 WEI yakushmanum (selections) **FREE**

Rhododendron Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

- 033 AND 'Arctic Gold' x ['Cameo' x ('Odee Wright' x 'Crest')] - Zone 6. *3
- 034 WEI bureavii x 'Strawberry Swirl'
- 035 WEI catawbiense - Dwarf Form x 'Chesterland'
- 036 HAR degrobianum ssp.heptamerum 'Enamoto' x elengantulum
- 037 HAR degrobianum ssp.heptamerum 'Enamoto' x fictolactum
- 038 HAR degrobianum ssp.heptamerum 'Enamoto' x pachysanthum
- 039 HAR degrobianum ssp.heptamerum 'Enamoto' x pseudochrysanthum
- 040 HAR degrobianum ssp.heptamerum 'Enamoto' x rothschildii
- 041 CLY (fortunei x 'Catalglia') sibbed
- 042 WEI 'Helen Everett' x 'Chesterland'
- 043 WEI hyperythrum x ('Holden' x yakushmanum)
- 044 AND ('Janet Blair' x 'Fashion Plate') x ['Duet' x 'Maxicat'] x 'Goldsworth Orange']
- 045 WAL 'Janet's Fantasy' x 'Fruhlingansfang' *4
- 046 WAL 'Janet's Fantasy' x 'Barbara Cook' *4
- 047 AND 'Lee's Dark Purple' x 'Peter Alan'
- 048 WEI maximum - Dwarf Form x 'Summer Snow'
- 049 HAR pachysanthum x adenogynum
- 050 HAR pachysanthum x adenopodum
- 051 HAR pachysanthum x balforianum
- 052 HAR pachysanthum x elengantulum
- 053 HAR pachysanthum x fulvum
- 054 HAR pachysanthum x pseudochrysanthum
- 055 HAR pachysanthum x unknown blotched hybrid
- 056 WAL 'Pana' x 'Trilby'
- 057 AND 'Purpureum Crispum' x 'Peter Alan'
- 058 WAL 'Scintillation' x 'Lionel's Triumph'
- 059 WEI yakushmanum 'Koichiro Wada' x 'Great Eastern'
- 060 AND [('Yellow Pippin' x 'Cat's Pajamas') x ('Janet Blair' x Yellow #1)] x {'Percy Wiseman' x (Yellow #1 x 'Jet Set')] x 'Capistrano'} *5

Rhododendron Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 061 SMI 'Cadis'
- 062 SMI 'Calsap'
- 063 SMI 'Connecticut Yankee'
- 064 SMI 'Madrid' ?
- 065 WEI 'Red River' - late blooming red
- 066 CHI 'Sandra Hinton' - super hardy plant, nearest rhodo is Calsap

- 067 WIL "Sproeten" - seedling#1 from ARS92-765 ('Barbara Cook' x 'Janet Blair') - Frilled, pale pink with red freckles & throat, good foliage
- 068 WEI (yakushmanum x smirnowii) crosses - yak. forms - Ken Janeck, Mist Maiden, etc.)
- 069 WIL yellow seedlings from ARS92-608 {[('Big Deal' x 'Donna Hargrove') x ('Golden Star' x 'Catalglia')]} X wardii)- several quite good hardy true yellows, slow to fade

Azalea Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

- 070 WEI 'Madame Jolie' - selfed
- 071 WEI 'Narcissiflorum' x 'Sylphides'

Azalea Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 072 HUI Minch hybrids, fine orange flowers/bronze fall foliage
- 073 HUI Minch hybrids, double pink/orange/yellow flowers
- 074 HUI Minch hybrids, mixed white/yellow/pink-orange w/ fine bronze or yellow fall foliage
- 075 SMI 'July Jester' - late blooming red
- 076 WIL 'July Jester' - late blooming red
- 077 SMI 'Homebush' - pink, ball-shaped truss
- 078 WIL 'Homebush' - pink, ball-shaped truss
- 079 SMI 'Klondike Gold' ? - yellow with orange flare, fragrant
- 080 SMI 'Pink & Sweet'
- 081 HIN 'Pride's Pale Lilac' - Probably the hardest evergreen azalea there is, most likely crossed with other exceptionally hardy evergreen azaleas in the garden.
- 082 SHA 'Snowbird' - probably selfed
- 083 WIL deciduous, unnamed pale yellow, large flowers
- 084 WIL deciduous, unnamed scarlet, lg. flowers
- 085 WIL deciduous, unnamed white with yellow blotch
- 086 WIL deciduous mix **FREE**

Companion Plants - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 087 HAR Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood' *6
- 088 HAR Acer palmatum 'Hogyoku' *6
- 089 HAR Acer palmatum 'Osakazuki' *6
- 090 HAR Acer palmatum 'Umegae' *6
- 091 HAR Acer palmatum 'Villa Taranto' *6
- 092 WIL Allium karataviense 'Ivory Queen' - handsome emerging foliage, large white flowers, 12-18"(.3-.45m) - Bulb
- 093 SHA Anemonopsis macrophylla - Choice woodlander - Perennial
- 094 SHA Anthericum liliago (St. Bernard's Lily) - white flowers, narrow grass-like foliage, charming & choice. 2'(.6m) - Perennial
- 095 SHA Aquilegia alpina - seems to come true, dk purple blue, persistent. 2' (.6m) - Per.
- 096 WIL Aquilegia 'Irish Elegance' - beautiful tall-white with green markings - Per.
- 097 WEA Arisaema consanguineum - Tender Bulb
- 098 WIL Buddleia davidii (Butterfly Bush) - best purple, easy from seed, blooms in its first year - Shrub

ARHS 2004 Seed Exchange

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|---|
| 099 | SHA | Camassia quamash - dark blue - Bulb | 123 | WEA | Hydrangea heteromalla KR#7629 - collected wild seed - Shrub *1 *9 |
| 100 | SHA | Cardiocrinum giganteum - white flowers, very fragrant, lily relative: will need winter protection, (1.8m). Zone 6 - cool summers - Bulb | 124 | WIL | Leucothoe fontanesiana (Drooping Leucothoe) - handsome evergreen spreading shrub, good winter color *7 |
| 101 | WIL | Catalpa ovata (Chinese catalpa) - creamy white flowers, blooms at young age, 35-40'(10.5-12.0m) - Tree (free) | 125 | HOP | Lobelia cardinalis (Cardinal Flower) Spikes of crimson red flowers. Great for naturalizing in damp to wet, 3'+(.9m+) - Perennial |
| 102 | WIL | Catalpa speciosa (Northern Catalpa) - white & purple flowers in early July, to 100'(30m) high. - Tree | 126 | WEA | Lonicera cf giraldii KR7633 - collected wild Yunnan, Caojian district c.2500m - Shrub *9 |
| 103 | STV | Ceratotheca triloba (South African Foxglove) -white-pale mauve flowers, tall 3.5'(1.0m+) - Annual | 127 | WIL | Lychnis arkwrightii - scarlet flowers, reddish leaves, 8-10"(.2-.25m) - Per. |
| 104 | HOP | Cimicifuga racemosa 'Atropurpurea' (Black Snakeroot) Dark foliage and fragrant white flowers in late summer. 5'(1.5m) - Perennial | 128 | WIL | Magnolia x loebneri, 'Leonard Messell' - pink - Tree *1 *8 |
| 105 | SHA | Clematis integrifolia - from a seedling with lovely soft blue flowers, a herbaceous sprawler - Perennial | 129 | WEA | Magnolia x loebneri 'Spring Snow' - white, smaller than most loebneris - probably selfed - Tree *8 |
| 106 | WIL | Clematis orientalis - yellow, late blooming, sprawling herbaceous vine - Perennial | 130 | WEA | Magnolia sieboldii - ex cw Korea Seedling - excellent form with large out-facing flowers, very vigorous, upright, probably selfed -Tree *8 |
| 107 | WIL | Clematis recta 'Purpurea' - Purple foliage, white flowers, herbaceous - Perennial | 131 | SHA | Menziesia ciliicalyx - dwarf form - Shrub *7 |
| 108 | WIL | Clethra alnifolia (Summersweet) - from pink cultivar - possibly 'Ruby Spice', compact and late blooming - Shrub | 132 | SHA | Menziesia (ciliicalyx - dwarf form x ferruginea - blue foliage) - Shrub *7 |
| 109 | SHA | Deinanthef bifida - white, 18"(.45m), part shade - Perennial | 133 | SHA | Menziesia 'Spring Morn' - Shrub *7 |
| 110 | SHA | Deinanthef caerulea - blue, 18"(.45m), part shade - Perennial | 134 | SHA | Menziesia species/hybrids mixed *7 |
| 111 | SHA | Diphylleia cymosa (Umbrella Leaf) - large, bold foliage, white flowers, blue berries - Perennial | 135 | WEI | Nicotiana - white, dwarf - Annual |
| 112 | WEI | Enkianthus campanulatus - Compact Form - red fall foliage, to 4'(1.2m) high and wide - Shrub *7 | 136 | SMI | Paeonia anomala - Perennial |
| 113 | SHA | Enkianthus campanulatus - Shrub *7 | 137 | SMI | Paeonia veitchii - Perennial |
| 114 | WEA | Enkianthus campanulatus v. sikkokianus - dark red, bell-shaped flowers, incredible red fall colour - Shrub *7 | 138 | SHA | Peltoboykinia (Boykinia) tellimoides - shade perennial in the Saxifraga family - greenish flowers, beautiful foliage - Per. |
| 115 | WIL | Eryngium agavafolium - exotic spiky foliage, flowers insignificant, 2-3'(.6-.9m), may need winter protection but much hardier than references state. - Perennial | 139 | STV | Persicaria polymorpha - large sculptural perennial, creamy blooms, to 4'x4'(1.2m) - originally from Stefan Mattson *1 |
| 116 | WEA | Euonymus sachalinensis - deciduous species with showy scarlet fruit. - Shrub *1 | 140 | WIL | Physocarpus opulifolius 'Diablo' (Ninebark) - deep maroon foliage, 3'(.9m) + - Shrub |
| 117 | WIL | Filipendula purpurea (Queen of the Prairie) - pink cultivar, 3-4'(.9-1.2m) - Perennial | 141 | COR | Pieris japonica - Shrub *7 |
| 118 | WEA | Hippeastrum elwesii - A charming and diminutive Amaryllis - Creamy flowers with green, peach, pink or yellow tones - Tender Bulb | 142 | WIL | Polemonium pauciflorum (Yellow Jacob's Ladder) - yellow tubular flowers, fern-like foliage, 12-18"(.3-.45m), may act as self-seeding annual |
| 119 | SHA | Iris foetidissima - an evergreen species grown for its showy orange seeds which persist into winter, part shade - Perennial | 143 | HOP | Primula florindae & hybrids - Per. *1 |
| 120 | WEA | Hydrangea aspera KR#7530 - collected wild Yunnan, Bang Dang & Lincang Daxue shan 2150m - Shrub *1 *9 | 144 | SHA | Saxifraga fortunei v. incisilobata - Per. |
| 121 | WEA | Hydrangea aspera KR#7691 - collected wild - Shrub *1 *9 | 145 | DUF | Scabiosa species - pink-violet, 12"(.3m), long bloom period if dead-headed - Per. |
| 122 | WEA | Hydrangea heteromalla KR#7582 - collected wild seed - Shrub *1 *9 | 146 | SHA | Smilacina racemosa - woodland plant with arching stems and fluffy white flowers followed by reddish berries, 3'(.9m) - Perennial |
| | | | 147 | WEA | Zanthoxylum bungeanum - KR#7583 coll. wild Yunnan, Changnang district c.2600m - Tree *1 *9 |

The following Plants were inadvertently omitted.

Please order by name.

- | | |
|-----|---|
| HAR | Acer japonicum vitifolium - Grapeleaf Full Moon Maple 20 to 30 foot tree *6 |
| HAR | Acer buergerianum - Trident Maple Tree ~20 feet *6 |
| WIL | Clematis stans - Blue, late blooming Herbaceous, 3 feet |

ARHS 2004 Seed Exchange

Footnotes

- *1. Very limited quantity - please list substitutes.
- *2. *R. proteoides* - A very rare, very choice and very expensive species. Dwarf with small leaves which have buff to golden tomentum and red-brown indumentum - 23°C. Not the easiest to grow but well worth the effort.
- *3. 'Arctic Gold' = white catawbiense hybrid x yellow centered catawbiense hybrid, hardy to -20°F/-29°C.
- *4. 'Janet's Fantasy' = 'Janet Blair'(-26°C) x 'Apricot Fantasy'(-21°C) / 'Frühlingansfang' = ('Albert Schweitzer' x yakushmanum) (-32°C)
- *5. Yellow #1= [(wardii x hemsleyanum) x 'Autumn Gold']
- *6. Cultural information regarding Japanese Maples will be provided
- *7. An Ericaceous shrub - sow as per rhododendrons
- *8. Magnolia seed has been partially stratified. Store in plastic packet in fridge until March/April then sow in warm soil.
- *9 KR# collected wild seed are from a Keith Rushforth Chinese Expedition.

Notes

1. Open-pollinated species, with the exception of a very few, may not come true from seed. Cultivars, with the exception of a few perennials do not come true. Plants from these seeds should not be labelled as being that species or cultivar. Be sure that you label the plants as being 'OP' in the case of species and 'ex' in the case of cultivars.
2. See the RSCAR Members' Handbook for an article on growing rhododendrons from seed. The article can also be found on our website.
3. When sowing rhododendrons on peat we recommend you sterilize it first. Microwave it for 15 minutes or pour boiling water through it several times and allow to cool.
4. We would like to thank the seed donors for their time and effort making crosses, collecting and cleaning seeds. We would also like our membership to take note of the types of seeds donated this year. We highly encourage members to attempt their own hybridization of rhododendrons. Seed of uncommon trees, shrubs and perennials is always most welcome. ☺

Plant Portraits: Deciduous Shrubs

Golden Vicary Privet

Ligustrum X Vicaryi is also known as Golden Vicary privet. I've had this woody shrub in my garden now for two summers. My records show that I bought two of them from one of the Rhododendron Society sales in one gallon pots. I have placed them on either side of my front door, in front of a dark brown house. They will grow to be lovely thick shrubs and six to eight feet tall in maturity, and are now over four feet tall in my garden. I particularly like them because my garden grows under tall spruces, oaks and maples, making it mostly dark and shady. While this is ideal for growing rhododendrons, I felt I needed something to sparkle from a distance, and these shrubs do that. The leaves have a lovely leathery quality and in late November are still on the plants, still a lovely golden hue, and will add winter interest as well. The other quality these plants have that I enjoy is the display of white fragrant flower sprays in the spring.

I expect that as my plants grow, and I feel more comfortable pruning them, they will be useful as a flower arranging addition, or can be added to evergreen shrubs in winter wreaths, such as blue creeping juniper and variegated euonymus.

If you would like to see this plant in maturity, there are two lovely specimens planted beside the doors of the Quarterdeck restaurant at Summerville Beach in Queens County.

- Sandy Brown



Enkianthus campanulatus

Enkianthus campanulatus is one of a small group of ericaceous shrubs and small trees from the woodlands of Asia. It is a good choice for the rhododendron garden.

As the name suggests, the early June flowers are bell-shaped. Each bloom is a creamy-white with dark pink veins and edges. Although the individual flowers are small (less than half an inch) they grow in clusters at the branch terminals, which increases their visual impact. The leaves also grow mostly at the ends of the naked branches giving the plant a “leggy” look that I think has a sort of elegance. You can see through it. This makes it useful for the middle of a mixed planting because it doesn't completely hide the plants behind it. In the autumn, when the foliage turns red-orange, the splash of colour can be quite dramatic.

My plant, now 25 years old, came from Greer Gardens in Oregon. It is growing on the north side of my house in ordinary garden soil, mulched with bark and seldom fertilized. It has survived and bloomed consistently even after winter temperatures below -30°C. It is now about 8 feet tall by perhaps 4 feet wide.

As with most plants in commercial horticulture there are selected forms and cultivars available with different flower colours and growth habits. A number of years ago we had *E. c.* 'Red Bells' for sale in the tissue culture plants. My notes tell me that I should have this in the garden. While clearing up downed trees after Hurricane Juan I found and rescued two plants from an old nursery bed so perhaps I do have it.

I have not attempted to propagate enkianthus but several references that I checked suggest that softwood cuttings will root readily and that it can be grown from seed just as you would grow rhododendrons. You will find several selections in our 2004 seed list. Give it a try.

- Sterling Levy

Corylopsis spicata

We bought a plant of *Corylopsis spicata* in 1998, from the plant sale of RSCAR (as it then was.) I had some misgivings about its hardiness but I couldn't resist planting it, because it was a member of the witch hazel family (*Hamamelidaceae*) and witch hazels were my first love. It is now over six feet high and has never looked back. Even the 2002-2003 winter, which killed most of the flower buds on our *Pieris japonica*, did not touch it. The only problem, which it quickly overcame, was one branch broken by heavy snow.

Corylopsis is sometimes described as a replacement for the brash forsythia. I can't find anything brash that flowers in April after our miserable winters, not even a mixture of Red Emperor tulips and King Alfred daffodils, but it is true that *corylopsis* blossoms are a delightful pale primrose yellow, my favourite flower colour. They hang in small racemes, the reddish stamens projecting out of the flowers. In most years it blooms in the third week of April, a little later if the spring is late. The leaves are heart shaped and turn yellow in the fall. Our plant is in a sheltered city garden and gets sun for only half the day.

I was so pleased with this *corylopsis* that I bought *C. pauciflora* from the Society two years later. It makes a smaller, twiggy bush than *spicata*, with smaller heart shaped leaves, but has been equally accommodating.

Both *corylopses* force easily in February and make excellent bouquets for the house.

I am so encouraged by the performance of these two that I am thinking of trying *C. sinensis*, more tender and even more beautiful.

- Mary Helleiner

Plant Portraits Wanted!

We need more Plant Portraits! In our next issue we will feature more deciduous shrubs. There are so many wonderful shrubs out there; surely some of our members could write about them. We need your help! Please contact Mary Helleiner at cmhelleiner@ns.sympatico.ca or send in a completed Portrait. Your suggestions are welcome.

MAY 2004 ADVANCE PLANT SALE FOR MEMBERS

Members may pre-order plants from the nursery grown stock to be brought in for the public May Plant Sale. This year's selection of rhododendrons and azaleas offers some hard to find species, a variety of new hybrids including some local ones, and some that have not been offered for many years. Some have been offered in the last few years and will only be available at the public sale in May. These are indicated as 'May Sale Only' and cannot be pre-ordered. In the "companion" plant selection you will find a wide selection of choice plants. Amongst them are several rare Japanese maples, more witchhazels to add to your collection and some great dwarf hemlocks.

Quantities of some items are small and others we may not receive at all. You may list substitutes for specific plants on the order form. (i.e. You are ordering plant #1, and if it is not available, you would like to receive plant #3 - enter the number '3' in the 'sub' column beside plant #1.)

You may order more than one plant per variety. However, plants will be allocated in the order in which they are received on the basis of one plant per variety per membership. Following this allocation, an adequate reserve will be retained for the public sale in May. Any surplus will be divided up amongst multiple orders. Please complete the enclosed order form and return it no later than March 12, 2004.

Plants are to be picked up at 5 Sime Ct., Halifax, NS on Saturday, April 24, 2004 between 10:00 am and 2:00 p.m. Sime Ct. is in the Kingswood subdivision off Hammonds Plains Rd. Take Kingswood Dr. (between Kearney Lake Rd. and Farmer Clem's) to Brenda Dr. (the first street on the right) and follow it to the first left which is Sime Ct. Plants are to be paid for when they are picked up. Do not send payment with your order form. Plants will not be shipped. Any plants not picked up will be offered for sale at the public May Plant Sale.

Return your order form to: Ken Shannik, 1421 Edward Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3H5

Lepidote Rhododendrons

Please note that plants listed as "Year Olds" in this section should be grown on in nursery beds or coldframes until they reach a size where they can safely be planted out in the garden.

R. 'April Gem' - [(*carolinianum* v. *album* x *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink') x (*dauricum* v. *album* x *dauricum*)] - A very early blooming hybrid with double white flowers with a hint of yellow. Faintly fragrant and very floriferous. Olive green foliage turns bronze in fall. Retains a few leaves over winter. Compact mounded habit growing to 3'(9m) high x 4'(1.2) wide in 10 years. A Mehlquist hybrid. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'April Mist' - [(*carolinianum* v. *album* x *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink')F2 x (*dauricum* v. *album* x *dauricum*)F2] Soft pink double flowers with darker pink edges. Flowers seem to glow in the fog. Very early. Dark green foliage turns burgundy in the fall. Can be almost deciduous. Vigorous. Compact upright-rounded habit to 4'(1.2m) high and wide. A beautiful Mehlquist hybrid. Zone 5. May Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. 'April Rose' - [(*carolinianum* v. *album* x *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink')F2 x (*dauricum* v. *album* x *dauricum*)F2] Another floriferous and very early Mehlquist hybrid. Strong reddish-purple double flowers provide a brilliant early splash of colour. Compact broad-upright habit to 5'(1.5m) high and wide. Reddish-bronze fall colour. Retains a few leaves over winter. Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. *augustinii* - Long considered to be too tender here, these are propagations from 5 seed grown plants which have been growing happily in the microclimate of the Meagher garden on the Northwest Arm in Halifax. It is a dense upright growing species growing up to 6'(1.8m) high in 10 years. Flowers are usually shades of pale lavender-blue and can vary greatly from year to year. Elongated, pointed foliage is dark green. Recommended for Zone 7 or microclimates in Zone 6b. Adequate supplies are available should you wish to try different clones. The 5 clones are numbered but their attributes have not yet been recorded. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. 'Azuray' - ('*Russautinii*' x *dauricum* Sempervirens Group) A free flowering bright sky blue hybrid blooming in mid-May. Yellow new growth maturing to olive green. Narrow, upright and open habit growing to 6'(1.8m) high x 3'(9m) wide in 13 years. Plant hardy to at least -30°F(-34°C), buds to -15°F(-26°C). A Brueckner hybrid and a sibling of R. 'Bluenose'. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Blue Baron' - ('*Starry Night*' x self)? An early-blooming Mezitt hybrid with near blue flowers similar to 'Starry Night' ('*Gletschernacht*') but harder. Elongated, dark glossy green foliage turns bronze in winter. Compact, mounded-spreading habit growing 3-4'(9-1.2m) high and wide. Zone 6, possibly colder. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Bluenose' - ('*Russautinii*' x *dauricum* Sempervirens Group) Large, 2"(50mm) funnel-shaped, clear blue flowers in lax trusses of 3-5. Upright, open habit to 7.5'(2.3m) high and wide in 15 years. Olive green foliage. Plant hardy to -25°F(-31°C), buds to -17°F(-27°C). A Brueckner hybrid bred in New Brunswick. May Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. 'Checkmate' - The smallest selection in the 'PJM' series - arising from a tissue culture sport. Small lavender-pink flowers are born on a dense compact mounded plant growing only 2'(.6m) high and wide! Early blooming and floriferous. Mahogany foliage in winter. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

R. *ferrugineum* Ostrom Longwood Seedling - (Swiss Alpine Rose) Small lax trusses of dark reddish-pink tubular flowers with flared lobes on a stiff upright-spreading plant. Narrow, glossy, dark green foliage. Unusual and very attractive. Requires excellent drainage. To 2' high. Zone 5. Resents heat and drought. Custom propagated for ARHS. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. *ferrugineum* selections/hybrids (#1 & #2) - These are custom propagations from Brueckner's garden. They are apt to have pinkish tubular-flared flowers and may be selected forms of *R. ferrugineum* or hybrids thereof. Habit and cultivation will be similar to the above. We will advise if we are able to put a name on them. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. hirsutum 'Flore Pleno' - Another European species similar to *R. ferrugineum*. The tubular pink flowers in this form have an extra whorl of ruffled petals within. The bright green leaves have bristly hairs along the leaf margins. Twiggy, open spreading habit to 3'(9m) high. Zone 5. Custom propagated for ARHS. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. intricatum - Small pale lavender-blue tubular-flared flowers similar to those in the Pogonathum Section. Early and floriferous. Tiny ½"(12mm) grey-green leaves. Twiggy, upright-rounded habit growing up to 2'(6m) high. Zone 6. Choice. Custom propagated for ARHS. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. "Jack's Blue" - [(Delp's tetraploid *carolinianum* x *fastigiatum*) x 'Blue Ridge'] A new hybrid from Jack Looye in Ontario. Blue flowers with good foliage. Vigorous. Compact, rounded habit to 4'(1.2m) high. Zone 6, probably colder. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Landmark' - ('PJM' hybrid) Similar to PJM but with large rounded trusses of vibrant dark pink flowers opening from red buds. Appears almost red from a distance. A red lepidote was the breeding goal of this Mezitt hybrid - thus the name. Bronze winter foliage with good leaf retention. Habit similar to PJM but slightly more compact. Grows 6-8'(1.8-2.4m) high x 4-5'(1.2-1.5m) high. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C). (1 gal. - \$15.00)

R. mekongense (v. melinanthum) RSF#77/714 - A deciduous species with loose trusses of charming bright yellow bell-shaped flowers with flared lobes. Open, upright-spreading in habit it is best planted in clumps in full sun. For the collector in solid Zone 7, Zone 6b microclimates with winter protection or for pot culture stored in a coldframe over winter. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. 'Midnight Ruby' - ('Olga Mezitt' x deep purple PJM Group seedling) Another Mezitt hybrid, this one with dark reddish-purple wavy-edged flowers. Early and floriferous. Mahogany-black fall colour. Upright-spreading habit to 3'(9m) high and wide in 10 years. Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. mucronulatum 'Cornell Pink' - A beautiful selection of this deciduous species with large bright rose-pink flowers in profusion. Blooms very early in spring before the leaves emerge ushering in the rhododendron season. Golden yellow fall colour. Upright willowy habit to 9'(2.7m) high. Requires excellent drainage. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. oreotrephes "Bayport Hardy" - This species has beautiful glaucous blue-green leaves with red petioles. Pale lavender-pink flowers are born in profusion along the branches and at the tips. Broad upright-rounded habit to 5'(1.5m) high. A Steele selection custom propagated by ARHS. Zone 6. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. orthocladum v. microleucum - A beautiful species with tiny narrow dark green foliage which emerges dark rusty brown. Its tiny pure white flowers are born in small trusses of 3-5. Dense compact mounded habit to 2'(6m) high. Zone 6. A choice species custom propagated for ARHS. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. ('Sapphire')F2 - [(Blue Tit' x *impeditum*) x self] A Steele hybrid with sparkling blue-purple flowers. Floriferous. Glossy green foliage. Dense habit to 18"(45m) high x 3'(9m) wide. Zone 6. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. scintillans (R. polycladum Scintillans Group) "Wisley Form" - Very similar to *R. orthocladum v. microleucum* described above but with beautiful blue-purple flowers. Habit is similar but not quite as compact. Zone 6. A highly rated plant custom propagated for ARHS. (Year Olds - \$12.00)

R. 'Wren' - (*ludlowii* x *keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy') Clear yellow flowers stand up like pansies above a creeping mat of shiny, dark green foliage. Floriferous. Foliage turns bronzy-red in winter. At its best planted on a bank or in a raised bed. A beautiful Cox hybrid ideal for the rock garden or small spaces. Zone 6. Back by popular demand. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Elepidote Rhododendrons

R. 'Calsap' - (*catalgla* x 'Sappho') Lavender buds open into large conical trusses of snowy white flowers with a large dramatic burgundy blotch. Dense emerald green foliage. Vigorous. Broad, upright habit to 5'(1.5m) high in 10 years. A real showstopper. Zone 5. May Sale Only (1 gal. - \$15.00)

R. 'Capistrano' - A complex Leach hybrid reported to be his best yellow. Its clear, pale yellow flowers are born on a compact well-branched plant with excellent dark green foliage. To 5'(1.5m) high and wide. Zone 6. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Francesca' - ('Britannia' x 'Dexter #202') Tough, red and big! Large black-red flowers in large trusses. Very vigorous with an upright-open habit suited to the rear of a planting. Definitely not for the small garden or a foundation planting. Grows 10'(3.0m) or more high. Best in light shade as flowers may scorch in full sun. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Glacier Queen' - ('Nor'easter' x low white *catawbiense* hybrid) A new Mezitt hybrid with profuse large ivory white flowers with a yellowish-green flare. Dense low-growing habit to 4'(1.2m) high. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C). (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Haaga' - (*brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* x 'Dr. HC Dresselhuys') Dark pink buds open to bright medium pink flowers with a darker blotch. Excellent, rich glossy green foliage. Well-branched rounded-upright habit to 7'(2.1m) high. An extremely hardy hybrid from Finland. Hardy to -33°F(-36°C). May Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Hachmann's Charmant' - ('Hachmann's Diadem' x 'Holger') This Hachmann hybrid has dramatic pure white flowers with purplish-pink margins and a large darker flare. Floriferous. Rounded foliage is dark shiny green with fawn indumentum. Grows to 4'(1.2m) high and wide in 10 years. Zone 6b. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Helsinki University' - (*brachycarpum* v. *tigerstedtii* x *smirnowii*) Bright pink flowers flecked orange-red. Red tinged new foliage matures to glossy green. Upright habit to 6'(1.8m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide. Hardy to -38°F(-39°C). Another very hardy Finnish hybrid. May Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Hong Kong' - (*Catalgla* x 'Crest') A Leach hybrid with pale primrose-yellow flowers with a greenish-yellow blotch. A tall plant with an upright open habit to 7'(2.1m) high and wide. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C). May Sale Only (1 gal. - \$15.00)

R. 'Ingrid Mehlquist' - ('Besse Howells' x *yakushimanum*) Pink flowers in tight round trusses quickly fade to white dotted with burgundy. The trusses sit eloquently upright on the foliage - small but very graceful. Floriferous. Very attractive foliage with light indumentum. Compact, well-branched, rounded-spreading habit to 3'(9m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide in 25 years. Zone 5. May Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Minas Grand Pré' (*catawbiense* 'Compactum' x *williamsianum*) A profusion of pink bell-shaped flowers in loose trusses grace this Kentville Research Station hybrid. Small oval leaves emerge with a bronze tone and age to dark green. In full sun it forms a perfect dense, compact, mounded shape and grows to 3'(9m) tall in 10 years. Zone 5b. After years of being a rarity it is now deservedly in mass production! (1 gal. - \$15.00)

R. 'Spring Frolic' - (*catawbiense* v. *album* x *yakushimanum* 'Koichiro Wada') A Leach hybrid similar to 'Anna H. Hall'. Flowers are similar to *R. yakushimanum* being pink in bud opening to white. Compact habit. Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Teddy Bear' - (*bureavii* x *yakushimanum*) Exceptional foliage is dark lustrous green with incredible thick rust coloured indumentum. I wish I could grow this plant upside down! Flowers are white blushed pink in large dome-shaped trusses. Free-flowering & early. Dense foliage on a compact, rounded, spreading plant. Grows 5'(1.5m) high. Zone 5. If you don't have it, get it! (2 gal. - \$30.00)

R. 'Vinecrest' {[('LaBar's White' x *fortunei*) x *wardii*] x *wardii* Litiense Group} Peach buds open to yellow flushed with peach and fade to yellow in dome-shaped trusses. Stunning. Olive green foliage. Upright, rounded habit to 4'(1.2m) high and wide in 12 years. Another Vineland Station hybrid. Hardy to at least -16°F(-27°C). May Sale Only (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Evergreen Azaleas

Azalea 'Big Violet' - A Weagle hybrid of unknown parentage - possibly (*poukhanense* v. *rosea* x *nakaharai*). Large violet-purple flowers on a compact upright-spreading plant. Zone 6. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

Azalea 'Blue Danube' - (*kaempferi* hybrid) An unusual colour in evergreen azaleas - not blue but a deep reddish-purple (more purple than red!) with darker ribs. The large flowers are born on an upright-spreading plant growing to 3'(9m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide. Zone 6. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

Azalea ('Frosty' x 'Springtime') - A Weagle hybrid with large flat-faced flowers and an upright-spreading habit. 2 clones are available - #1 has salmon-pink flowers and #3 has medium pink flowers. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. *kiusianum* 'Best Pink' - Perhaps the best suited evergreen azalea species for our coastal climate given good drainage and plenty of sun. Densely branched and twiggy, with a spreading, somewhat tiered habit and remain relatively low. This clone, originally obtained under this name from Greer Gardens, has small clear pink flowers. Very floriferous. Excellent fall colour. Zone 6 but worth trying in Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

Azalea 'Purple Splendor' - (*R. yedoense* v. *poukhanense* x A. 'Hexe') Vivid reddish-purple hose-in-hose flowers with fringed edges. Spreading habit to 4'(1.2m) high. A Gable hybrid. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C). (2 gal. - \$25.00)

Azalea 'Scotian Clouds' - ('Kolmo Kulshan' x 'Lady Louise') A new Weagle hybrid with white flowers edged with bright pink. Late June blooming. Low horizontal-spreading dense habit growing to 18"(45m) high. Zone 6. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

Azalea 'Scotian Mist' - (Lady Lousie x [Lady Louise x (*nakaharai* Orange form x *kiusianum* Mt. Fuji)]) Another new Weagle hybrid with soft pastel pink flowers fading to white in the centres although some flowers may be all pink or all white. July blooming. Low horizontal-spreading dense habit growing to 18"(45m) high. Zone 6. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

Azalea 'Steele's Late and Lovely' - A charming Steele hybrid with an spreading, almost prostrate, habit. Large coral-pink flowers are born late in the season. Zone 6. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

Deciduous Azaleas

Azalea 'Fragrant Star' - A polyploid form of 'Snowbird' (*atlanticum* x *canescens*) developed by Briggs. It has larger tubular-funnel-shaped white flowers with an intense sweet fragrance. Rich glaucous blue-green foliage is thicker. Sturdier upright-mounded, well-branched, stoloniferous habit. To 5'(1.5m) high. Mildew resistant. Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

Other Ericaceous Plants

Enkianthus perulatus - More refined & compact than *E. campanulatus*, this deciduous shrub has bright green foliage and hanging panicles of fragrant, pure white, urn-shaped flowers in spring. Spectacular scarlet fall colour. Interesting twiggy layered structure. Mounded in shape and slow growing. Sun to part shade. To 6'(1.8m) high & wide. Zone 6. Very rare & beautiful. A few only. (2 gal. - \$35.00)

***Pieris japonica* v. *yakushimanum* 'Sarabande'** - An evergreen shrub allied to rhododendrons. This selection has upright panicles of white, lily-of-the-valley-like flowers born in profusion in early spring. Mid to dark green foliage emerges bright green with a reddish cast. Pinkish-red flower buds develop in fall and provide interest all winter. Grows 3-4'(9-1.2m) high and wide with a dense mounded-upright habit. Zone 6, possibly colder. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Conifers

***Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Blue Surprise'** (Blue Surprise Lawson's False Cypress) A small narrow conical selection with dense fine-textured permanent juvenile foliage. Blue-grey in colour it develops purple overtones in winter. Slow growing to 6'(1.8m) high and 18"(45m) wide. Best in full sun. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

***Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Dainty Doll'** (Dainty Doll Japanese Hinoki Cypress) A very slow growing, dwarf cultivar. Conical-shaped with a blunt or rounded top. Dark green foliage is fine and lacy. May reach 2'(6m) high in 10 years. Excellent for the rock garden. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$25.00)

***Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Minima'** (Minima Sawara False Cypress) A dwarf cultivar growing up to 20" (500 mm) high and perhaps twice as wide in 10 years. Dark green foliage is dense and fan-like. Best in full sun. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

***Picea glauca* 'Alberta Globe'** (Alberta Globe Dwarf Alberta Spruce) We are all familiar with the so called "Dwarf Alberta Spruce" (*P. glauca* 'Conica') - ours is now pushing 10'(3.0m) high and thankfully is not planted under a living room window. 'Alberta Globe' is a surprisingly little grown but truly dwarf selection. It has the same fine texture but with denser needles. Very slow growing with a squat conical habit when young developing a less formal dome-shape with a slightly pointed top with age. Ours is only 3'(9m) high and wide after 20+ years. Zone 3. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Tsuga canadensis - In its typical form, the Canadian Hemlock is a towering and beautiful tree with dark green foliage. The following selections are much smaller and ideal for the larger rock garden or shrub border. They will need some sun to keep their compact shape and resent drought and winter wind. Zone 5.

'Beehive' - A dwarf selection with dense, finely texture foliage. It has a mounding-spreading habit with a depressed centre and is likened to the shape of a beehive. Can grow to 3'(9m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide. Rare. Excellent price. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

'Bennett' - A dense, low mounding cultivar with arched branches and pendulous tips. To 2'(6m) high x 3'(9m) wide or more in 10 years with an overall spreading-weeping-layered habit. Very graceful. Similar if not the same as the selection 'Minima'. One of the best. A few only. (3 gal. - \$60.00)

'Fantana' - Another stunning cultivar similar to Bennett but with a more open and less pendulous habit. Fan-like branches of medium to dark green needles arch gracefully forming a wide-spreading low shrub. It's branches have a fern-like appearance. To 2'(6m) high and 3.5'(1.0m) wide in 12 years. Graceful and rare. (1 gal. - \$30.00)

'Jacqueline Verkade' - A unique cultivar with tiny needles and a much stiffer appearance. It has an extremely dense habit forming a rounded to squat conical shape. Can grow to 3'(0.9m) high and wide in 10 years. Very choice. (4" pots - \$10.00)

Shrubs

***Buxus microphylla* v. *japonica* 'Morris Midget'** (Morris Midget Little-leaf Boxwood) A very slow-growing dwarf cultivar. Grows only 8-12"(2-3m) high and forms a tight dense mound. Great for the rock garden or bonsai. Zone 6, probably colder. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Corylopsis glabrescens (Fragrant Winterhazel) A very early spring blooming deciduous shrub and an excellent alternative to Forsythia. Small pale yellow flowers are born in pendant clusters of 8-12 and are very fragrant. Grows 8-15'(2.4-4.5m) high and wide with a multi-stemmed spreading habit. Golden-yellow fall colour. Full sun to part shade. Zone 6, possibly colder. The hardest of the genus. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Disanthus cercidifolius - A deciduous shrub related to witchhazels with brilliant fall colour. Large blue-green heart-shaped leaves turn a variety of colours in fall ranging from orange to red to purple. Inconspicuous dark purple flowers in fall. Grows 6-10'(1.8-3.0m) high and 8-10'(2.4-3.0m) wide - multi-stemmed with slender branches & a rounded spreading habit. Best in rich moist soil in light shade protected from the wind. Drought intolerant. Zone 6. Offered last year but we thought we'd give you a second chance. (1 gal. - \$25.00)

***Eleutherococcus sieboldianus* 'Variegatus'** (Variegated Fiveleaf Aralia) Drought tolerant, does well in shade and variegated - what more can you ask for in a deciduous shrub? Small compound leaves - maple-like in appearance - are bright green with creamy edges. Grows 6-8'(1.8-2.4m) high and wide with an suckering dense upright-arching habit. For sun to shade and tolerant of poor soils. Great for brightening up that shady corner! Zone 5. Better known (and more pronounceable) as *Acanthopanax sieboldianus* 'Variegatus'. (1 gal. - \$25.00)

Trees

***Acer palmatum* 'Katsura'** (Katsura Japanese Maple) A green-leaved cultivar in the Palmatum Group. The 5-lobed, 1 1/4" (30mm) leaves turn downward. Stunning new foliage emerges pale yellow-orange with a brighter orange margins and ages to a bright yellow-green. Fall colour is yellow and orange sometimes tinged red. Very slow growing with a dense twiggy upright, eventually spreading habit. May eventually reach 10'(3.0m) in height. Zone 6b. (1 gal. - \$30.00)

***Acer palmatum* 'Hogyoku'** (Hogyoku Japanese Maple) An Amoenum Group cultivar coveted for its fall colour - pumpkin orange! The heavy textured rich green leaves are 7 lobed and divided halfway to the centres. The lobes are broad at the centre, tapering to a fine point giving a star-shaped effect. Sturdy, upright-rounded growth habit to 15'(4.5m) high. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$35.00)

***Acer palmatum* 'Trompenburg'** (Trompenburg Japanese Maple) An outstanding red-leaved cultivar in the Matsumurae Group. The 3-4"(75-100mm) leaves are unique in that the 7-9 deeply divided lobes have heavily recurved margins and arch downwards. Foliage is deep purple-red and glossy and holds its colour well. Fall colour is crimson. A strong upright grower to 15'(4.5m) high and 12'(3.6m) wide. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$30.00)

***Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Rotfuchs' (Red Fox)** (Red Fox Japanese Katura Tree) The foliage of this cultivar emerges rich red-purple and ages to coppery-green. Leaves are heart-shaped. Unusual fall colours of gold and apricot giving an amber effect are coupled with fragrant waning foliage. Smaller and much more columnar than the type growing 10-12'(3.0-3.6m) high in 10 years. Does best in rich, well-drained soil in a protected position. Sun to part shade. Does not tolerate drought. Zone 5. A few only. (3 gal. - \$50.00)

***Cornus mas* 'Golden Glory'** (Golden Glory Cornelian Cherry Dogwood) Clusters of tiny, star-shaped bright yellow flowers grace this deciduous tree very early in spring. 'Golden Glory' is a more upright, vigorous and floriferous selection than the typical species. Bright red fruit is born in late summer but is usually hidden in the foliage. Develops attractive exfoliating bark with age. Grows 15-20'(4.5-6.0m) high and wide with an oval or rounded shape. Remove sucker growth and lower branches to encourage an attractive tree-like habit. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

***Ginkgo biloba* 'Tschì Tschì'** (also known as 'Chi-Chi' and 'Chi Chi Icho') (Chi Chi Maidenhair Tree) A very slow growing cultivar reaching only 4-5'(1.2-1.5m) in height and width in 10 years. Dense, fan-shaped to rounded habit; often multi-stemmed. Foliage is smaller and distinctively two-lobed with a deep cleft in the centre of each leaf. The name 'Tschì-Tschì' refers to the large bumps resembling breasts which develop on the trunk in time. Bright yellow fall colour. Zone 4. Rare. (1 gal. - \$35.00)

***Ginkgo biloba* 'Jade Butterfly'** (Jade Butterfly Maidenhair Tree) Another dwarf cultivar. Large leaves with a deep V-shaped notch in the middle of each leaf. The deep green foliage is very dense and is said to resemble masses of butterflies. Forms a shapely vase-shaped shrub from a young age. Brilliant yellow fall colour. Grows 10-15'(3.0-4.6m) high. Zone 4. Also very rare. (1 gal. - \$35.00)

***Halesia tetraptera* v. *monticola* 'Arnold Pink'** (Arnold Pink Mountain Silverbell) A rose-pink selection with pendant 3/4"(19mm) bell-shaped flowers fading to pale pink. The dainty flowers born in clusters along the branches appear in early spring before the leaves. Stems and twigs have a pink tinge giving winter interest. Vigorous. Grows 20-30'(6.0-9.0m) high with a pyramidal to oval habit. A charming and not easy to find tree. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$25.00)

Hamamelis x intermedia (Hybrid Witchhazel) (Part 2 of 'Build a Witchhazel Collection Affordably!') An exceptional late-winter flowering shrub or small tree. Spidery, narrow-petaled, fragrant flowers - born in clusters along the bare branches - unfurl in February or March dependent on the weather. Should the weather turn too cold they will close up and open again when the temperature is more to their liking. Excellent fall colour. Best in full sun in moist well-drained soil. Dark flowered varieties look best backlit by the sun or against an evergreen background. Grows 12-20'(3.6-6.0m) high depending on the variety. See the Feb. 2001 newsletter for an excellent article on witchhazels. Zone 5b. Sure to brighten those late winter days when we think spring will never come. We are equally as excited to offer the following two varieties this year as we were last year to offer three different varieties. (We have a few each of 'Arnold's Promise' and 'Diane' in 1 gallon pots (\$25.00) left from last year. Please write in on your order form if you are interested.)

'Pallida' (*H. mollis* 'Pallida') Considered one of the best cultivars. Flowers are large, soft sulphur-yellow with contrasting reddish calyxes. Very fragrant and early blooming. Very floriferous as well. Older plants have a strong horizontal habit. Yellow to yellow-orange fall colour. (1 gal. - \$25)

'Primavera' - Very similar to 'Pallida' but with primrose-yellow petals, purple-red calyxes and much later blooming. Also very floriferous and sweetly fragrant. Yellow to yellow-orange fall colour. How does one choose? Buy both and extend the bloom period?? (1 gal. - \$25.00)

***Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Aureomarinata'** (Variegated Tulip Tree) Last year we offered the type species - a fast-growing aristocratic tree related to magnolias. The unique leaves have a single lobe on each side & an almost flat tip. The cup-shaped, 2-3"(50-75mm) flowers, face upright on the branch tips. Slightly fragrant, they are yellowish green with an orangish base and emerge in late spring after the foliage. Yellow fall colour. Massive tall straight trunk with deeply furrowed bark and an oval to round crown. We were very disappointed that it didn't come. That disappointment has been alleviated as we are able to offer the seldom available variegated form this year. The leaves of this cultivar emerge with a creamy yellow margins which fade to pale green. Slower growing it will reach a mature height of 35-65'(10-20m). A perfect replacement for that prized tree lost to Juan and a tree to plant for future generations! A few only. (B&B 7' - \$120.00)

***Magnolia denudata* 'Yellow River'** ('Fei Huang') It is still under debate whether this is a true *denudata* or a hybrid. Regardless, this is a recently introduced Chinese selection with deeper yellow flowers than *M. 'Elizabeth'*. Fragrant. Vigorous upright rounded habit, probably growing 20-30'(6.0-9.0m) tall and wide. Very early blooming. Zone 6. (3 gal. - \$60.00)

Nothofagus antarctica (Southern Beech, Antarctic Beech) A wonderful tree from South America. Glossy dark green leaves are very small and delicately crinkled. They are born densely on dense zig-zagging stems. Fall colour is an attractive yellow. Dark brown bark has silver-grey horizontal lines called lenticels - very attractive in winter especially when wet. Habit is vigorous with an unusual upright irregular twisted habit. Can grow to 25'(7.5m) high in 20 years and could eventually reach 50'(15.0m). Needs a sheltered site in Zone 6 but will tolerate wind in Zone 7. Well worth a try! (3 gal. - \$50.00)

Parrotia persica (Persian Ironwood) Related to the witchhazels, this small tree is revered for its fall colour. Dark lustrous green foliage - similar to witchhazels - emerges bronze-purple and develops brilliant yellow, orange and/or crimson colour late in the fall. Curious flowers with no petals are born in late winter/early spring are not showy but create a crimson-maroon haze when backlit. Gray-brown bark on older wood flakes exposing patches of gray, green, white & brown. Single or multi-trunked with a variable habit - oval or round headed or broadly spreading. Develops a tiered horizontal branching habit. 20-40'(6-12m) high x 15'-30'(4.5-9m) wide. Sun to light shade in moist well-drained soil. Pest resistant. Zone 6. Dirr gushes about this one. Rare. Plants received last year all died - priority will be given to those who ordered last year and wish a replacement. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Tender Tub Plants

Gunnera manicata (Giant Rhubarb) Okay, not a tub plant and indeed tender, but it can and is being easily overwintered in coastal Nova Scotia gardens with winter protection. This is the ultimate in pondside plants. Its rough-textured rounded leaves can grow to 5'(1.5m) or more across and have an extraordinary structural system of tubular veins on the underside. Each leaf emerges from a large central rosette on fat petioles up to 5'(1.5m) long. Its flower is insignificant but unusual. Plant in full sun in a wet spot but high enough that its crown will never be submerged in water. It can be grown in normal garden conditions but will need daily substantial watering throughout the growing season. To attain gargantuan proportions feed heavily and frequently with manure. Protect for winter by cutting off the leaves and laying them over the crown. Then cover it with a minimum of 2' of a non-compacting mulch such as straw or oak leaves. Cover this with white plastic to keep the mulch dry. Extraordinary. (1 gal. - \$25.00)

***Cordyline australis* 'Red Sensation'** (Red Sensation False Dracaena) We are all familiar with the plain green 'spikes' commonly used as an annual in planters. What you might not know is that they are easily overwintered in a bright or dark, cold frost-free location. We currently have a 25 year old, much neglected specimen that is now 8'(2.4m) tall with a 3"(75mm) trunk. 'Red Sensation' is a striking purple-red cultivar. It will provide an stunning architectural focus to your tub plantings. Colour is best in full sun. Will tolerate a bit of frost but do not allow it to freeze solid. (1 gal. - \$25.00)

Phormium 'Amazing Red' (Amazing Red New Zealand Flax) A tender evergreen New Zealand native which makes a superb tub plant either by itself or in combination with other plants. This reddish-brown cultivar has narrow, upright, sword-shaped 1.25"(30mm) wide leaves growing 2-3'(6-9m) high in dense clumps. Best in full sun. Pot in a well drained mix and keep moist but do not overwater. Store indoors in winter in a frost-free, cool (preferably) bright location and let dry out between light waterings. A stunning addition to your patio in summer and a great price! (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Phormium 'Maori Maiden' (Maori Maiden New Zealand Flax) This cultivar has broader leaves to 2"(50mm) wide with arching leaf tips. The leaves are apricot-pink to rose-red and have thin green margins. Grows 2-3'(6-9m) tall. Another showy patio plant that sure to generate plenty of conversation. Cultivate as per above. (2 gal. - \$35.00)

Phygelius x rectus (Cape Fuschia) A shrubby stoloniferous plant with non-descript foliage from which 3'(9m) tall spikes of drooping long narrow tubular flowers emerge in late summer. Great for adding late colour in mixed perennial planters. Store frost-free in a cold room and cut back just above the ground in spring. It has survived planted out in Zone 6b but likely to get killed during very cold winters. Two cultivars are available.

'African Queen' - Dusky red flowers. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

'Moonraker' - Pale yellow flowers. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Perennials

***Epimedium x warleyense* 'Ellen Willmott'** (Ellen Willmott Barronwort) - (*alpinum* x *pinnatum* ssp. *colchicum*) Flowers emerge in tall racemes in spring with the unfurling crimson flushed foliage. They open with red sepals fading to orange with pale yellow petals. Very striking. Crimson-red fall foliage. A charming groundcover for shade to part shade spreading loosely by rhizome. Tolerant of drought once established but best in moist well drained soil. Cut back old foliage before new growth emerges in spring. Zone 6, possibly colder. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

***Geranium phaeum* 'Samobor'** - A striking hardy geranium with beautiful foliage - textured and beautifully marked with a ring of purple-black on each leaf. Flowers are dusky-purple/maroon and are born on 2'(6m) stems in late spring. Forms a dense mound to 2'(6m) wide. Can be cut back after flowering to stimulate new compact growth. Sun to part-shade. Zone 3. (1 gal. - \$10.00)

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Rhododendron dendrocharis

By John Weagle



R. dendrocharis photographed in Mike and Polly Stone's garden, Fort Augustus, Scotland. [Photo John Weagle]

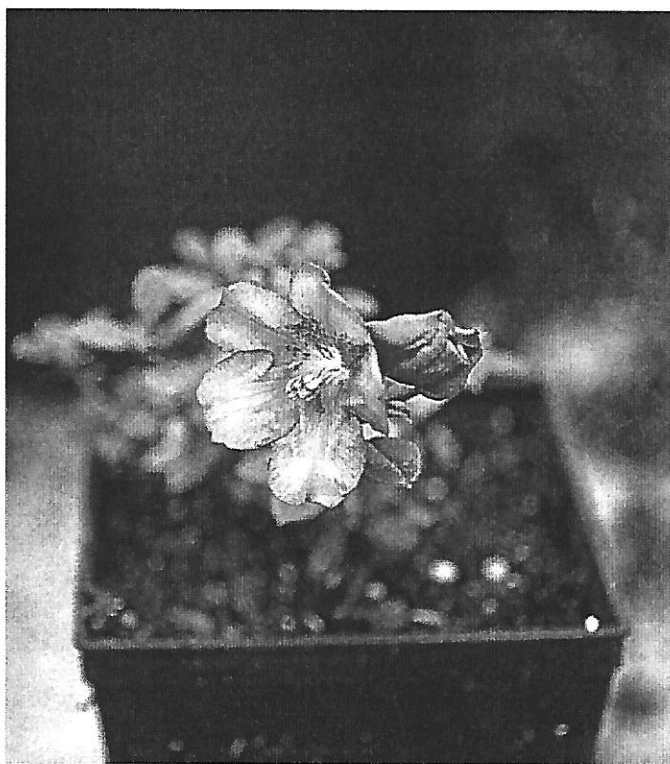
New to the collector of dwarf lepidote rhododendron species is *R. dendrocharis* from Szechuan. The selection is described in this year's catalogue of the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden:

Dendrocharis – *Moupinensia*: Dwarf evergreen shrubs with bristly branches and small oval to elliptic leaves. The leaves are around three-quarters of an inch in length and range from a smooth, deep glossy green to a "fuzzy" matte green. The openly funnel-shaped flowers (early spring) are rose-pink to white and often have reddish spots. The flowers are quite large in scale with the small growth habit and leaves, sometimes up to two inches wide! This is basically a dwarf version of the well-known and popular *R. moupinense*, occurring in the same region and in the same habitats. A fantastic new dwarf species for the garden or in containers. Very slow-growing and should be drought tolerant once well established as it is epiphytic in the wild. Requires excellent drainage (especially in containers) and should be at least as hardy as *R. moupinense*. Grows as an epiphyte in trees and on cliffs and boulders from 6,000 to 10,500 ft. Very, very choice. RSF#1994/397 CCH#4012:Glendoick (+5 to 0\2\2). This clone with elliptic matte green, hairy leaves and pale rose-pink flowers. Our most vigorous and easily grown clone. Charming dwarf shrubs.

Initially I thought "just what we need, another species in the *Moupinensia*, precariously plant hardy in Zone 7, with far-too-early blooms usually a frosted lump of mush like the type species *R. moupinense*." Still Kenneth Cox kept extolling its virtues – beauty and hardiness – but what the Scots call hardy is far from hardy here in New Scotland. During a memorable 2001 stay at Glendoick in Perth, Scotland we saw this by-now legendary cult species and some of the hybrids of it. The species certainly was a beauty, very compact and dwarf with the neatest, cleanest dark green leaves you can imagine. And then one morning walking through one of the cold houses there it was in bloom with relatively large roundish flowers of a clear rose-red standing up straight. Was this the best of the lot which was to be named later? No tag and none of the other named forms were quite as dramatic a colour (see photo). We were offered pollen which we greedily scooped up in gelatin capsules and dried it out in the refrigerator in the lunch room. This was labeled "Glendoick darkest rose red" and then frozen in a tight jar of desiccant.

Still we were at Glendoick so hardiness was questionable – *sinogrande*, *macabeanum*, *dekatanum* and even a few *Maddennia* species were growing outside in this favoured climate. Days later we spent a day with Mike and Polly Stone at their garden, Askival, in Fort Augustus, Scotland. We got a tour of their exquisite ericaceous plantings, which strangely are mentioned by few visitors. There was *dendrocharis* – still tight in bud but the best habit form we had seen, extremely compact and almost prostrate. Mike told us the seed was given to him by Peter Cox and this was the best of the lot he had grown. Was this especially good habit the result of Fort Augustus' shorter growing season, winds, harder winters, Mike and Polly's growing skills, a rash of cuttings or truly in the genes? We suspect the latter as the Stones do no propagation from cuttings, seed growing being more exciting for them. Now it does get cold in this part of central Scotland on the north shore of Loch Ness. Minus 27 C. was recorded just a few years before and according to Mike *dendrocharis* was unscathed – but the cold was accompanied by a skid of snow and so the plant was probably buried, thus proving, little about its true hardiness.

In June 2003 I had the privilege of visiting Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Again *dendrocharis* was mentioned by many as thoroughly reliable, being fully plant hardy and later blooming than *moupinense* itself. Yet the Swedes say hardy to -20°C; confusing to say the least. I believe someone in Oslo was growing it successfully so I was really getting interested. Thoughts turned to my sole pot grown *dendrocharis* 'Glendoick®™ Gem' at home. Was it time to bite the bullet and try it outside? I'd better harvest the seed



R. dendrocharis. [Photo John Weagle]

from those last crosses that I made on it, before I plant it out in 2004 after rooting a few back-up cuttings.

Glendoick Gardens (their catalogue is a must for those interested in cutting-edge *Ericaceae* – www.glendoick.com) along with CCH#4012 lists three selections. C5016 is a selected form described as “good pink”. ‘Glendoick®™ Gem’, from CCH 3915 (Clone #D), a fine deep pink, flowers in April with dark green leaves and upright habit. The selection with the most handsome foliage.” And lastly ‘Glendoick®™ Jewel’. “Pale pink flowers in April-May.” Now which was the good rose red one we had collected pollen from? We have to order the other two just in case. Closer to home the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden

in Federal Way, WA. lists this “must-have” species in their spring catalogue.

Glendoick has started hybridizing with *dendrocharis*. “*R. edgeworthii* x *dendrocharis* 60 cm. H4 (hardy throughout the UK). An exciting breakthrough: the first deep pink dwarf with significant scent suitable for growing outdoors at Glendoick. Red buds open deep pink in April-May. Deep green leaves. Needs good drainage.” This just may be hardy in coastal British Columbia but lamentably is probably far too tender for coastal Nova Scotia... but we are growing *russatum* x *edgeworthii* from Reich so it may be time for another Glendoick order. As well Glendoick has done the following but we have no descriptions yet: *edgeworthii* x *moupinense* x *dendrocharis*, *spinuliferum* x *dendrocharis* and *campylogynum* sbec x *dendrocharis*.

Meanwhile the legendary hybridizer Wolfgang Reich has tackled *dendrocharis* as well. This wizard crosses the impossible – witness his *aureum* x *moupinense* in my back garden! His crosses with *dendrocharis* include: ‘April Rose’ x *dendrocharis*, ‘Weston’s Pink Diamond’ x *dendrocharis* and ‘Dörte Reich’ (*carolinianum* x *concatenans*) x *dendrocharis*. The autumn of 2003 we received the first cuttings from his ‘April Rose’ x *dendrocharis*. We can hardly wait to see if it roots and then buds up.

Several years ago Dr. Yasuyuki in Ishikari, Hokkaido, Japan sent me seeds of his cross of (*campylogynum* ‘Claret’ x *dauricum nana*) x *dendrocharis* ‘Pink’. This was the first *dendrocharis* cross I had seen. I managed to keep one seedling going until this past summer when it died for no apparent reason. It was one of the most promising lepidote seedlings from the very start that I have ever grown. It was the most compact bun, only 2 cm across, multi-branched and with clean foliage similar to *dendrocharis* itself. I hope Dr. Doi will repeat this cross or tell us about any sister seedlings he may have.

We have put pollen on *dendrocharis* and seeds have been distributed through various seed exchanges including RSCAR, ARS, SRS and SSRS. Our crosses include:

carolinianum x *dendrocharis*

‘Dartmoor Rose’ x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

‘Dartmoor Rose’ x *dendrocharis* ‘Glendoick Gem’

(*dauricum* ‘Hokkaido’ x *calostrotum* ‘Gigha’) x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

dauricum Ruth Wainwright x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

dendrocharis ‘Glendoick Gem’ x self

fastigiatum x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

impeditum (true) x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

keiskei ‘Yaku Fairy’ x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

(*keleticum* x *lapponicum*) x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

mucronulatum ‘Cheju’ x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

radicans x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

Species of the *Saluenensia* Group x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

viridescens ‘Doshong La’ x *dendrocharis* (Glendoick darkest rose-red)

Hardy or not, I think *R. dendrocharis* has a promising future as a parent and I would highly recommend anyone in coastal Zone 6 to try growing it. ☺

Morris Island: The First Ten Years

By John Brett



Magnolia grandiflora on Morris Island. [Photo John Brett]

Not long after my parents, Peter and Joan Brett, finished their new house at Morris Island, Yarmouth County, they planted a couple of *Rhododendron* 'Nova Zembla's. I would put the date at about 1978. My father, in particular, has always been a keen gardener. He has always liked to try different shrubs and trees. Over the years, the 'Nova Zemblas' thrived without much care. Perhaps this is what would lead him to say, at various times, that he thought we should be planting a lot more rhododendrons. I'm surprised I even remember this since during most of the 1980's I hardly knew what a rhododendron was. But I did remember, and I am sure there are moments when dad wishes he'd kept this casual thoughts to himself. As the old Russian curse goes: May you get the thing you most desire.

As of this year, a rough count tells me there are at least two hundred rhododendrons at the Morris Island garden, including about 30 species. With the exception of those first two 'Nova Zembla's, all the rhododendrons on the property date from 1993 or after. A number of factors came together to trigger this exuberant, some might say excessive, proliferation.

By 1992, my own passion for gardening was fully kindled. I was quickly filling up a small city garden in Halifax shared with a neighbor and good friend, Shelagh MacKenzie. I had been enthralled by Walter and Elaine Ostrom's wonderful plantings and I think it was through Walter that I joined the Atlantic Rhododendron Society (as we called it then) and met Dick Steele, who really set the wheels in motion. I'd visit Dick at Bayport Plant Farm. He'd give me lots of tea, rooted cuttings of things I'd never heard of, and there were many wonderful conversations. He was immediately interested in my parents' property on Morris Island. He knew of large old rhododendrons and English holly in nearby Yarmouth. He thought this area had tremendous potential, especially for more tender species and cultivars. He wondered if we might be interested in serving as a test site in the deep south of Nova Scotia.

When I discussed the idea with my father I believe I put special emphasis on the low maintenance aspect of rhododendrons, since I live in Halifax and they would end up being mostly his responsibility; perhaps I invoked

those 'Nova Zemblas' as a case in point. But the proposition didn't need selling. He was immediately enthusiastic. The 1993 growing season saw our first arrivals from Bayport Plant Farm. I have records of 'Cunningham's White', 'Elizabeth', 'Hazel', 'Halfdan Lem', 'Vulcan', 'Vulcan's Flame', 'Rocket', *R. metternianum*, *R. williamsianum* (or possibly 'Kimbeth'), *R. apodectum* 'Golden Gate', 'Summer Summit' and 'Pink Roseum'. There may have been a few others. I also began moving some poor performers (were they too tender or was I abusing them?) from my burgeoning Halifax garden. Among the first were RR. 'Baden Baden' and 'Yaku Duke' and also tissue culture plants purchased through the society, rooted cuttings and seedlings. Far from dampening Dad's interest, this first wave lead to the clearing of a new planting site south of the house during the winter of 1993 or early spring 1994.

I imagine there is a moment when every enthusiast realizes that a warming interest has turned into something more closely resembling an obsession. In this case, that mysterious moment would have to be June, 1994 when Dad drove his old and very large 4X4 pickup truck to Bayport Plant Farm and took delivery of a number of Dick's rhododendrons, including some that were quite big. It took us several days and the help of two fishermen with good strong backs to get them into the ground. Some of the neighbors definitely thought we were mad, cutting down all those nice spruce trees and replacing them with a lot of funny shrubs. I have records for 'Lee's Dark Purple', two 'Fortsmir's', 'Hazel' (another), 'Russautinii', 'Gabriel', 'Professor Amateis', 'Catward F3', 'Todmorden', 'Hindustan', 'County of York', and a good number of Dick Steele crosses both large and small, lepidote and elepidote. There were also more tissue culture plants and other invalids from

my Halifax garden such as *RR. 'Fred Peste'* and *chaemaethomsonii*. All these rhododendrons were joined by other exotics. I have a record for, among others, one of Dick's hardy *Magnolia grandifloras* - the "frosty filly" he called it - which after several moves around the garden is now living happily along the west wall of the house and even sends out the occasional orange-scented bloom.

A steady stream of rhododendrons has continued to come into the Morris Island garden every year since 1994. My father, God bless him, takes on all the maintenance and, with a typical thoroughness, seems genuinely upset if some don't do well let alone - perish the thought - die. Little wonder that he occasionally looks aghast when I show up with another couple of hundred seedlings - the weight of that additional responsibility causing his shoulders to sag visibly - though I try to assure him that I expect many to die and will, in fact, be disappointed if they don't. He doesn't look convinced. Dick Steele visits occasionally to survey the ongoing results, offer guidance, and motivate the troops. My roles, infrequently performed, include some planting, labeling and documenting, and the introduction of new plants. At times, I feel the guilt of a feckless absentee landlord.

John Weagle has also played an important role in the Morris Island garden. An avid hybridizer, he started establishing some of his progeny and parent plants there in the late 1990's. The results were favorable so a few plants led to many more, including some fascinating large leaf crosses between *RR. rex*, *maximum* and *yakushimanum*. John's generosity then extended to other species such as bamboos, skimmias, a monkey puzzle tree, and a peculiar subantarctic deciduous tree, *Pseudofagus antarctica*, which is apparently able to withstand the full force of a Cape Horn gale.

It's surprising how many of the plants do thrive at Morris Island, even during those very cold winters which cause a

lot of damage in my Halifax garden. I will often try the same plant in both locations and the Morris Island plants are virtually always larger and healthier over the same growth period. This tends to confirm what the weather records and geography tell us. For those who don't know, Morris Island is located in the extreme southwest of Nova Scotia, on the edge of the Bay of Fundy. The coastline is heavily indented, tides run 12 to 16 feet, and strong currents flow between the many islands. The effect of this is cool, foggy summers and mild, damp winters, very different from those in Halifax 180 miles to the north east. Just how different can be seen from the weather data, which I extrapolate by averaging the difference between Yarmouth and Cape Sable Island and comparing with the Halifax Citadel records. Over a similar 40 year period, I estimate the average January temperature is about 3 C. warmer at Morris Island. During the period 1951 - 1980 there wasn't a single day (less than one day according to the statistics) that recorded temperatures of -20 degrees C. or lower. This area of the province can claim to be truly Zone 7 or very close to it.

The Morris Island garden is east facing, on a gentle slope, right next to sheltered saltwater. Native tree cover is fairly uniform young spruce, balsam fir, yellow and white birch, and red maple. About 50 years ago the land must have been cut over or perhaps it was rough pasture. A thin top layer of organic forest duff overlies a brownish mineral soil. In places there is clay and everywhere there is loose stone which makes digging difficult without a pick axe and a mattock. When planting we tend to amend the soil with some peat moss and composted bark. The dense young stands of softwood give good wind protection for rhododendrons except from the east south east.

The Morris Island 'plantation' continues to grow and change. I say plantation because it is more of an assemblage of plants than a landscape organized for aesthetic effect. At this point, it is fair to ask if there is any

purpose to all this beyond the collectors' desire to possess one more plant. I see the objectives as follows: to establish a pool of rhododendrons that will prove useful to hybridizers in future breeding programs; to test the climatic suitability of new plants for the above purpose; and to eventually organize at least parts of the site into a pleasing, well designed garden landscape featuring rhododendrons as well as other evergreens.

To my mind, some additional highlights of the first decade at the Morris Island Garden are:

- The successful establishment of many rhododendrons grown from 1994 seed collected by the Peter Wharton expedition to Guizhou, China. There is uncertainty about identification but we may have *RR. azaleastrum*, *simsii* (beautiful brick red flowers), *auriculatum*, *davidii*, *sutchuensis*, and *glanduliferum*, as well as various other species or natural crosses from the *Fortunei* subseries.

- The creation of a new garden site north of the house in 2002. It is home to a large collection of rooted cuttings from plants hybridized by Joe Brueckner (the record shows that 64 varieties were received).

- The purchase and development of an adjacent garden site by John Weagle in 2002/2003. He has been working like a man possessed, transplanting and building cold frames. We expect many wonders to spring from this patch of ground.

For those who are interested in seeing the Morris Island garden, mid-May to late June is the best time. Morris Island is about a three and a half hour drive from Halifax. Members of the society are welcome to visit but please call ahead. And - oh yes - I didn't mention the mosquitoes. Like the rhododendrons, they thrive here to an extent that is astonishing even for Nova Scotia. So bring lots of insect repellent. ☼

Gardening on Both Coasts

By Alec McCarter

Dr. McCarter has gardened in Halifax and Dartmouth, and in Victoria where he now lives.

Success in gardening depends two things: the science and art of gardening, and the weather. Of the two, the weather is the more important. Nothing could illustrate the truth of this more than the contrast between gardening here in Victoria and gardening in Halifax and Dartmouth. My wife and I have done both for about twenty years in each place.

Rainfall

I may have my facts wrong, but I seem to remember that the total precipitation in Halifax through the year is about 55 - 60 inches, (1400 - 1500 mm), whereas in the city of Victoria it is about 27 inches (600 mm). In the eastern city, the precip is more or less evenly distributed throughout the year, whereas here it falls mainly from November to March and the rest of the time there is near drought. This summer, one of the driest on record, we had little or no rain from June through to mid-September. Partly this is through being in the rainshadow of the Olympic Mountains in the state of Washington. About ten km north of where we live, there is 150 mm more precipitation. In Vancouver, the area close to the Northshore mountains receives much heavier rainfall than we do on the Island, whereas the areas close to the American border, such as Whiterock, get far more sunshine and less rain, about the same amount as Victoria. Victoria's climate is said to be Mediterranean while that of Halifax is more continental, much modified by the proximity of the Atlantic ocean.

Soil

Our soil, not unimportant in gardening, derives from the geological history of this region. Great thick ice sheets ground their way through the Straits of Georgia, Saanich Inlet, Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca depressing our garden some hundreds

of feet below its present level and below the sea. When the ice retreated, the land rebounded, now covered with marine clays, sands, gravels, and beds and outcrops of smooth, volcanic rock scored north to south by rocks embedded in the ice - all in evidence here and in the islands. In Dartmouth, our soil was podsol that I had sifted through a one-inch screen, separating small crushed slate from bigger pieces; low on fertility, high in acidic sterility.

In Victoria, and in Halifax too, there are distinct differences in climate from place to place - near the sea it is cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter than elsewhere in the city. A difference of a few blocks can make a significant difference to a garden. Just one block south of our home is the south-facing 'Lansdowne slope'. Wind whipping down the Strait of Juan de Fuca from the West rushes up the slope. In the summer, our garden only a block from the top of the slope is in the warmer backeddy coming down over the sun-heated land to our north. But in the winter, the air coming down over the land to the north of us is colder than that coming up the slope from the sea.

The placing of plants with respect to protection from the wind, from rock outcroppings or houses can make a big difference to the success or failure in growing a particular plant. Near the sea grow some fine old Monterey Cypressess. There are none that I am aware of farther inland. Palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) are featured in many gardens. In a Nanaimo park there is a group of six or eight palms that each winter are enclosed in tall narrow, outdoor-privy like structures, and each spring the structures are taken down again. For much of the year the little park is an eye-sore. Brown Turkey fig in our garden ripens the crop in that part that hangs over a brick and concrete patio while fruit on

another fig at the back of the garden among shrubs and over grass lawn ripens considerably later or not at all. Only the over-wintering crop has any chance of ripening in either place.

In Halifax and Dartmouth there also were and are differences. Areas near the North West Arm, for example the garden of the late Dr. and Mrs Walter Chute, were warmer than ours a few blocks away. Walter grew English hollies and several azaleas. Our most tender plant in Halifax was probably a *Cornus florida* which produced scant bloom. An *Erica carnea* did better in our Halifax garden than it did in Dartmouth near the Brightwood Golf course.

Summer Temperatures

Staying with the weather for a bit, the summers in Victoria, as I said, tend to be a time of drought. All through the summer day after day, crystal-clear, blue skies with low humidity allow the temperature to climb to 25C in the afternoons but they also allow the temperature to fall at night to 12 - 15C. In this respect, there is little difference between Halifax-Dartmouth and Victoria - neither is a good place in which to grow tomatoes. Cucumbers on the other hand do well in both places because they grow rapidly and close to the ground where they get adequate heat. Tomatoes, peppers and egg plants are very late to ripen here. I took to enclosing and supporting individual plants in wire cages covered with thin polyethylene sheet so that each had its own greenhouse. Aeration was achieved by cutting a few slits through the plastic. Even so, ripe tomatoes were not usually obtained, even with the earliest obtainable varieties, until late summer or about Labour Day. The best tasting and most reliable varieties were found to be Stupice, Gardener's Delight, Moneymaker, Tumbler and Early Girl.

Now that I am old and disabled, I don't grow tomatoes or cucumbers anymore.

Plant Diseases

Despite what has been said above, the climate in Victoria is more clement than that of the East Coast. Last winter, that of 2003, we had no killing frost in our garden at all. Only a brief skiff of snow fell and that was gone by noon. But we are located above the 49th parallel whereas Halifax is below the 45th. We have a darker and wetter winter than our eastern counterpart. Plants that do not like wet feet have a big problem here. *Phytophthora* root rot is not uncommon. And, by the way, a new *Phytophthora*, *ramorum*, is causing Sudden Oak Death in California and Oregon. So far it has not obtained a foothold in British Columbia although it was caught attempting to sneak in on a shipment of rhododendrons. Plant diseases seem to be more common in this climate than in that of Halifax.

Disaster!

In Victoria through the winter, the day-time temperature can remain near 10C for weeks on end. Plants may not go dormant. Then they have a terrible time when strong, very cold, outflow winds pour out of the north-south valleys of the mainland. Howe Sound points almost directly at the area between Nanaimo and Victoria. When the dense cold air slides through the valleys from the interior of the province, and expands as it reaches the coast, the resulting winds can be icy and strong. Then sea-smoke rises and is driven at a furious pace across the Gulf of Georgia and onto the East coast of Vancouver Island. One such outflow hit our gardens on February 1, 1989. I had gone that evening to a meeting of the Men's Garden Club. The day had been very mild with a temperature of about 10C. Everything was green and beginning to grow. Witch hazels and camellias were in bloom as were many bulbous plants. It was early spring as far as the garden was concerned. I went to dinner at about 6 pm. When I came out of the

restaurant about 9 pm the temperature was -16C and the wind was blowing from the north-east at 60 -70 km/hr. There was no snow on the ground. Grass on the lawn snapped like toothpicks when I stepped on it. The cold and wind lasted for two days and nights.

We lost many plants. The bark of *Rhododendron macabeaeum* split and curled off cleanly. *Arbutus unedo*, the Strawberry Tree, was cut to the ground. We lost *Magnolia grandiflora*. and *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* - both were in our front garden and bore the full brunt of the freezing wind coming down the street from the north. *Clematis armandii* was killed. and the list went on and on. We learned not to cut down or dig up these plants until mid-summer because there was a chance that they would recover. So it was with *Arbutus unedo*. Once again it is a large and fruitful tree - but we lost many others - Hebes, several rhododendrons, like 'Tessa', 'Olive', 'Cilpinense', *R. makinoi*, some roses, and so on. The damage in other peoples' gardens was also disastrous - so that the following Tuesday, when the Victoria Horticultural Society held its regular meeting, black armbands were provided for gardeners to mourn the loss of their beloved plants.

A similar cold outflow occurred in 1955 before we came to the west coast, and again in 1985. We experienced a wicked wind-and-frost combination that killed many of our tender and unprotected plants. There was an evil roar in the bare-branched Garry oaks next door to us that could be heard even through closed doors and windows. Quite another matter was on December 29, 1996. A cold outflow wind met an incoming moisture-laden storm from the north west. The result was a howling gale and a deposit of snow that buried the city under drifts as high as the eaves on our house. Our cars in the driveway were completely buried. The weight of wet snow caused a *Cryptomeria japonica* twenty feet high to bend at a right angle close to the ground so that the bark buckled all around. The tree had to be cut off at

root level and chipped up to make wood mulch. The trunk of an *Acer japonicum* of the highly-dissected leaf variety of about four inches caliper, was split from crown to root as if an axe had been taken to it vertically. It was subsequently mended by putting a heavy bolt through both sides and pulling them tightly together. Rhododendrons like 'Cotton Candy' were trashed with broken branches littering the ground. The weight of snow was so great that some roofs collapsed - including an extensive area of greenhouses where a commercial rose-growing operation was flattened. A bank in the village suffered a caved-in roof. Oak Bay, where we live, had sold its snow-removing equipment because there had been no use for it for many years! Fortunately, we still had an aluminum snow shovel from our days of living in Halifax. Peggy started to shovel us out and two boys dug a pathway to the street.

I remember that during our last winter in Halifax we had altogether 121 inches of snow. But it protected plants rather than destroying them in the garden.

So not all is a bed of roses here in this otherwise blessed land. It is true that the mild climate with its long growing season allows tender plants to grow and survive here (in most years) when they cannot survive outdoors in Halifax. There are some lovely *Tibouchina urvilleana* growing in protected places nearby. They will be taken up and kept indoors if the weatherman should predict a hard frost. I have a *Rhododendron cubittii* in a large pot that stays out until really cold weather is forecast, then I bring it into a relatively warm place, or under the eaves. There are *R. edgeworthii* and *Maddenias* planted in ground outside year around in sheltered places. The gardener takes a chance on losing them or having them damaged by frost - but don't all gardeners do that?

The drought in summer and the wet in winter also bring problems for the Victorian gardener. Watering restrictions control the amount of

water that can be used and the method of its delivery. An unattended sprinkler or running hose is forbidden. Watering by hand is permitted but only with a spring shutoff. Automatic drip and micro-head irrigation are permitted, but overhead sprinkler systems are not. Strangely, there is no rule governing the volume of water that one can apply to the garden.

There is a movement among the xeriscapists to encourage dry gardens not needing water. Thus brown lawns and dead trees now are seen more frequently in people's gardens than I remember from past years. We are learning which plants can survive and which cannot. In our garden, we have lost *Mimulus moschata*, a smotherer that spread with wanton abandon in every bed. *Houttuynia cordata* is now confined to the plot that it was intended to inhabit - through no control by me. *Oxalis adenophylla*, perhaps the commonest weedy plant in our garden heretofore, has disappeared. Good riddance. And even Pearlwort (*Sagina*) is not a problem anymore. The dreaded false garlic (*Allium inodorum*), which was proving impossible to eradicate by digging, seems to be dying off. But we are paying a price in that the cardinal

flower that once glorified a bed all its own has gone, and *Iris ensata*, in several glorious colours and patterns, has all but disappeared as well. *Anemone japonica*, in both pink and white has taken over large beds, while roses are struggling to keep a foot hold. *Hoheria glabrata* and another named 'Glory of Amwich' are healthy and happy. The former is deciduous, but 'Glory' is evergreen and has stood up well to light frosts. A tall Bay laurel, *Laurus nobilis*, is getting enough water and sun to flourish and even flower. It suffered in the cold of 1989 with bark-split but repaired itself and is a joy to see. The crushed leaves add flavour to our cooking reminding me of the words of our one-time guide in Florence, Italy. "Thees ees the famoos Laurel. Italia used it to crown her heroes. Now we put it in our soups."

Several nice *Artemisias* including the fine-cut 'Silver Mound' have disappeared as have some nice ornamental grasses. Now *Cyclamen neapolitanum* (*hederifolium*) in different shades are mixed with *Colchicum autumnale* that we brought with us from Deep River in Ontario in 1948 to Halifax, then to Dartmouth then to Halifax again and thence to

London, Ontario. Here they have done very well, multiplying famously and providing wonderful soft mauves and pinks in several of the borders. *Schizostylis coccinea* is thriving where there is enough moisture but not where the ground is dry. This summer was particularly hard on it for, no matter that the sprinklers came on every-other day, there was just not enough moisture to counter the drying effects of sun and wind.

A Lemon verbena (*Aloysia*), survived the cold spell of 1989 and hangs on to life close to the wall of the garage on the south side of the house. Peggy piled bricks around its base to slow or prevent alternate freezing and thawing at the roots - but last winter there was no frost.

Today I see that the *Nerines* are in bloom - they are free from care. Someone told me that the Almanac forecasts a severe winter for this year. Ignoring that warning, we shall just see what really happens and hope for the best - a gardener's philosophy - a year at a time is now replaced with the philosophy of old age - a day at a time. That's the way to live, if not to garden. ☸



R. hirsutum 'Flore Pleno' one of the lepidote species available in this year's May Plant Sale. [Photo Jens Christian Birck]

Notes from Sunny Brook Farm

By Donald L. Craig

Dr. Craig is a well known Nova Scotia hybridizer of rhododendrons and azaleas. Since he retired from the Kentville Research Station he has grown rhodos at Sunny Brook Farm, about four miles north of Kentville, and at his cottage near Chester Basin on Nova Scotia's South Shore.

Winter Bud Damage

The past winter (2002/2003) with low temperatures plus very high wind chill factors damaged flower buds on many different rhododendron cultivars, but not the azalea cultivars, growing in the Sunny Brook Farm garden.

Every year at bloom time I walk the garden with my notebook in hand recording when the first cultivar breaks into flowering and I continue to record until the latest cultivar is in full bloom.

My 2002/2003 notes involved many of the 88 rhododendron and 50 azalea cultivars we have. There was no serious damage to the foliage or stems on any rhododendron; only the flower buds suffered. Flowering varied from one hundred per cent of all buds opening to opening only on the lower branches which were protected by snow cover. I am writing this note in the hope that my recording of cultivars having little or no bud damage will be useful information for you when selecting new plants for your garden in a hardiness climate zone (6A) similar to that of Sunny Brook's.

Flowering at Sunny Brook was very good to excellent for the following: 'Aglo', 'April Dawn', 'America', 'Besse Howells', 'Bosely 1016', 'Calsap', 'Cunningham's White', 'Henry's Red', 'Ken Jannek', 'Melusine La Fée', 'Minas Maid', 'Minas Rose Dawn', 'Molly Fordham', 'Olga', 'PJM' and 'Ramapo'.

The great disappointment for me this past spring was that a number of my favourite cultivars such as 'Fundy', 'Bellefontaine', 'Golden Gala', 'Moonshot', 'Sue Gunn', 'Scintillation' and 'Janet Blair' did not escape flower bud damage at Sunny Brook Farm. In contrast, rhododendrons at our cottage in Chester Basin (zone 6B) made up for my disappointment by producing full flowering for 'Fundy' (12 feet high),

'Bellefontaine' (7 feet high), 'Scintillation' (7 feet high), 'Janet Blair' (6 feet high) and 'Moonshot' (5 feet high).

Hardiness zones and special microclimates are so very important for the survival of rhododendron cultivars and species.

Flowering from Early May until August

The rhododendron and azalea season commences at the Sunny Brook Farm garden during the first week of May and continues into the first week of August. It is true that if we had but one cultivar this could not happen, however by selecting a combination of rhododendron and azalea cultivars it can. This fact I use to counter the often heard comment "Rhododendrons are lovely but they do not last very long." A truism is that very few flowering shrubs flower for very long; roses are of course one of the obvious exceptions.

Bloom season at Sunny Brook starts in early May with rhododendrons such as 'April Dawn', 'PJM' and *R. mucronulatum*. There is a major buildup of cultivars flowering mid and late May ending in late June with 'Red River' and 'Russel Harmon'. (See *Atlantic Newsletter* vol. 8, no. 2, May 1999).

Our azaleas also tend to be at peak flowering at the same time as the rhododendrons (see above reference) but the bonus comes from seedlings from such crosses as *R. bakeri* x *arborescens*. These seedlings produce lovely orange-red flowers in mid July and a cross involving *RR. prunifolium*, *bakeri* and *serrulatum* produces seedlings that flower during the first week of August.

My notebook also tells me that the year to year bloom dates can vary by at least fourteen days. This is not a problem because we still have the pleasure of a good long treat of flowering be the season early or late. ☿