

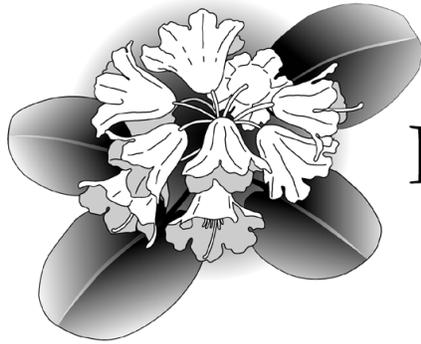
AtlanticRhodo

www.AtlanticRhodo.org

Volume 32: Number 1

February 2008





Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

Positions of Responsibility 2007 - 2008

President	Sheila Stevenson	479-3740	Director - Social	Shirley McIntyre	835-3673
Vice-President	Ruth Jackson	454-4681	Director - Horticulture	Audrey Fralic	683-2711
R.S.C. (National) Rep.	Sheila Stevenson	479-3740	Director	Cora Swinamer	826-7705
Secretary	Lyla MacLean	466-4490	Newsletter	Mary Helleiner	429-0213
Treasurer	Chris Hopgood	479-0811	Website	Bob Pettipas	462-5654
Membership	Betty MacDonald	852-2779	Library	Elizabeth Naylor	429-0557
Past President	Penny Gael	826-2440	Seed Exchange	Sharon Bryson	863-6307
Director - Education	Jenny Sandison	624-9013	May - Advance Plant Sale	Ken Shannik	422-2413
Director - Communications	Mary Helleiner	429-0213	May- Public Plant Sale	Duff & Donna Evers	835-2586

Membership (Please Note Changes)

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008, due September 2007. Make cheques payable to Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society. ARHS is a chapter in District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. For benefits see ARHS website www.atlanticrhodo.org

American Rhododendron Society

Fees are \$57.00 Canadian per year for individuals, C\$61 for family membership and include ARHS membership. Make cheques payable to American Rhododendron Society District 12. For benefits see www.rhododendron.org

Cheques should be sent to ARHS Membership Secretary **Betty MacDonald, 534 Prospect Road, Prospect Bay NS B3T1Z8.**

Please include name, address with postal code, e-mail address and telephone number, for organizational purposes only.

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.

Published three times a year. February, May and October.

Editor:

Mary Helleiner
834 Marlborough Ave.
Halifax, NS, B3H3G6
(902) 429-0213
cmhelleiner@ns.sympatico.ca

Cover Photo: *R. campylogynum* Rosa form. [Photo Jens Birck]



Calendar of Events

All ARHS 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.

- Friday January 4** **Sheila Stevenson and Steven Archibald:** Incidental Encounters with some Turkish flora
Jenny Sandison: Japan, Gardens of the Shoguns.
Travel with some of our members to far off places.
- Tuesday February 5** **John Brett:** The making of the Dick Steele Garden; how neighbourhood green spaces can be created where there's a will.

Ken Shannik: slides of plants in the Preordered Spring Sale.
- Tuesday March 4** **Lloyd Mapplebeck:** Perennials, old favourites and new introductions. Lloyd is a lecturer at the Agricultural College in Truro and runs Hillendale Nursery.
- Tuesday April 1** **Peter Korn:** Alpines. Peter is from Sweden and is on tour in our area at this time. Fortunately for us he can fit us into his schedule.
- Tuesday May 6** **May Meeting Sale.** A very popular event. Gymnasium, LeMarchant-St.Thomas School. If you are a seller you must be a paid-up member and your plants for sale should be unusual or difficult to obtain.

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 ARHS events, in order to minimize the risk of allergic reactions.



A very warm welcome to our new and returning ARHS members who have joined since the October Newsletter.

Bates, Jennifer
Berg, Harold
Bolduc, Robert
Chapman, Gary
Crowell, Linda
Dooley, Elizabeth
Hartnett, Bernice

Dartmouth
Rochester, MI, USA
Senneville, PQ
Springhill
Upper Tantallon
Halifax
Bedford

Holt, Alyce
Lawrence, Ian and Valerie
Linton, Deborah
Perkins, Sally and John
Punch, Pamela
Underwood, Dawn

Oakfield
Granville Ferry
Dartmouth
Salem, NH, USA
Halifax
Halifax

☼☼☼

Special Notices

Tissue Culture Pickup 2008

Tissue Culture plants will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews School, 6955 Bayers Road, Halifax. All those who have ordered plants please make arrangements to have your order picked up at that time. There are usually extra plants available.

For more information please contact Audrey Fralic at 683-2711 or alfralic @ excite.com.

Peter Korn, our April Speaker

Peter Korn, a plantsman from Sweden, is touring eastern Canada sponsored by the North American Rock Garden Society. On April 5 he will also give a talk to the Nova Scotia chapter of that Society.

Peter is engaged in building a two acre private botanical garden where he tries everything: “alpines, orchids, bulbs, trees, cacti and mostly everything else.” He travels widely in Scandinavia and Scotland as a speaker. He often builds new rock gardens and peat gardens.

We look forward to his talk on April 1.

ARHS Activities

The highlight this fall was the opening of The Dick Steele Garden in Boulderwood. Jenny Sandison has written about the garden in an article elsewhere in this issue.

In September, after the AGM, Cora Swinamer presented her Introduction to Growing Rhododendrons, a program she designed so that any member of the ARHS could present it to a garden club. Cora and her program had an enthusiastic reception.

In October the twenty-first annual Steele lecture was held in honour of Dick Steele. Sally and John Perkins from New Hampshire brought their insights into growing rhodos in a cold climate to a packed auditorium.

Bernard Jackson from Truro was the November speaker, telling us about the success of the rock garden at the Agricultural College. His slides were exciting, luring us all to visit the garden in the spring.

The Christmas party was a success as usual, but we missed those out of town members who were unable to come because of the weather. However, we were happy to welcome back Philip MacDougall who showed us slides of his recent trip to Tasmania. Once again, Ken Shannik donated a live Christmas arrangement to be raffled, the proceeds to Feed Nova Scotia.

The fee structure for our members who wish also to belong to the American Rhododendron Society was revised. The total amount (C\$57 and C\$61) is sent by our membership chair to the Rhododendron Society of Canada (chapter 12 of the ARS) which then returns the fee for our local Society to us. In order to receive our full \$20 rebate, it was necessary to change the total amounts. See inside front cover. ☐

Plant Portraits

Actaea pachypoda (Dolls' Eyes)



Actaea pachypoda . [Photo Chris Helleiner]

The common name of this Nova Scotia native comes from the appearance of the berries: they look like the eyes of old-fashioned dolls, shiny white with a black dot at the end of the fruit, formed by the persistent stigma. *Pachypoda* refers to the thickened pedicel, bright red, that supports the berries. The plants are perhaps thirty centimetres high, with divided dark green leaves.

The flower spikes of dolls' eyes are inconspicuous, creamy white in colour, but the berries make quite a splash in the garden. This year the berries on our plants were in good

shape throughout October and into November. This is a shade plant; we have it under a tall witch hazel where it seems quite content. It gets a mulch of bark, a bit of fertilizer and an occasional watering in dry spells.

There is another native *Actaea*, *Actaea rubra* with red berries. The plant and the flowers are very similar to *pachypoda*, but the fruit is shining red. It is not as useful in the garden as dolls' eyes because the berries appear earlier in the summer and do not persist. They are brilliant while they last, however.

Actaea rubra has a white form, (*f. neglecta*) which I have grown, but it is not as effective as *pachypoda*, lacking both the black dot and the red pedicel. *Pachypoda* is said to also come in a red form (*f. rubrocarpa*). I have never seen it but it should be spectacular.

Both *Actaeas* are poisonous.

It is quite easy to grow these plants from seed, although this involves a certain amount of trouble. Like many native plants, they germinate best if sown immediately on ripening. The flesh is removed from the berries and the seeds are washed in a detergent solution daily for a week, before planting. They should then germinate the following spring, though I think some of mine took two years to sprout and several more to reach blooming size. The *Actaeas* are interesting plants and well worth the wait.

-- Mary Helleiner

2008 ARHS Seed Exchange

By Sharon Bryson, Seed Exchange Chair

Welcome to the 2008 Seed Exchange for the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society. Our exchange this year is a bit lower in numbers, but still exhibits many interesting choices. We wish to thank the many contributors who have made this possible. Plant enthusiasts outside of our regional society have again made contributions to our annual exchange.

All are encouraged to give some of the native species a try. Pictures and links will be available online. One interesting contribution to which we would like to draw special attention is the tree peony (*Paeonia suffruticosa* v. *spontanea*) contributed by Stefan Mattson of Sweden. Peony seeds do seem to benefit from fresh seeding, so we plan to pre-treat some to see if the ultimate germination success will be enhanced. The warm, radicle-sprouting period, followed by a cold treatment is difficult to manage in seeds stored until late winter/early spring. Hopefully this little experiment will result in better late summer sprouting. There are also seeds of the Himalayan Blue Poppy (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*) this year. We will have cultural information attached to the online list. The original article written by Sterling Levy was in the May, 2003 Newsletter.

The deadline for submitting the members-only order is Feb 29, 2008. Please remember 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 make a small "editorial decision"!

We are again anxious to encourage people to try growing Rhododendrons and Azaleas from seed. Anyone who needs information on Growing Rhododendrons from Seed is encouraged to check out the CD from the ARHS library. Online information is available at both the Atlantic Rhodo and the Willow Garden websites. To this purpose we are offering a FREE package of seed to anyone interested, whether or not you order any other seeds. This is noted in the seed list. Please send the order form and \$2 to cover postage in the usual way. If you need further planting instructions, please ask.

At the end of each Seed Exchange there are inevitably left-over seeds. We still have found no predictable or useful method to make good use of these seeds, but welcome suggestions.

Once again we will post the Seed List on the Internet and insert many images and links to help in your decision-making. Check this out at <http://www.willowgarden.net> Follow the links for ARHS Seed Exchange. A link to the list will be inserted on the AtlanticRhodo site. www.atlanticrhodo.org

The Seed Exchange will be open to “the world at large” after our Feb.29 closing date, and last until April 30, 2008. Stories of your past successes and/or failures with seed growing are most interesting and welcome. Try contributing to the “interest factor” this year.

Comments or suggestions regarding the Seed Exchange are also encouraged. You can send a note with your order or email sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca ☺

ARHS 2008 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 29, 2008.** Save this seed list for some of the footnote information.

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.

US regulations now require an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate. Seeds sent to the US will be shipped without a phytosanitary certificate and at the orderer’s risk.

DONORS: **BIR** - Jens Birck, Copenhagen, Denmark **CLY** - Bruce Clyburn, New Waterford, NS **CRA** - Don Craig, Centerville, NS **CRE** - Mike Creel, Lexington, SC, USA **DOI** - Yasuyuki Doi, Hokkaido, Japan **HAR** - Joe Harvey, Victoria, BC **HYA** - Don Hyatt, McLean, VA, USA **LOO** - Jack Looye, Niagara on the Lake, ON **MAC** - Philip MacDougall, Surrey, BC **MAT** - Stefan Mattson, Enkoping, Sweden **OST** - Walter Ostrom, Halifax, NS **SHA** - Ken Shannik, Halifax, NS **STA** - Barry Starling, Exeter, Devon, England **STE** - Sheila Stevenson, Ferguson’s Cove, NS **THE** - Kristian Theqvist, Finland **WEA** - John Weagle, Halifax, NS **WIL** - Bill Wilgenhof, Antigonish, NS

Rhododendron Species – Collected Wild - \$2.50

001 HYA *arborescens* Compact white - Collected wild, Macon County, North Carolina

002 HYA *calendulaceum* Engine Gap, NC Appalachian Trail in the Roan Highlands

003 HYA *calendulaceum* Mix (wide variation: yellow, orange, to red) collected wild, NC 2006

004 MAC *morii* Taiping Shan, Taiwan, 2007

005 MAC *morii* x *pachysanthum*, Taiwan, 2007

006 STA *nipponicum*

007 MAC *pseudochrysanthum* Taiwan, 3200m, 29/10/07

008 MAC *pseudochrysanthum* Huheun Shan, Taiwan, 08/10/07

009 MAC *rubrospilousum* Taiwan, 05/10/07

010 MAC *rubrospilousum* Taiwan, 2007

011 STA *wadanum* (deciduous azalea)

012 HYA *vaseyi* Mix - Collected wild, Transylvania County, North Carolina

Rhododendron Species - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

013 DOI *dauricum* v. *nana* Dwarf, red-purple flower

014 DOI *dauricum* v. *nana* Dwarf, pink flower

015 DOI *dauricum* v. *nana* Semi-dwarf, white flower

016 DOI *mucronulatum* v. *ciliatum*, Good flower

017 BIR *makinoi* Tysk x *makinoi* Kew

018 BIR *recurvoides* Windsor x *recurvoides* RBGE

019 BIR *thomsonii* Sofiero x *thomsonii* cw Bhutan

Rhododendron Species - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

020 WIL *canadense* (Native Rhodora) - fuchsia

021 WEA *canadense* ‘Alba’ - white version of native Rhodora

022 WIL *maximum*, Pinker form

023 WEA *mucronulatum* v. *taguetii*, dwarf form

024 CRE *periclymenoides* Flat Creek Fuchsia

025 HYA *prunifolium* Orange-red Garden plant (selfed?)

026 CRA *schlippenbachii*

027 WIL *schlippenbachii*, pinker form

028 OST *vaseyi*, pink-lavender, good form

029 HYA *vaseyi*

030 HAR *yakushmanum* ‘Exbury’

Rhododendron Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

031 DOI (*aureum* x *wardii*) x *lacteum* RSF

032 DOI *brachycarpum* v. *roseum* x *campanulatum* v. *aeruginosum*

033 DOI *elliottii* SHE10 x *brachycarpum* v. *roseum*

034	DOI	'Glendoick Velvet' x <i>brachycarpum</i> v. <i>roseum</i> blue-purple flower		
035	DOI	('Hotei' x <i>aureum</i>) x <i>lacteam</i> RSF deep yellow flower, small tree	092	WIL ex 'Mist Maiden', yak hybrid
036	BIR	(<i>aureum</i> x <i>horaeum</i>) x <i>prorum</i>	093	WIL 'Nepal' - hardy, pink buds opening white
037	BIR	'Bambi' x <i>horaeum</i>	094	WIL 'Red River' - very late red, <i>R. maximum</i> hybrid
038	BIR	('Bambi' x <i>proteoides</i>) #17 x <i>haematodes</i> FCC		Rhododendron Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50
039	BIR	('Bambi' x <i>proteoides</i>) #17 x rex		
040	STA	<i>brachycarpum</i> Tigerstedtii x 'Lava Flow'		
041	STA	<i>brachycarpum</i> Tigerstedtii x <i>niveum</i> (exceptionally dark form selected by BS)		Azalea Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00
042	BIR	<i>bureavii</i> x <i>haematodes</i> FCC	095	CRE <i>flammeum</i> RedBank 3 x red <i>flammeum</i>
043	THE	'Calsap' x 'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' †1, cp †18		Azalea Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50
044	CLY	'Capistrano' x 'Phipp's Yellow'	096	CRE 'Between2Roads' <i>periclymenoides</i> / <i>canescens</i> natural hybrid Pink, ball-shaped truss, tubular florets
045	CLY	<i>R. catawbiense</i> 'U.Paim' x <i>R. rex</i> †2	097	WIL ex 'Homebush'
046	THE	'Charme La' †3, selfed, cp †18	098	WIL Seedlings from a 'Homebush' cross, many pink forms
047	LOO	'Cherokee' †4 x 'Casanova'	099	WIL ex 'July Jester', vivid reddish-orange flowers, medium height - late blooming †15
048	LOO	'Cherokee' x 'Rio'	100	WIL Unnamed - Yellow, small florets, likely <i>luteum</i> mix, good fall colour
049	CLY	'Connecticut Yankee' x 'Montego'	101	WIL Unnamed scarlet, large flowers
050	BIR	<i>dauricum</i> v. <i>album</i> x <i>dendrocharis</i> (pink)	102	WIL Deciduous mix - coral, white, pink, and yellow shades FREE
051	LOO	('Double Charm' †5 x 'Sweet Lulu') x 'Casanova'		Companion Plants - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50
052	BIR	'Fantastika' x (<i>aureum</i> x 'Prelude') Bpt#80-5	103	MAC <i>Arisaema taiwanense</i> cw Taiwan, 02/10/07
053	BIR	'Goldprinz' x (<i>aureum</i> x 'Prelude') Bpt#80-5	104	MAC <i>Arisaema taiwanense</i> cw Taiwan, 05/10/07
054	BIR	'Goldzauber' x ('Bambi' x <i>proteoides</i>)#16	105	WIL <i>Catalpa ovata</i> (Chinese catalpa) - creamy white flowers, blooms at young age, 35-40' - Tree
055	BIR	'Goldsprengel' x (<i>aureum</i> x 'Prelude') Bpt #80-5	106	SHA <i>Clematis fargesii</i> ssp. <i>souliei</i> (<i>potaninii</i>) - white flowers, summer blooming - Vine
056	THE	'Hellikki' †6 x 'Henry's Red' †7, hp	107	SHA <i>Clematis flammula</i> - masses of fragrant white flowers in fall, very vigorous - Vine
057	THE	'Hellikki' x 'Rasputin' †8, cp	108	WIL <i>Clematis recta</i> , <i>purpurea</i> - Purple new foliage, white flowers Herbaceous 3Ft+ - Per.
058	THE	'Helsinki University' †9 x <i>longesquamatum</i> ,	109	WIL <i>Clematis tangutica</i> - yellow lantern-shaped flowers, fluffy seed-heads - Vine
059	BIR	<i>kesangiae</i> x 'Great Dane'	110	SHA <i>Clematis viorna</i> - small, thick, purple-pink, urn-shaped flowers - Herbaceous
060	BIR	'Lucinda' x (<i>aureum</i> x Prelude) Bpt#80-5	111	SHA <i>Cornus mas</i> Comelian Cherry. Small tree- yellow flowers in early spring followed by red fruit. - Tree
061	LOO	'Mrs.Richard Fennicia' †10 x 'Rio'	112	MAC <i>Hydrangea anomala</i> cw Taiwan, 2007
062	BIR	'Napoli' x 'Abraxas'	113	MAC <i>Hydrangea aspera</i> cw Taiwan, 2007
063	CLY	'Normandy' x <i>R. calophytum</i>	114	MAC <i>Hydrangea angustipetala</i> - very large bracts cw Taiwan, 2007
064	BIR	'Norph' x (<i>aureum</i> x 'Prelude') Bpt#80-5	115	WIL <i>Kalmia latifolia</i> Mix -red/pink shades Shrub
065	BIR	'Norph' x ('Bambi' x <i>proteoides</i>) #16	116	SHA <i>Lilium canadense</i> - Waxy orange flowers with green center and reflexed petals. Arching stems. - Bulb
066	BIR	'Paprika Spiced' x <i>prorum</i> wb	117	SHA <i>Lilium henryi</i> - Waxy orange flowers with green center and reflexed petals. Arching stems. - Bulb
067	THE	'Pekka' †11 x <i>hemsleyanum</i> , cp	118	WIL <i>Lilium martagon</i> Pink drooping recurved blooms - earliest lily - Bulb
068	THE	'Pekka' x <i>insigne</i> , cp	119	CRA Magnolia ex 'Ivory Chalice' †16 †17
069	THE	'Pekka' x <i>longesquamatum</i> , cp	120	WIL <i>Magnolia kobus</i> hyb. ex. 'Leonard Messel' Pink flowers, early spring - Small tree †17
070	THE	'Pekka' x <i>prattii</i> , cp	121	WIL <i>Magnolia stellata</i> (Star Magnolia) Dwarf form white blooms, early spring - Tree †17
071	THE	'Pekka' x <i>taliense</i> , cp	122	CRA <i>Magnolia sieboldii</i> †17
072	THE	'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' x 'Calsap', cp	123	WEA <i>Magnolia sieboldii</i> from cw. Korean seed, white with pink stamens. Large flowered and vigorous - Tree †17
073	HAR	<i>pseudochrysanthum</i> x <i>metternichii</i>	124	WEA <i>Magnolia sieboldii</i> , 'Wainwright form' sibling to cw. Korean, white with pink stamens. Large flowered and vigorous - Tree †17
074	LOO	'Purple Reign' †12 x 'Blue Baron'	125	SHA <i>Meconopsis betonicifolia</i> - Himalayan Blue Poppy - Perennial (cultural instructions online)
075	BIR	'Recital' x (<i>aureum</i> x 'Prelude') Bpt#80-5		
076	BIR	'Recital' x 'Top Banana' x <i>proteoides</i> R.151		
077	CLY	'Red River' x 'Babylon'		
078	CLY	'Russell Harmon' x (<i>R. fortunei</i> x <i>R. fictolacteam</i> †13).		
079	BIR	<i>rex</i> x 'Great Dane'		
080	THE	'St. Michel' †14 x <i>hemsleyanum</i> , cp		
081	THE	'St. Michel' x <i>prattii</i> , cp		
082	BIR	'Topsi' x <i>haematodes</i> FCC		
083	BIR	<i>wardii</i> (flat flower) x ('Bambi' x <i>proteoides</i>) #16		
084	LOO	'Wizard' x 'Capistrano'		
085	HAR	<i>yakushmanum</i> 'Exbury' x <i>roxieanum</i> Oreonastes		
086	HAR	<i>yakushmanum</i> 'Exbury' x <i>degronianum</i>		
087	HAR	<i>yakushmanum</i> 'Exbury' x <i>roxieanum</i> Cucullatum		
88	DOI	<i>yakushmanum</i> FCC x <i>kesangiae</i> , beautiful large tree-like <i>R. hodgsonii</i> , large leaves with indumentum - deep pink or red-purple flower. Pollen from Bhutan 3300M		
089	BIR	<i>yakushmanum</i> 'Schneekissen' (dwarf) x <i>proteoides</i> R.151		
090	BIR	<i>yakushmanum</i> 'Schneekissen' (dwarf) x (<i>aureum</i> x 'Prelude') Bpt#80-5		
091	BIR	<i>yakushmanum</i> 'Schneekissen' (dwarf) x 'Black Adder'		

- 126 SHA *Paeonia paradoxa (officinalis ssp villosa)* - Single bright fuchsia pink flowers with blue-green foliage, 18-24" - Perennial
- 127 MAT *Paeonia suffruticosa v. spontanea* - Tree Peony Growing instructions online. - Perennial
- 128 SHA *Stewartia pseudocamellia* White camellia-like flowers in summer. Beautiful exfoliating bark - Tree
- 129 STE *Trosteum pinnatifidum* - Oak-leaf hydrangea-like foliage clasping the stems and topped with clusters of white flushed pink berries. Sun to part-shade. 18-24" -Perennial

- †14. registered as 'Hardy Giant' 'St. Michel', (also known as 'Mikkeli'), super hardy Finnish *brachycarpum ssp. tigerstedtii* x *smirnowii* hybrid
- †15. 'July Jester' = (*R. prunifolium* 'S. D. Coleman' x *R. cumberlandense* 'Scarlet Salute')
- †16. Magnolia x 'Ivory Chalice' Mature Ht/Wd: 18'/10'. Large goblets of pure ivory blooms appear before the foliage in early to mid spring. Very stingy seed production. Hybrid (*M. acuminata* x *M. denudata*) created by David Leach
- †17. Magnolia seed has been stratified. Store in fridge in plastic packet as received until March/April then sow in warm soil.
- †18. cp = Controlled Pollination, where stigmas have been protected before and after pollination. Exception: 'Hellikki' x 'Henry's Red' was hand-pollinated on wet non-covered stigmas.

FOOTNOTES

- †1. 'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' (also known as 'Peter Tigerstedt'), super hardy Finnish hybrid
- †2. note fr. B. Clyburn: A seedling of the species represented in the Dr. U. Paim garden, Fredericton, New Brunswick. His plant passed -30F and had full trusses. My plant hasn't seen that extreme temperature, but winters when I see a few blown pips on Joe Gable's 'Catalgl', this selection has no damage.....a hardier cat form
- †3. 'Charme La', large pinkish-purple flowers, Brueckner's lepidote hybrid *minus* Carolinianum Group x *pemakoense* Patulum Group
- †4. 'Cherokee' = a plant of the Hages, has large orange-rose flowers
- †5. 'Double Charm' = 'Queen Annes' x 'Golden Star'
- †6. 'Hellikki', red flowered hardy Finnish hybrid, *smirnowii* Seidel hybrid x unknown
- †7. 'Henry's Red', red *catawbiense* seedling x unknown
- †8. 'Rasputin', Hachmann's dark flowered cross = ('Nova Zembla' x 'Purple Splendour') x 'Purple Splendour'
- †9. 'Helsinki University', super hardy Finnish *brachycarpum ssp. tigerstedtii* hybrid
- †10. 'Mrs. R. Fennicia' is a Smirfort (*smirnowii* x *fortunei*) with peachy-salmon flowers
- †11. 'Pekka', super-hardy Finnish *brachycarpum ssp. tigerstedtii* x *smirnowii* hybrid, strong growth
- †12. 'Purple Reign' = ('Tet. Carol. x *fastigium*') x ('Tet. Carol. x 'Blue Diamond') / 'Tet. Carol. = tetraploid *carolinianum*
- †13. *R. fortunei* x *R. fictolacteam* is the Knippenberg hybrid

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.
2. The 2008 Seed List will be posted on the Internet with insertion of images and links to help in your decision-making. <http://www.willowgarden.net> Follow the links for ARHS Seed Exchange. A link to the list will be inserted on the Atlantic Rhodo site. www.atlanticrhodo.org
3. See the RSCAR Members' Handbook for an article on growing rhododendrons from seed. The article can also be found on our website.
4. When sowing rhododendrons on peat we recommend you sterilize it first. Microwave it for 15 minutes or pour boiling water through it several times. Allow to cool.
5. 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. ☺

SPRING 2008 ADVANCE PLANT SALE FOR MEMBERS

Members only may pre-order from the following list. A few are noted "Public Sale Only" and can not be pre-ordered. These can only be purchased at the public sale in May. Those indicated as "Yr. Olds" are year old custom rooted cuttings and may be small.

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. Any surplus will be divided up amongst multiple orders. Please complete the enclosed order form and return it before March 21, 2008. (Orders from new members will be accepted after this date.)

Please note that the mark-up on these plants is minimal. For this reason we are not able to provide a warrantee with the plants.

Plants are to be picked up at 5 Sime Ct., Halifax, NS on Saturday, May 3, 2008 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 on this date will be offered for sale at the public May Plant Sale.

LEPIDOTE RHODODENDRONS

R. *ambiguum* - A species in the Triflora subsection with lax trusses of pale yellow flowers with darker spotting. Dark green foliage. Upright dense habit to 4'(1.2m) high or more. Hardy to at least -5°F(-21°C). **A few only.** (Yr. Olds - \$12.00)

R. 'Anneke Plazek' - [(*carolinianum* x white *dauricum*) x (white *dauricum* x white *mucronulatum*)] Very early large frilled flowers in ball-shaped trusses are pink in bud and open white with a pink flush. To 6'(1.8m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide in 15 years. Very hardy - buds to -25°F(-32°C) and the plant to at least -30°F(-34°C). A beautiful and very hardy Hinton hybrid from Ontario. **Public Sale Only.** (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. 'April Mist' - [(*carolinianum* v. *album* x *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink') x *dauricum* v. *album*)]F2 Double soft pink flowers with darker pink edges - its large 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. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'April Rose' - [(*carolinianum* v. *album* x *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink')F2 x (*dauricum* v. *album* x *dauricum*)F2] A floriferous and very early Mehlquist hybrid. Strong reddish-purple double flowers provide a much needed brilliant early splash of colour. Reddish-bronze fall colour. Retains a few leaves over winter. Compact broad-upright habit to 5'(1.5m) high and wide in many years. Requires very good drainage. Zone 5. An ARHS "Top Ten" lepidote. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

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'(0.9m) 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. 'Bluenose' - ('Russautinii' x *dauricum* Sempervirens Group) 2"(5cm) 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. **Public Sale Only** (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. *campylogynum* hybrid? - A Dean Barber hybrid - probably involving *R. campylogynum*. Small pale pink flowers are funnel-shaped with rounded recurved lobes resembling those of *R. campylogynum*. Grown from cuttings provided by John & Sally Perkins. Size and habit unknown. Hardy to a least Zone 6. (Yr. Olds - \$12.00)

R. *impeditum* - A very dwarf species to 12"(0.3m) high x 24"(0.6m) wide. A parent of 'Ramapo' and 'Purple Gem', it has tiny green foliage with brown scales. Many plants offered as this species are - and these may be as well - *R. fastigiatum* which have glaucous blue-green leaves and opaque scales. Early, royal purple flowers. Zone 5b or colder. (1 gal. - 20.00)

R. 'Isola Bella' - (*fletcherianum* 'Yellow Bunting' x *dauricum* v. *album* 'Arctic Pearl' selfed) A Brueckner hybrid, once known as "Mabel R." Beautiful dark green distinct foliage with excellent winter leaf retention. Peach buds open pastel pink and fade to white. Smashing, floriferous and very early. To 5'(1.5m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide with a dense, upright-spreading habit. Bud hardy to -5°F(-20°C) - plant much hardier. Zone 6. **Public Sale Only** (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. *impeditum* Litangense Group (*R. litangense*) - Once considered a separate species this plant is now lumped in with *R. impeditum* but is more upright in habit with longer leaves. Same early royal purple flowers. Zone 5b or colder. (1 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. 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) wide. A Weston hybrid hardy to -20°F(-29°C). (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Legacy' - ('April Glory' x 'Princess Susan') Double rose-purple flowers, similar to R. 'April Rose', but larger grace this Weston hybrid. Early blooming. Plant habit is similar to 'PJM'. Vigorous & dense. Mahogany winter foliage. To 4'(1.2m) high x 3'(0.9m) wide in 7 years. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C). (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Manitou' - A 'Conestoga' (*carolinianum* x *racemosum*) hybrid. Golden orange buds open to clear, light pink & fade to creamy white. This one covers itself in bloom every year. Early. Bronzy foliage in winter. A semi-dwarf with a dense, compact habit. To 18"(0.45m) high. Zone 5. An ARHS "Top Ten" lepidote. (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. Ethereal in the fog! Golden yellow fall colour. Upright willowy habit to 9'(2.7m) high. Requires excellent drainage. Zone 5. **Public Sale Only** (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Olga Mezitt' - (*minus* var *minus* Compact Form x *dauricum* hybrid) A Weston hybrid with masses of ball-shaped trusses of clear pink flowers that do not fade. Blooms slightly later than PJM. Dark green foliage turns bronzy-copper in the fall. Shiny green foliage. Dense-mounded-upright habit 4'(1.2m) high and 3'(0.9m) wide in 10 years. Hardy to -25°F(-32°C). (2 gal. - \$20.00)

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 and ideal for the rock garden or small spaces. A beautiful Cox hybrid. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$20.00/3 gal. - \$60.00)

ELEPIDOTE RHODODENDRONS

R. [(*brachycarpum* x *aureum*) x *caloxanthum*] ('Ostrom's Yellow') - An as yet un-named Ostrom hybrid with early trusses of yellow flowers. Floriferous. Beautiful dark green and glossy foliage. Very dense, low-growing mounded habit. Zone 6, possibly colder. **A few only.** (Year Olds - \$12.00)

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. Zone 5. An ARHS "Top Ten" elepidote and a real showstopper. **Public Sale Only** (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. 'Crispy' - ('Oh My!' selfed) A second generation "Smiryak", this Delp hybrid has pale purple-pink frilled flowers edged dark purple-pink and deep red spotting. The flowers are held in large rounded truss of 18. Dark green foliage with tan indumentum. Upright habit to 7'(2.1m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide in 25 years. Zone 5b. **Public Sale Only** (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. 'Delp's Sunsheen' - {'Sweet Lulu' x [*vernicosum* aff. x (Neried Group' x *fortunei* ssp. *discolor*)]} A beautiful hybrid with lax trusses of pale yellow flowers flushed pink and heavily spotted reddish-pink. Shiny yellow-green foliage on a compact plant to 4'(1.2m) high in 10 years. Zone 6. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. *elegantulum* - A beautiful species in the Taliensia Subsection. Narrow spear-shaped foliage has very thick fawn-pink indumentum aging to cinnamon brown. Flowers are pale pink with darker spotting. Floriferous at a young age. Dense mounded habit to 4'(1.2m) high. Choice. Zone 6. (5 gallon - \$80.00)

R. 'Eruption' - ('Tarantella' x 'Seestadt Bremerhaven') A Hachmann hybrid with full trusses of stunning deep rose-red flowers with ivory centres. Compact habit to 4'(1.2m) high in 10 years. Rated hardy to -10°F(-23°C) but untried here. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Fantastica' - ('Mars' x *yakushmanum* 'Koichiro Wada') Large trusses of bicoloured flowers with bright red margins and pastel pink centres grace this very showy Hachmann hybrid. Vigorous & floriferous. Long, narrow indumented leaves. Compact, low mounding habit to 3'(0.9m) high. Zone 5b. **Public Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Haaga' - (*brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* x 'Dr. H.C. 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). **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Hachmann's Kabarett' - ('Hyperion' x 'Hachmann's Diadem') Full rounded trusses of very frilly soft lilac-pink flowers with a large dark burgundy blotch grace this hybrid. Deep green foliage on plant with a rounded habit to 4'(1.2m) high and wide. Rated hardy to -11°F(-24°C) but untried here. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Hawaii' - A Leach hybrid with large 3" bright reddish-pink flowers in dome-shaped trusses. Very floriferous. Grows to 4'(1.2m) high and wide in 10 years with a dense rounded habit and good foliage. Zone 5. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Hayden #1' - Probably hybridized by Dean Barber in New Hampshire using Dexter hybrids. Foliage is Dexter-like with obvious fortunei influence. Flowers are pale pink and very large. Floriferous and probably fragrant. Tall and broad growing. Zone 5. **A few only. (Yr. Olds - \$12.00)**

R. 'Hayden #2' - Another clone very similar in appearance to "Hayden #1. **A few only. (Yr. Olds - \$12.00)**

R. 'Hellikki' - (open pollinated seedling of a *R. smirnowii* hybrid) Dark red-violet flowers on a plant to 5'(1.5m) high with a dense rounded habit. New leaves are indumented turning green with age. An extremely hardy hybrid from Finland. Hardy to -34°C(-29°F). **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Henry's Red' - A very hardy Weston hybrid with dark blood-red flowers held in tight trusses against dark green foliage. Free-flowering. Broad, irregular open habit to 5'(1.5m) high and wide in 10 years. Always in demand. Zone 5. **Public Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. ('Hesperia' x 'Pebble Beach')#8 - A Dean Barber hybrid with frilled blush-pink flowers and a large prominent burgundy blotch. Dark green foliage. Habit and size not known. Zone 6 and probably colder. **A few only. (Yr. Olds - \$12.00)**

R. 'Ingrid Mehlquist' - ('Besse Howells' x *yakushmanum*) Pink flowers in tight round trusses quickly fade to white dotted with burgundy. The trusses sit elegantly & upright on the foliage - small but very graceful. Floriferous. Very attractive foliage with light indumentum. Compact, well-branched, rounded-spreading habit to 3'(0.9m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide in 25 years. Zone 5. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Janet Blair' - Large, pale pink, flowers with ruffled edges and a large gold-green flare. Fragrant. Dark glossy green foliage. Vigorous with a rounded, dense, well-branched habit. To 6'(1.8m) high and spreading wider. Zone 6. An ARHS "Top Ten" lepidote. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'John T. Meagher' - (*brachycarpum* Tigerstedtii Group x Mrs. T.H. Lowinsky') Large trusses of white flowers with a dark brown blotch sit on top of lush shiny dark green foliage. Dense habit to 5'(1.5m) high x 8'(2.4m) wide in 10 years. Grown by the late John Meagher from a cross by Dave Hinton. Buds are hardy to -10°F(-23°C), possibly colder if brief. **Public Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)**

R. *makinoi* - An excellent foliage plant, this fine species has dark green leaves that are long, narrow, and pointed. Their undersides are covered with thick tawny indumentum. Flowers are clear, light pink and very late as is the new growth. Dense, well-branched, rounded habit to 3'(1.5m) high. Zone 6. Requires a bit of lime to prevent yellow leaves. **(2 gal. - \$40.00)**

R. 'Mary Craig' - ('Goldsworth's Yellow' x *degronianum*) A Kentville hybrid bred by George Swain and named by Dr. Craig in honour of his wife. Early blooming with pink flowers emerging from dark pink buds. Semi-dwarf with a compact habit. Zone 5b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Oregon Expressions' - ('Catalgl'a' x 'Exotica') A Tom Ring hybrid with domed-shaped trusses of large 3" pale pink flowers with a vivid yellow flare. Said to be similar to 'Rio' in flower but a better performer. Vigorous. Grows to 10'(3.0m) high and wide in 25 years. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Red Hot Mamma' - ['Anna Hardgrove' x {'America' x 'Blaze'} x 'Red Brave']#2 x 'Delp's Cindy Lou'] A Tom Ring hybrid grown by Delp. Flowers are dark blood red and are born in conical trusses. Late-blooming. Grows to 3'(0.9m) high and wide in 10 years. Zone 6b, possibly colder. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Skookum' - [*yak* x 'Mars' x 'America'] Dome-shaped trusses of bright red flowers. Buds freely from a young age. Compact habit forming a dense mound of dark green foliage. To 4'(1.2m) high and wide. Best sited where protected from winter sun and wind. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(4" Qt pots - \$12.00)**

R. 'Teddy Bear' - ("Lem's bureavii" x *yakushmanum*) Exceptional foliage is dark lustrous green with incredible thick rust - coloured indumentum. Flowers are white blushed pink in large dome-shaped trusses. Free-flowering & early. Dense foliage on a compact, rounded, spreading plant. Grows to 5'(1.5m) high. Zone 5. **(3 gal. - \$60.00)**

R. *thomsonii* - A species with beautiful dark green rounded foliage. Early-blooming with dark red bell-shaped flowers held in loose lax trusses. Early blooming. Smooth cinnamon-coloured peeling bark. Upright habit to 5'(1.5m) in 10 years. Only for the collector in mildest areas. Zone 7? **A Few Only. (2 gal. - \$40.00)**

R. 'Vernus' - (red-flowered catawbiense hybrid x 'Cunningham's White') Star-shaped shell-pink flowers in dome-shaped trusses. Very early flowering. Upright open habit to 5'(1.5m) high and wide. A Shamarello/Leach hybrid. Zone 5. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Virginia Delp' - ('Kristen' x 'Calsap') Large tall trusses of very large, pale lavender-pink flowers with a yellow blotch. Impressive and very large flower buds. To 4'(1.2m) high in 10 years. An Al Smith hybrid hardy to -20°F(-29°C). **(2 gal. - \$25.00)**

R. *yakushmanum* 'Mist Maiden' - If you were to grow only one rhododendron, this should be the one. This species (or possibly a hybrid) has long narrow leaves with tan-white indumentum. New growth is covered in silver tomentum. Its dense foliage covers a plant that is symmetrical and broadly mounded in shape. Its rosy-pink buds open to form large apple-blossom pink trusses fading to white. Slow-growing to 4'(1.2m) high x 11'(3.3m) wide in 30 years. Best in a half-day of sun. A proven performer. Zone 5. **(4" Qt pots. - \$12.00)**

EVERGREEN AZALEAS

Azalea 'Boudoir' - A tough Gable hybrid of unknown parentage. Flowers are large and described as "watermelon pink" with a dark blotch. Early blooming. Can grow to 5'(1.5m) high and wide. Very showy. Zone 5b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

A. 'Hino White Dwarf' – [(‘Hino Crimson’ x *poukhanense*) x ‘Desiree’] A smaller growing sport of the Shamarello’s ‘Hino White’ with its 2” pure white flowers and a plant growing only 1’(.3m) high x 2’(.6m) wide in 10 years. Spreading habit. Floriferous. Zone 6. **(1 gal. - \$15.00)**

R. *kiusianum* 'Betty Muir' - A vibrant pink selection of perhaps the best suited evergreen azalea species for our coastal climate. Requires good drainage and plenty of sun. Densely branched and twiggy with a tiered habit and remaining relatively low. Very floriferous - smothers itself in small vibrant pink flowers every year. Dark green foliage with excellent fall colour. Zone 6 but worth a try in Zone 5. Considered by some to be one of the best selections. **Public Sale Only. (2 gal. - \$25.00)**

R. *kiusianum* "Pink Form" - A selected pink form of perhaps the best suited evergreen azalea species for our coastal climate. Requires good drainage and plenty of sun. Densely branched and twiggy with a tiered habit and remaining relatively low. Very floriferous - smothers itself in small clear pink flowers every year. Excellent fall colour. Zone 6 but worth a try in Zone 5. **(1 gal. - \$15.00)**

Azalea 'Kathleen' (Dutch) - A beautiful, tall upright-growing *R. kaempferi* hybrid with large dark pink funnel-shaped flowers in profusion. Very showy. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Komo Kulshan' - A hybrid but often listed as a variety of *kiusianum*. Flowers are bicoloured - bright rose-red with light pink centres. Leaves are larger than *R. kiusianum*. Habit is larger and more vigorous growing 3-4’(9-1.2m) high and spreading broader. Beautiful burgundy fall colour. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Pink Clusters' - (open-pollinated *kiusianum* hybrid) A floriferous Weston hybrid with full trusses of small bright pink flowers lightly spotted with magenta. Good fall colour. Low growing and spreading habit to 2’(.3m) high and wide in 10 years. Zone 5b. **(1 gal. - \$15.00)**

Azalea 'Scotian Mirage'- {(‘Lady Louise’) x [(‘Lady Louise’ x (*nakaharai* Orange Form X *kiusianum* ‘Mt Fuji’)#1-1)]} Large flowers of the very palest white-lavender. Dense horizontal spreading habit to 16”(.4m) high x 32”(.8m) wide in 12 years. A late July blooming Weagle hybrid. Zone 6. **Public Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)**

Azalea 'Scotian Picotee' - {(‘Lady Louise’) x [(‘Lady Louise’ x (*nakaharai* Orange Form X *kiusianum* ‘Mt Fuji’)#1-1)]} Dense horizontal spreading habit to 16”(.4m) high x 32”(.8m) wide in 12 years. White with strong pink tips. A July blooming Weagle hybrid. Zone 6. **Public Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)**

Azalea 'Springtime' - (*poukhanense* x *kaempferi*)F2 A tough Gable hybrid with a profusion of 2” bright pink flowers with a darker blotch. Upright-spreading habit to 5’(1.5m) high. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea "Steele's Late and Lovely" - A charming Steele hybrid with a spreading, almost prostrate, habit. Large coral-pink flowers are born very late in the season - one of the last to bloom. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Wombat' - (*nakaharai* ‘Mariko’ x ‘Gaiety’) An excellent late Cox hybrid which produces a carpet of bright pink flowers with a slight blotch. Dense, very low spreading habit growing only 6”(.15m) high. Zone 6. **Public Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)**

DECIDUOUS AZALEAS

A. 'Arneson Flame' - A ‘dwarf’ hybrid growing only 16”(.4m) high x 2’(.6m) wide in 15 years. Floriferous from a young age with large flaming orange-red flowers in ball-shaped trusses. New foliage is flushed with red and ages to dark green. Dense habit. Disease resistant. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

A. 'Arneson Medallion' - Another ‘dwarf’ hybrid growing only 16”(.4m) high x 20”(.8m) wide in 15 years. Tubular funnel-shaped flowers are vivid reddish-orange and lightly scented. Dense habit. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

OTHER ERICACEOUS SHRUBS

***Calluna vulgaris* 'Blazeaway'** - (“Blazeaway” Scotch Heather) A striking cultivar with year-round interest. New growth is bright yellow maturing gold to mint green. Late summer flowers are lilac in colour. Winter foliage is a spectacular fiery orange-red. Grows to 16”(.4m) high x 2’(.6m) wide. Zone 5. **(1 gal. - \$15.00)**

***Erica carnea* 'Schneekuppe'** - (“Schneekuppe” Heath) (‘Snow Queen’ x ‘Springwood White’) A compact growing “Springwood White” growing only 4-6”(1-1.5m) high x 1’(.3m) wide making it an ideal specimen plant for the rock garden or small garden where massing isn’t needed. Pure white flowers in late winter/early spring with bright green foliage. Zone 5. **(1 gal. - \$15.00)**

***Kalmia latifolia* 'Pinwheel'** - (“Pinwheel” Mountain Laurel) A “banded” cultivar with flowers mostly cinnamon-maroon in colour with white margins, centre and veining - giving a “pinwheel” effect. Dark green evergreen foliage is disease resistant. Upright habit to 3.5’(1.05m) high x 3’(9m) wide in 10 years. Best in full sun but needs excellent drainage and protection from winter wind. Zone 5. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

***Leucothoe* 'Scarletta'** (syn. ‘Zeblid’) (Fetterbush) A evergreen shrub closely related to *Pieris* with panicles of fragrant, white, pieris-like flowers in spring. It is a suckering spreading shrub with thick arching stems of leathery dark green foliage. The jury is out on the parentage of this fine form - it can be found listed as a form of *L. fontanesiana*, *L. axillaris* and a hybrid of the two. It boasts bright red new foliage and spectacular brilliant burgundy-red winter colour given adequate sun. Growing only 2-3’(6-9m) high (and up to 6’(1.8m) across), it is of much smaller stature than most *L. fontanesiana* cultivars. For moist, well-drained soil in part to full shade but winter colour will be better given some sun. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(4" Qt pots - \$12.00)**

x *Phylliopsis hillieri* 'Pinocchio' - (*Phyllococe brewerii* x *Kalmiopsis leachiana*) Akin to ‘Coppelia’ and ‘Sugar Plum’ offered last year, this bi-generic hybrid offers the same narrow shiny dark green evergreen foliage like a heather on steroids. Spikes of dark pink bell-shaped flowers are borne above the foliage in spring. Grows only 6-10”(1.5-2m) x 18”(.45m) wide with a mounding habit. Floriferous. Great for the rock garden. Requires excellent drainage & full sun. Dislikes drought & high temperatures. Zone 6, possibly colder. Shear off spent flowers after blooming. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

***Pieris japonica* v. *yakushimanum* 'Cavatine'** - A genus of evergreen shrubs allied to rhododendrons with panicles of white, lily-of-the-valley-like flowers. This is one of a series which are “dwarf” or smaller growing and rated as one of the best. It forms a dense mound of dark green foliage reaching only 2-3’(6-9m) high and wide. Very floriferous. New growth is tinted bronze. Zone 6 but worth trying in colder areas with protection. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

***Clethra alnifolia* 'Sixteen Candles'** - (“Sixteen Candles” Summersweet) A low growing selection of this deciduous suckering shrub with small white flowers borne on stiffly upright 4-6” panicles - like candles. Summer-blooming, floriferous, highly fragrant and attracts butterflies. Foliage is a lustrous dark green turning golden-yellow in fall. Dense habit to 2.5’(75m) high x 3.5’(1.05m) wide in 10 years. Best in full sun. Zone 5. **(2 gal. - \$35.00)**

Cotinus coggygia 'Ancot' Golden Spirit - (Golden Spirit Smoke Bush) A new selection of this popular deciduous shrub with stunning bright yellow-green foliage throughout the summer turning orange-red in the fall. Grows to 8'(2.4m) or more high and wide but can be pruned to control size. Can be prone to winter dieback in cool summer climates so pruning is best done in spring. It is late to leaf out. Best in full sun. Zone 6. (4" Qt pots - \$15.00)

Daphne x medfordensis 'Lawrence Crocker' - (*arbuscula x collina*) A dwarf evergreen hybrid with glossy dark green foliage and fragrant lavender flowers in late spring and early summer and even into the fall. Dense mounding habit to 1'(.3m) high and spreading wider. Requires good drainage and protection from winter winds and sun. An excellent candidate for the rock garden or trough. Zone 6 with winter protection. (1 gal. - \$30.00)

Magnolia virginiana 'Henry Hicks' - (Henry Hicks Sweetbay Magnolia) An eastern US semi-evergreen magnolia species with lemon-scented 2-3" creamy white flowers in summer. Foliage is bright green with silver-white undersides. It is borderline hardy in the mildest parts of Nova Scotia and may be deciduous. It will require a protected site in full sun - preferable against a wall where it will benefit from the reflected heat in summer. Alternately it can be grown in a large tub and wintered indoors in a cold frost-free location. In our climate it is likely to become a multi-stemmed shrub. 'Henry Hicks' is purported to retain its leaves better in colder climates but is still apt to be deciduous here. For the collector or the adventurous. (4" Qt pots - \$20.00)

Schizophragma hydrangeoides 'Roseum' - A close relative of the climbing hydrangea, this deciduous woody vine can be grown up tree trunks, on a strong trellis, or left to scramble on banks or retaining walls. Foliage is a lush dark green. Fluffy "lacecap" type heads of fluffy pinkish-white flowers surrounded by large single-petalled sterile pale pink bracts. For sun to part-shade. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Syringa pubescens ssp. microphylla 'Superba' - (Superba Little Leaf Lilac) A blight & mildew-resistant lilac with small foliage which can develop burgundy tints in the fall. Its clear pink flowers are highly fragrant and are borne in profusion in late spring. Can rebloom in the fall. Grow up to 7'(2.1m) high and wider spreading with a dense mounded habit. Zone 6. (4" Qt pots - \$12.00)

TENDER CONTAINER PLANTS

Phormium 'Flamingo'- ("Flamingo" 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 smaller-growing phormium has arching strap-like foliage that is primarily shades of orange-pink, striped with pale yellow and grey-green towards the margins. Prune out any leaves which revert to a solid bronze colour. Grows to about 2'(.6m) high and wide. 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. (4" Qt pots - \$15.00)

Phormium 'Surfer Bronze' - Another New Zealand Flax, this one with narrow upright-twisted foliage of bronze-green with dark bronze-brown margins. Grows to 2'(.6m) high. Culture as above. (4" Qt pots - \$15.00)

PERENNIALS , FERNS & GRASSES

Carex x oshimensis 'Evergold' - (Evergold Japanese Sedge) A grass-like sedge with narrow arching creamy-yellow leaves edged dark green. Colour is best in part-shade. For moist to wet soils. Dislikes drought. Deciduous - cut back in early spring. Grows to 10"(.25m) high and twice as wide forming a dense mound. One of the nicest sedge selections. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Hakonechloa macra - (Japanese Forest Grass) The hard to find plain green form of this slow growing weeping grass. It looks like a miniature bamboo. Not invasive. More tolerant of full sun than the variegated and golden varieties. Very elegant and choice. Looks great arching out of a pot or over a wall. For sun or part-shade. To 16"(.4m) tall. Zone 6. (4" Qt pots - \$10.00)

Liriope spicata 'Silver Dragon' - (Silver Dragon Creeping Lilyturf) - A variegated selection of this spreading evergreen groundcover for sun to part shade. Long thin strap-like arching foliage is lush and a rich dark green striped with creamy-silver. It forms a 4"(.1m) high mat. 12"(.3m) spikes of fluffy pale lilac flowers appear in late summer. Cut back in early spring. For sun to part-shade. Zone 6, probably colder. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Polystichum polyplepharum - (Japanese Tassel Fern) Dark shiny green fronds - 1-2'(.3-.6m) long - are semi-evergreen. The unfurling tips of the new fronds droop resembling tassels, thus its common name. Eventually forms a vase-shaped clump to 2'(.6m) high and wide. Prefers rich, moist but not soggy soil in part shade. Choice. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$15.00) ☞

The Dick Steele Garden

By Jenny Sandison

On one of these wonderfully warm days we have been having this fall, I arrived at Halls Road to attend the opening of the new Dick Steele Garden. I was there to represent the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society as our president Sheila Stevenson and our past president Penny Gael were not able to attend. Lucky me! This proved to be a very special and meaningful event honouring one of our own in a very appropriate way.

Many years ago, in 1951, Kenneth and Barbara Hall bought the end lot on a new subdivision down in the Purcell's Cove area, and built a house overlooking Williams Lake. The road became designated Halls Road and other houses were built along it. In 1952 Captain Richard Steele bought and built on No. 6. He had always been interested in rhododendrons and was soon planting and growing many varieties, and growing species from seed, and crossing and creating his own hybrids. Some pollen to make the crosses came from around the world. Nova Scotia was obviously a good place to grow all kinds of rhododendrons.



Guests attending the opening of the Steele Garden. [Photos Mern O'Brien]

Eventually Dick ran out of space in his own garden and started asking his neighbours if he could just put some of his small plants in their plots. Well, who would say no?! The community had become quite tight knit and most owners were very interested in gardening, and a general cooperative feel allowed individuals and children to wander at will and assist where they could. It has been years since these plantings took place and the rhodos are now six to eight feet tall, and anyone who has been through the gardens in June knows just how spectacular the sight of all those massed blossoms is. One of the delights of the Halls Road community is that the current owners still appreciate the uniqueness of the neighbourhood and welcome the visitors who wander through their yards. Dr. Tom and Yvette Baskett eventually bought Dick's old home, and recently John Brett with his wife Mern joined the community.

An idea is born

Time went by and eventually the house next to Halls Road came on the market. There was some concern due to the fact that it possessed quite a large lot including a small ravine that backed onto Halls Road. In these days of subdividing lots there was concern that another family dwelling could be built in the ravine. The idea was born to somehow protect the land and extend the rhododendron plantings into the ravine. In order to achieve this, the Halls Road neighbours formed a non-profit society called the Halls Road Garden Society. The property was acquired, a conservation easement created on the land in question in order to prevent development, and the property resold.

It was decided that the new garden to be created in the ravine would honour Dick Steele with various plants from various gardens that he had grown or hybridized, including layered siblings, by Tom Baskett, of the actual plants Dick had nurtured in his Halls Road garden. Some of the rhododendron hybrids are named for residents of the community. Tom Baskett, John Brett and Bill Leverman – a long time area resident – did most of the hard physical labour clearing the land and making the new beds. Ken Shannik built the access stairs. The Endowment fund of the American Rhododendron Society granted \$2919 towards the initial development of the garden. The ARHS and the Rhododendron Society of Canada District 12 generously supported the Endowment Fund application on behalf of the Halls Road Garden Society.

Finally October 5, 2007, arrived and people began gathering behind John Brett's house. Old friends greeted each other. Residents from way back greeted each other including Jane Law, one of the original residents, and Dr. Robbie Robinson. We gathered in a circle and Kathleen Hall, daughter of the original home owners, gave a brief address. She noted Dick's original vision that led to the enduring beauty of the Halls Road area. She praised the significant effort and patience that had made the new garden possible, mentioning many by name. Finally the ribbon was cut and the Canadian flag removed from the simple sign, made from a piece of slate that had been part of a blackboard at Tower Road School, and now signifying that this was "The Dick Steele Garden". We were free to wander the new planting and admire the fine plants that graced it and congratulate the workers who had made it all possible. Finally we repaired to John and Mern's home for light refreshments. I'm sure many members of the ARHS will be interested to visit the new garden and we will all watch it develop and grow. Well done, Dick! ☘

Rhododendron campylogynum

By Jens Chr. Birck

Translation J. K. Weagle

R. campylogynum has always been described as a difficult rhododendron species to grow in the garden. I have always advised people to take cuttings in order to have a few back-ups in case of disaster. It takes some experience to learn that they want plenty of aeration. Indeed it may not be lack of plant hardiness but rather a high “fungus pressure” that requires the needs for these back-ups.

Assessing the plants before the first frost will often show a few looking a little tired, and these are most likely the ones to be removed the next spring. Having grown *campylogynum* now for 30-35 years I still have some which never need replacing with small cutting-grown ones. Most of these are now close to 50 cm in height and width and very floriferous.

Campylogynum is easily propagated by cuttings. In Denmark the best time to do that is as early as possible i.e. when the new growth is just getting firm. You can dip the cutting ends in a weak hormone powder but it may not make any difference. When a good root system has developed the rooted cuttings can be placed in a cold frame for a few years.



“Big flowered clone” [Photo Jens Birck]

Where to place them in your garden is a difficult question but considerably easier than where to successfully grow the white *camtschaticum*. It has to be placed in various locations to ensure that you have it for more than a single season. For *campylogynum* give the plants lots of light and good air circulation, and if possible cold roots. In Nova Scotia this Zone 7 plant will require a protected site. Perhaps tucking it in a rocky slope facing east amongst big boulders might be best; this could ameliorate both winter cold and summer heat. A covering of fir boughs from early December till mid-April will protect from winter sun combined with frozen ground.

I would like to mention some good clones which have been fixtures in my garden since the late 1970's. I have tried innumerable clones – but these have shown their long term value and beauty.

Black form. A British clone coming from Hydon Nursery and Valley Garden, Windsor UK. Small, nearly lilac-black flowers, in great numbers. It does take some years to start showing off.

Claret. From Glendoick Gardens, an easy and rewarding form to grow. Claret-coloured flowers of medium size. A very good clone and I recommend you use this one as a starter plant in your collection.

Rosa form. (Pink form) A result from my own hybridizing in 1977 between two varieties of *campylogynum*. The new revision has abolished these varieties so now it must be a “true species”. Flowers are abundant.

Big flowered clone. Before the new revision this was called var. *charoepum*; some considered this to be a hybrid. Biggest flowered form of the species (or not species!). Also a good starter plant as it has never given me any trouble.

Tessa Dane. My own cross from 1977, between *R. campylogynum* and *R. brachyanthum* v. *hypolepidotum*. Peach colored flowers, a bit over medium size. Easy and I think it is worthwhile to mention that all seedlings from this cross have considerably larger flowers than both parents.

BH-137 Svend Hansen and I went to Yunnan in 1996, where we collected many species including *R. campylogynum* at Chang Shan west of Dali. Collector's number is BH-137. All seedlings from this number were very fine healthy plants. Very 'Claret'-like flowers although the purple flower colour is more intense.

N.B. Forms of *campylogynum* are occasionally offered in the ARHS May advance sales and are regularly available from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Federal Way, Wa., USA.

[*R. 'Too Bee'*, a hybrid of *campylogynum* and *keiskei*, was offered in the ARHS plant sale in 2002. – Ed.]

Gardening With Rocks and Gravel

By Rosaleen McDonald

It all began with my grandfather, a man with the English gardening ethic. As a toddler, helping him with his garden, I caught the bug, and as a teenager took over after his death.

We built this present house in 1982, in a hayfield, on the South Mountain, above Wolfville. The property is 5.6 acres with approximately one acre being landscaped. We immediately began to add gardens. Because of the 600 foot elevation, strong north west winds in winter and gravelly soil, gardening is a challenge. With so many rocks available on site, it was logical to use them extensively in the landscape.

The first garden constructed was a series of rock ledges, ascending on each side of a basement entrance to a height of 12 feet. Native slate flagstone was used and sets of steps were built at the ends on each side. These have become very natural plantings over the years with volunteer native ferns liberally inserting themselves in the crevices. *Cotoneaster depressus* wanders over the upper section of the south facing wall and *Corydalis lutea* makes an attractive pest of itself, making it necessary to root many of them out each year. The north facing wall is at its best in spring with *Phlox subulata*, mossy saxifrage, *Trillium erectum* and *T. grandiflorum* along with some choice plants such as *Dodecatheon meadia*, *Soldanella montana*, *Ramonda myconi*, *Haberlea rhodopensis* and *Corydalis elata*. There are now problems with this wall as “critters” have tunneled behind it and with the severe rains this year, the rocks are somewhat unstable. Nearby, an incense cedar and a *Thujaopsis dolobrata* are fast outgrowing their allotted space. The cedar was not expected to survive my conditions but has been in place for 18 years.

As one enters the driveway, nestled between it and the road, is a bed dominated by heaths and heathers at certain times of the growing season, and by daylilies at other times. Favourites are *Calluna vulgaris* ‘Ancient Boulevard’ (which actually reseeds into the lawn), ‘H. E. Beale’ and ‘Silver Knight’. There are so many *Hemerocallis* hybrids (daylilies) that it is difficult to choose favourites. One of my original plants still holds a top spot. ‘Morning Mist’ is a pale, glowing apricot. A standout is ‘Close to You’, a dusky pink with white centre stripe and pale green throat. By choosing early, mid and late blooming cultivars, the daylilies provide colour from late July to mid October. Shrubs in this bed include *Rhododendron* ‘Ramapo’, *Buxus microphylla* ‘Green Velvet’, *Myrica pennsylvanica*, *Euonymus alatus*, and a shrubby *Clematis recta*.

A (too) large lawn slopes down towards the house. Early on, raised beds were constructed eight feet in front of the house and garage to prevent the spring run-off from reaching the buildings. These are filled with the usual suspects – columbine, peony, delphinium, astilbe and fall asters, along with other less common plants – *Gaura lindheimeri*, *Knautia macedonica*, *Penstemon sp.* and *Oreganum* ‘Hopley’s Purple’. Many of these plants have been grown from seed obtained in seed exchanges. Winter colour is provided by evergreen perennials, such as *Dianthus sp.*, *Iberis sempervirens*, and *Sedum* ‘Dragons Blood’. A *Sorbus* ‘Joseph Rock’ anchors one end, showing off its rich burgundy foliage in the fall. A little self-seeded tree appeared under this, with the same coloured foliage and has now been planted at the other end of the bed.

In a sheltered spot, close to the house, is a burgundy and gold garden featuring *Cotinus coggygia purpureus*, *Chamaecyparis pisifera filifera aurea nana* (There, I said it), and a variegated *Leucothoe* hybrid. These are underplanted with *Heuchera* ‘Palace Purple’ and golden creeping Jenny. A *Cornus kousa* completed the picture until tropical storm “Noel” broke it off. Next spring, a two foot *Chionanthus virginicus* (Old Man’s Beard) will take its place.



[Photos Rosaleen McDonald]

A brightly coloured garden extends from the end of the house. Blue, purple, white, orange and yellow flowering plants make it a cheerful sight. Shrubs include boxwood, a *Hypericum* cultivar, *Abronia nana* and the Explorer rose 'Henry Hudson'. Perennials such as *Hemerocallis* 'Stella d'Oro', 'Pixie Parasol', 'Green Eyes Wink', glowing orange lilies, coral poppies, the tall yellow *Gentiana lutea*, and *Jasione perennis* are among the colourful plants.

Below this, on a north facing slope, is a white garden. Accents of white gypsum rocks are used along with white flowered plants and green and white variegated euonymus, *Anemone sylvestris*, Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), near white daylilies and gooseneck loosestrife carry out the theme.

Discovering a smaller world

In 1987, I discovered a smaller world. On a trip back to my hometown of Brantford, Ontario, I reconnected with an old neighbour who had a fabulous rock garden in an abandoned rock quarry. She introduced me to the Ontario Rock Garden Society and sent me home with ten rock garden plants (five of which are still in my garden). My husband was in his element, setting granite rocks in the south facing slope (with the use of his tractor). We started with a ten foot width and added three foot extensions each year until we reached its limit. The rock garden has matured nicely. There are several dwarf forms of conifers – flat and columnar junipers, golden yew, Mugho pine, Hinoki cypress and variegated *chamaecyparis*. The rhododendron genus is represented by RR. *impetrum*, 'Karen Seleger' and an unknown azalea whose foliage turns red in the fall. Many of the alpiners are from seed exchanges – North American Rock Garden Society, Ontario Rock Garden Society, and latterly from the Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club. I've had success with western North American alpiners, especially *penstemon*, *lewisia*, and *eriogonum*. These are mainly evergreen and showy in flower. Other alpiners have come from Alpines Mont Echo (Maria Galetti) in Quebec. These are beautifully grown and while not always hardy for me, worth trying. The problem may be the highly acid soil that I grow in. My rock garden is my main focus at this time.

In 2000, I started a circular bed in the front lawn. Holly, dwarf conifers, grasses, daylilies, and fall asters dominate here along with other shrubs, perennials and some troughs. My last addition to this, in 2006 is a slightly raised alpine bed, made to accommodate more choice alpiners from the seeds that I can't resist.

The native trees that we planted many years ago have matured to the point that I can now have a shade garden. This year, native species such as mayflower, pipsissewa, merry bells and wintergreen (all rescued plants) have found a place there along with older plantings of shade loving gentians, primulas, astrantias and cranesbill geraniums.

Rhododendrons are represented in various spots in the garden, mainly by azaleas. Favourites are 'Peaches and Cream' and 'Rose Ruffles' whose brilliant flowers are equally matched by the fall colour of its foliage. A recent rose garden had been quite successful until this year when there was winterkill and black spot. Oh well. I can always change the focus of the bed.

Somewhere along the way, I have become a "collector" and while I have resolved not to make any more beds, the new seeds are still ordered and planted. A spot will always be found for those choice little alpiners .

I wonder what my grandfather would think of the happily obsessed gardener that I've become?☺



[Photos Rosaleen McDonald]

The Weston Lepidotes

By Sally Perkins

When John and I gave our talk to the ARHS in October 2007 we (I) promised to do an article for the chapter's newsletter on some of our talk.

The Weston lepidote story goes back to the 1930's in Weston, Massachusetts where the original Weston Nursery was founded by Peter Mezitt and his wife Anna Olga who emigrated to the United States from Latvia. The story goes that the Mezitts knew Christian missionaries in the Altai Mountain region of China (where Western Mongolia, Russia, China and Kazakhstan come together) and had corresponded with them about the native plants.

They had donated \$50 dollars (no small chunk of change during the depression years) to the missionaries and were sent a gift of plants that were the small evergreen shrubs that dotted the forested hillsides. It was just fortunate that the plants turned out to be something unique.

This plant was later named, *R. dauricum* var. *sempervirens* and in today's taxonomy would probably be called either *R. sichotense* or *ledebourii*. It really is enough different from all the other *dauricum* forms that I grow, to be distinguished at least by varietal status. The leaves are thick and cupped down, with dense fragrant scales giving bruised leaves that herbal scent lepidotes are particularly noted for. The *sichotense* I grow from the Rhododendron Species Foundation has good leaf retention, gives good winter colour of a mahogany tone and blooms as one of the earliest *dauricum* types. It can come out of dormancy and lose some buds if there is a prolonged winter thaw.

There is a lovely dwarf *dauricum* 'Delp's Dwarf' as well as good white forms such as 'Arctic Pearl' and 'Madison Snow'. Most *dauricum*s only keep a small whorl of leaves at the terminal and many have multiple flower buds in the terminal to give them a full truss look. *R. dauricum* will lose buds if it starts to push early so always make sure you either grow it so it will have some shelter from the late afternoon winter sun to keep it from warming up too soon, or close to the house where the blooms will be offered some protection.

Peter Mezitt's son Edmund had just finished his degree in architecture at Cornell University when he noted the early bloom on these Chinese plants growing in his father's greenhouse and collected pollen. In 1939 he crossed it onto *R. carolinianum* and collected seed.

R. carolinianum is now listed as *R. minus* Carolinianum Group but even despite this taxonomic renaming it remains the more cold hardy form of *R. minus*. *R. minus* is a variable species of the Appalachian Mountains from Virginia south and onto the Piedmont areas as far as the sand plains of Florida where the subspecies *chapmanii* grows. There are wonderful named forms and selections such as 'Gable's White' 'M.L. Webb' and tetraploid forms such as 'Epoch'.

The hybrid seedlings grown in Weston were transplanted into the open fields of Hopkinton, Massachusetts in 1944, where the family had recently acquired land for a nursery farm. For the most part Ed had forgotten about these plants and they had thrived despite overall benign neglect. In early May 1945, when the family came to view the newly acquired land, they found a hillside of purple-pink blooms. The name 'P.J.M.' was immediately given by Ed in honor of his father, Peter J. Mezitt. In England you will still see the name spelled out instead of the initials.

In those days, most nurseries sold seedlings of rhododendrons because of the difficulty in propagation and Weston Nursery was no exception. They repeated the P.J.M. cross many times and grew on plants by the thousands selling them as "PJM" giving us what is called a "grex". In a grex there are consistent characteristics but also variability in habit, leaf coloration, flower colour, and bloom time. These became more obvious as the plants were dispersed throughout New England. In fact, the colour combination of yellow forsythia or daffodils with purple PJM became a much overused standard for spectacular spring colour. In the early 60's Ed decided to make selections of the best forms and propagate them. 'PJM Victor' and 'PJM Regal' are fine named cultivars but 'PJM Elite' is the standard and the only one Weston sells today. Its winter hardiness is famous as even its roots will survive in containers over winter.

With such great commercial success on his first try, Ed Mezitt continued to hybridize with back crosses such as a PJM onto *carolinianum* to give 'Laurie' a wonderful compact growing pale pink to white flowered shrub. Grown in full sun, I remember the first time I saw this plant in full bloom and needed to have it. 'Laurie' and its offspring occasionally throw some double flowers or semi-double flowers. 'Balta' is from the same cross and just a little more white in flower. 'Molly Fordham', a hybrid of 'Balta' remains one of the best white PJM type with clean, deep dark foliage rather than the yellowish tinge of many white forms.

The extensive written records of crosses from 1951 and 1958 until as late as 1981 showed that over 4000 viable crosses were done. Ed's goals of expanding the season of bloom, increasing hardiness and adaptability, and multiseasonal interest were coupled with compact habit, disease and insect resistance. Ed knew and shared information and breeding goals with Dr. Robert Tichnor, then at the Waltham Field Station at the University of Massachusetts. When Dr. Tichnor left for Oregon he gave Ed his seedlings of the 'Laetiverens' crosses. Ed also knew Dr. Gustav Mehlquist, the plant geneticist from the University of Connecticut who also had lepidote and elepidote breeding programs. The Massachusetts Chapter of the ARS did not begin until 1970 so the chapter can't take any credit for getting together these early breeders but their associations may have been the spark.

In 1958, Ed introduced the genes of *R. mucronulatum*. *R. mucronulatum* is wonderful for early bloom in a variety of colours from clear white and pink to deep purple. Because it is almost fully deciduous there is an airy look to the blooms and most have spectacular fall colour when grown with some sun exposure.

'Cornell Pink' is the most popular selection in the trade. 'Mahogany Red' has good colour saturation but it's hardly red unless the sun is really low on the horizon. Everyone should grow some *mucronulatum* selections because they are so easy to grow and you can take cuttings in the winter to force bloom inside. A 1958 cross of a white form of *R. minus* Carolinianum Group with *R. mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink', produced a grex known as the "Shrimp Pink Hybrids". They form upright, semi-deciduous shrubs that literally cover themselves in late April with a blanket of flowers. Three selections have been named: 'Caronella' is still propagated with a delicate pink flower and great fall colour, 'Llenroc' a compact plant with yellow and pink tones and 'Vallya' (pronounced Wally and named for Ed's wife) a more vigorous deeper pink. If you can find them they all are great tough background plants with early bloom.

In other 1964 crosses, second generation breeding with PJM selections resulted in 'Olga Mezzitt' (named for Ed's mom) and 'Weston's Aglo' (that's Olga spelled backwards – two outstanding compact growing plants with great habit. It's hard to choose which is better as they both are good. 'Weston's Aglo' is lighter pink with a darker eye and 'Olga Mezzitt' is a phlox pink.

Additional breeding for winter foliage colour resulted in 'Thunder'. It has the deepest dark burgundy foliage in the winter and in the spring the foliage contrasts nicely with its purple flower. Unfortunately it has been known to succumb to *Phytophthora*. The same is true of the dwarf 'Midnight Ruby' which in my opinion is worth making the effort to keep it in an excellent drainage location so one can have the rich deep pink flower against its almost plum black foliage.

'PJM Checkmate' grows at one third the rate of 'P.J.M.' and is a tissue culture sport, as is the lovely delicate pink-flowered 'Planeview Appleblossom'. Planeview Nursery in Portsmouth, Rhode Island owned by Mike Mederios tissue cultured plants for Weston Nursery and other wholesalers and also very generously hosts our Plants for Members program. 'Amy Cotter' another sport seems to be the perfect dwarf PJM that can be planted under a window without blocking the view within 5 years.

Trying to get a red lepidote was a later breeding goal. 'Milestone' is named for the stone marker in Hopkinton where the Boston Marathon begins. It used to be called "Marathon" but that name was already registered. The strong colour stands out in the landscape and almost glows but lacks leaf retention for a commercial landscape plant. 'Weston's Pink Diamond' also lacks leaf retention but has doubling of the flower in that the stamens become petaloid. Its early and yet long season of bloom and spectacular fall colour keeps it on the favorite list in our chapter. 'Red Quest' is a top notch compact ball of a plant whose early flowers come very close to red. 'Landmark' is similar in colour but in a more vigorous upright grower that blooms well as a young container plant.

One must keep in mind that Weston Nursery during this time was more a landscaper's nursery centre with field grown plants. It was only in recent years that they shifted to container grown material. So a commercial plant had to have vigorous growth and good leaf retention along with all the other qualities that make it worthwhile in the landscape. Wayne Mezzitt, one of Ed's three sons, was very much involved in the later breeding and selection process. He would say a good commercial plant must be able to be planted with a backhoe into a landscape that would not get any special attention. The high standards that Wayne gave to the selection process helped to reinforce the need for tough plants in New England.

I am going to discuss some hybrids that are not Weston's greatest successes commercially but have wonderful traits none the less. In 1964, 'Peach Blend' gave an unusual colour resulting from *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink' with *keiskei* breeding. It can glow a warm peach in the open landscape but is susceptible to late spring freezes. I love 'Weston's Crescendo' a plant that does not like full sun due to lacebug damage. Its large leaves form a presentation platter for an ever changing colour truss of white to deep pink. When it is in bloom that combination of different colours on the same flower truss grabs the attention of visitors.

'Blue Baron' is a good blue but unfortunately not hardy enough for zone 5 and would prefer shelter even in zone 6. It's an example of what can happen when one is mesmerized by the flower in combination with the saying "one season of flowers does not mean it's hardy". It performed so much better than its siblings after one cold winter but did not get a real test winter until after it was introduced.

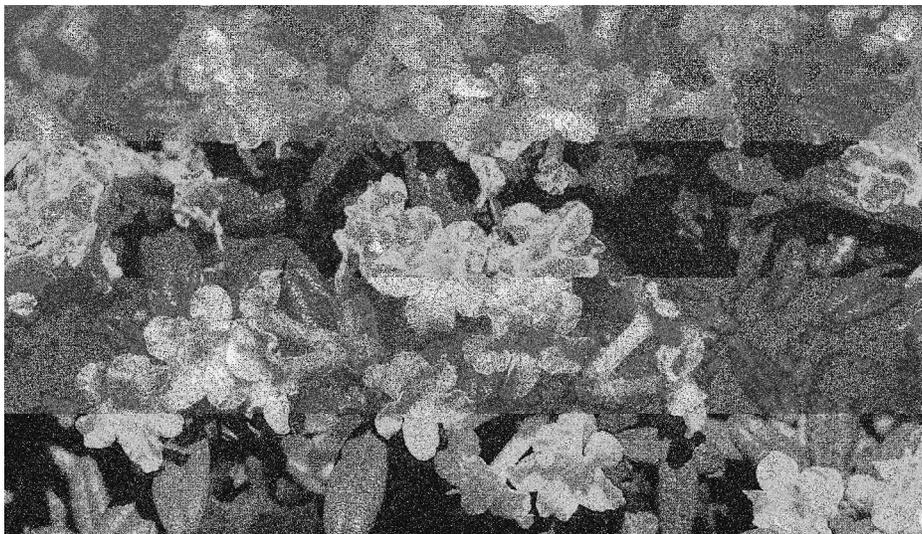
'Desmit' and its sister seedling 'Waltham' come from Ticknor's crosses in 1958 with 'Laetivirens'. 'Weston's Mayflower' is an excellent foliage plant for the small sunny landscape with 'Laetivirens' and *myrtifolium* breeding but the flowers are not special. 'June Pink' is later blooming and I am looking for that plant myself. They all have good habit but can suffer from too much hot sun or drought conditions. 'Sidestep' is a 'Waltham' seedling and, in my opinion, is a washed-out cream that looks more like it has been "stepped on" than sidestepped, although I have seen a well grown plant that made me want to move mine to a better location.

The real legacy that Ed and Wayne Mezitt give us in lepidotes for the connoisseur is the doubles. An interesting little quirk of *mucronulatum* is that there are some genes for "doubling" prevalent in some selections. Most doubling is really stamens that convert to petal-like structures such as seen in 'Waka Mirasaki'. Beginning with 'Weston's Pink Diamond' and the occasional doubling on 'Laurie', selections were made to enhance and improve that look. There was some kind of rivalry between Ed and the late Dr. Gustav Mehlquist who also was breeding double lepidotes. I don't know the details but I guess it became a little bit beyond competitive as to who had the first true double. Dr. Mehlquist called his "The Beginning" just to prove the point.

The flowers of double lepidotes tend to last a little longer in the spring landscape, maybe because they lack stamens and need insects for pollination from a fertile plant nearby. For double whites, Mezitt had 'April Glacier' and Mehlquist had 'April Gem' both with the same look of tissue paper flowers. Mehlquist said that 'April Gem' gave a high percentage of progeny with doubling and so if you want to consider breeding for doubles it's a good choice. I think 'April Snow' from Ed's program is the best double white. Its petals are formally arranged and it covers itself with pure white heavy textured flowers that are not too big to cause them to sag in spring rain. 'Lavender Frost' is lovely but doesn't look as if it has any lavender colour at all unless it's grown in at least a half day of sun.

'April Joy' and 'April Song' were bred in 1978 from 'Gable's Pioneer' x PJM Group, and are lovely pinks in a shade any mother of a baby girl might choose but neither are vigorous growers unfortunately. 'Mrs. Jeremiah A. Withington III' was named by Bob Carlson and sort of was a joke name that stuck. A lovely soft lavender that is fully double. I had trouble getting it to grow until I planted three small plants in various locations and now have three successful plants. Eventually, the Weston plant that will probably be most sought after is 'Legacy' a deep purple double from a 1982 cross that grows more easily with better leaf retention than the similar Mehlquist plant 'April Rose'. The Mezitt selections seem to have a little tougher constitution overall.

The breeding program of the late Ed Mezitt and his son Wayne is no longer active but in the course of those 40 years of breeding the New England landscape has been made more beautiful. Changes in the market and real estate have worked even more changes in how Weston Nursery does business. Wayne's son, Peter, is carrying on the legacy which will allow Weston Nursery to continue to beautify New England. What more can we ask? ☞



'Sarled'. [Photo Sterling Levy]

Photo Album



R. campylogynum Black form. [Photo Jens Birck]



R. campylogynum Claret form. [Photo Jens Birck]



R. campylogynum 'Tessa Dane' [Photo Jens Birck]



R. campylogynum cw AGS Expedition. [Photo Jens Birck]



R. 'Kolmo Kulshan'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



Magnolia sieboldii. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



R. kiusianum Pink form. [Photo Donna Silver]



R. carolinianum 'Best Form'. [Photo Dick Steele]