

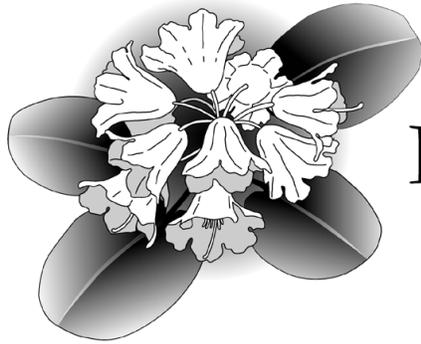
AtlanticRhodo

www.AtlanticRhodo.org

Volume 41: Number 1

February 2017





Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

Our Mission

ARHS supports and promotes the development and exchange of expertise and material relating to the practice of creating and maintaining year-round garden landscapes featuring rhododendrons and other plants.

Inside this Issue

The President's Column John Brett

ARHS Seed Exchange 2017 Sharon Bryson

Tissue Culture 2017 Sale Jon Porter

Some Rhododendron Favourites Jenny Sandison, John Weagle, Sheila Stevenson, Bob Howard

A Heritage Rhododendron Garden in Yarmouth Nova Scotia David Sollows

2016 Steele Lecture: Plant Explorers and the species Rhododendrons they discovered Mike Stewart

Species Rhododendrons for Nova Scotia: in response to a query Mike Stewart

From the ARHS Facebook Page: Dried pips John Weagle

Photos in articles are by the authors, unless otherwise identified.

Membership

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, due September 2016. For benefits see ARHS website www.atlanticrhodo.org

American Rhododendron Society: ARHS is a chapter in District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined ARHS and ARS membership cost is \$50.00 Canadian. For benefits see www.rhododendron.org

Cheques, made payable to Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society should be sent to **Gloria Hardy 47 Melwood Ave. Halifax, NS B3N 1E4**

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 & 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. yakushmanum* 'Koichiro Wada', [Photo Jens Birck]



Calendar of Events

ARHS meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, at 7:30 p.m. usually in the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History Auditorium, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, unless otherwise noted. Paid parking is available in the Museum lot. We welcome anyone sharing our interest in plants and gardens.

March 7.

Making a New Garden

Roslyn Duffus moved a lot of plants from her previous garden to a new property with lots of trees three and a half years ago. Her talk is a practical account about starting a new and larger garden, with some sun and much shade. Reducing labor and maintenance is an important guideline for her. She will show images of soil preparation, plant selection and siting, rock garden making, and opening up densely-shaded areas.

March 19.

Deadline for tissue culture orders

April.

Watch for email regarding date, time, and location of Tissue Culture Sale Pickup

April 4.

Garden Design with a Photographer's Eye

Freeman Patterson, renowned photographer and teacher of visual design (*In a Canadian Garden*, *The Garden*, and several instructional books), gardens in Shampers Bluff, NB. He grows more than 150 varieties of rhodos and 50 of azaleas (over 1000 plants) and deliberately and regularly includes both temporary and permanent aspects of the natural habitat into his own garden layouts. His most recent book is, *Embracing Creation*. Freeman's illustrated presentation will include photographs of his own and other Canadian gardens. Learn more about him and his work at www.freemanpatterson.com

TBA

Pickup for Members' Pre-Ordered Plant Sale. 5 Sime Court, Hammonds Plains, NS. 10 am – 1 pm. Please, NOT EARLIER THAN 10 AM. NOT LATER THAN 1 PM.

April 14.

Deadline for material for May issue of *AtlanticRhodo*

April 30.

Seed Exchange closes

May 2.

Members to Members Plant Sale

This is when we sell our plants, the choice ones as well as divisions of the mundane, to each other. This year's event will take place at the Museum of Natural History.

June

Garden Tour of Annapolis Valley gardens and Pot Luck

We look forward to visiting ARHS members' and other gardens, as well as a stop to examine the rhodie plantings at the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre in Kentville. Watch for the date and itinerary from the tour coordinator and pot luck hostess, Sophie Bieger, closer to the time.

Thank you for avoiding the use of perfumes and scented products when you come to ARHS events.



A very warm welcome to our new members who have recently joined ARHS.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Maria Bourque | Halifax, NS |
| Melanie Christian | Lynchburg, VA |
| Judy Estey | Garden Lots, Lunenburg Co. |
| Orrin Murdock | Mahone Bay, NS |
| Pat Othen | Dartmouth, NS |

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A lot of moving parts and all for just \$20.00 a year!



I was elected president of our society this last fall, so I'm pretty new to the job. And though I've been a member for over 20 years, the last couple of months have been a real eye opener.

THIS ORGANISATION HAS A LOT OF MOVING PARTS! In particular, I am now much more aware of the significant contributions made by our volunteers. Only because of them can the ARHS offer so many benefits to its members, and at such a nominal cost – a mere \$20 a year for an individual membership. So here's a big THANK YOU from me, on behalf of all of us, to those generous, energetic folks who pitch in and make things happen!

To get a sense of just how many moving parts there are to attend to, I compiled the very impressive list below. Please give it a look. You'll be as surprised as I was by the work our volunteers take on. Perhaps you'll see an activity on that list that sparks your enthusiasm. We are always looking for new volunteers. At the moment, we need someone to take over management of the website in the coming year. That's a real priority. Anyone out there interested? If you don't see anything on the list that suits, perhaps you have other talents you wish to share that will help us fulfill our various mandates.

We now have a volunteer coordinator, Lynn Rotin. Her email is: lynnrotin@gmail.com. Please get in touch with her if you wish to volunteer, or if you're not sure but want to discuss the possibilities. Lynn will be able to point you in the right direction.

So here's a very impressive list of what we do at the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society:

Members' plant sale. Unusual rhododendrons and other plants in larger sizes are brought in on a pre-ordered basis for members, at very reasonable prices.

Members' tissue culture sale. Smaller rhododendrons and other plants are brought in on a pre-ordered basis for members, again at very reasonable prices. At least some of these varieties will not be found for sale anywhere else in Atlantic Canada.

The seed exchange. Choice and unusual seed packets from Nova Scotia and around the world are made available to members at a nominal charge.

Members' June tour and potluck. Every spring we organise a day's outing to special gardens in some part of our region, usually with a potluck picnic supper at the end of the day.

Hosting gardeners from other ARS districts, both officially and unofficially. A few examples among many: organising and hosting the American Rhododendron Society Fall Regional Conference in Halifax a few years back, hosting the upcoming visit to our area by the Société des rhododendrons du Québec, hosting visiting lecturers and organising their itineraries, which often include private tours of significant gardens and other activities that highlight the best our region has to offer.

Administering financial support to promising students in horticulture. We administer two awards to outstanding horticultural students: one through the program at NSCC KingsTec in Kentville; the other through Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus in Truro.

The ARHS Library. We maintain and loan out a significant, specialised gardening library, available to members on request to the librarian.

ARHS Newsletter. We publish an extensive newsletter, currently three issues a year, which is distributed electronically to the membership. It contains articles of wide-ranging interest, dealing with rhododendron culture and related topics.

The ARHS website. atlanticrhodo.org not only promotes the activities of the society to both members and the general public, it also features information related to the history and culture of rhododendrons in our region.

Education program: monthly speakers, occasional visiting speakers, and the annual Dick Steele lecture. Members are both entertained and edified by speakers from both inside and outside of our region. These include prominent plants people from around the world. Their travel costs and honorariums are paid for by your membership dues, revenue from our various plant sales, and by the considerable "sweat equity" supplied by our volunteers.

Participation in the American Rhododendron Society. In addition to our status as a regional gardening society, with an interest in a broad range of plant related topics, we function as the Atlantic chapter of district 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. This relationship gives us access to significant resources such as the ARS seed exchange, the ARS journal, the ARS speakers list, and ARS funding for specific projects through the endowment fund. By communicating and collaborating with other ARS chapters we also stay current on horticultural trends outside of our own region.

Public outreach. The ARHS promotes rhododendrons, companion plants and other aspects of ornamental horticulture to the general public. Often this means taking advantage of opportunities as they arise. For example, The Halifax Public Gardens will be doing a special garden week this spring as part of its sesquicentennial celebrations. We will be part of it, organising a range of activities inspired by their mature plantings of rhododendrons.

Development and maintenance of display gardens. The ARHS is currently involved in the maintenance and improvement of three different gardens, all accessible to the public. These are Stratford Way Park in Clayton Park, the John T. Meagher garden at Regatta Point and the rhododendron plantings at the Kentville Agricultural Research Station. In this way we hope to demonstrate both the beauty and usefulness of rhododendrons for both private gardens and public landscapes.

Society membership in the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden. The ARHS is a society member of the RSBG. That means our members have access to an extremely informative journal and the opportunity to order rare and unusual rhododendron species and other choice plants from the RSBG nursery.

General financial administration. As you can imagine, all of our activities require and generate a significant financial reporting obligation. Our volunteer treasurer oversees this, paying our bills, sending out invoices, keeping the books up to date, dealing with new technologies such as PayPal and other arcane matters as they come up.

Membership administration. Our volunteers keep track of members past and present, process membership renewals for both the ARS and ARHS and make sure that other information and news of interest gets out to members by email.

Our modest society does a tremendous amount, most of it accomplished by volunteers. Many have been on the job for a long time and some have given notice that they will be resigning soon. If we can't find replacements, the society will be forced to scale back, perhaps even cancel some programs and benefits. So many moving parts and all of them have to be attended to. So please consider stepping forward and lending a hand. ☺



Members to Members Plant Sale

2017 ARHS Seed Exchange

Sharon Bryson, Seed Exchange Chair

Seeds go out on a first-come, first-served basis. 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 the choice for you!

The link at <http://atlanticrhodo.org/news-programs/plant-sales-and-seed-exchanges/> takes you to the ARHS Seed List on The Willow Garden website with links to many images and information to help in your decision-making. The online version will have periodic updates on seed lot availability.

Information about growing from seed is available at both the Atlantic Rhodo and the Willow Garden websites. Many interesting plants can be added to our gardens by growing a few seeds.

We are offering a FREE package of seed to anyone (lot 111 WIL Deciduous Azalea, mix) whether or not you order any other seeds. Send the order form and \$3 to cover postage. If you need more planting instructions, we can help you!

The overall success of our Seed Exchange depends upon members purchasing seed, but also on seed contributions by our members. We thank the faithful contributors who have made this possible. Plant enthusiasts outside of our regional society have again made valuable contributions to our annual exchange. Crosses from Y. Doi from Japan are especially noteworthy. Quantities of most are quite small, so order early if you are interested in these lots.

The offering of hand pollinated rhododendron hybrids is again quite extensive. The hybridizers have chosen interesting parents in their quest for great foliage, increased hardiness, and wonderful blooms.

Our 2017 list has several seed lots from the 2016 list. These include both native species and hybrid varieties, open and hand pollinated. The viability of azalea and rhododendron seed is usually very good, so offering year-old seed shouldn't be a problem for growers. It is always a shame to see "leftover seed" not being used in some useful way.

We have tried to give several seed lots their prerequisite cool treatment. Most moist-packed seed cannot be sent until temperatures moderate towards spring.

We have maintained last year's charge for "shipping and handling" (\$3.00). The rate changes at Canada Post have made the break-even point quite close.

Share the list with other gardeners who might not be members of the ARHS. We have had orders from many places in the world in the last few years. However 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 risk of the purchaser.

The Seed Exchange is open until April 30, 2017. Until February 28 we are open only to ARHS members. Then we open to the world at large

The general rule is one packet, per lot, per person. Orders for more than one packet, per lot, may be filled depending on supply and demand.

Please list substitutes, as quantities for some lots are small. All orders must be on the form provided.

Wild-collected seed is \$2.50 CDN per packet, hand-pollinated seed is \$2.00 CDN per packet, open-pollinated seed is \$1.50 CDN per packet.

Make your cheque, or money order payable to: 'Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society'. Include \$3.00 CDN for postage & padded envelope.

Mail to Sharon Bryson, #407 Old Maryvale Rd., Maryvale, Nova Scotia B2G 2L1 CANADA

SEED LIST

Thanks to our Donors: ADD - Betty Ann Addison, Minneapolis, MN BIR - Jens Birck, Copenhagen, Denmark BRU - Joe Brusco, Hopkinton, MA CAR - Darwin Carr, Truro, NS CLY - Bruce Clyburn, New Waterford, NS COO - Alleyne Cook, Vancouver, BC COS - Gabriella Costea, Waterloo, ON CRE - Mike Creel, Lexington, SC DAN - Carol Dancer, Victoria BC DAU - Tadeusz Dauksza, Orland Park, IL DOI - Y. Doi, Japan EIB - Hans Eiberg, Denmark GAL - Maria Galletti, Sutton, PQ HAR - Joe Harvey, Victoria, BC LAY - Anitra Laycock, Halifax, NS LEV - Sterling Levy, Fall River, NS MAT - Stefan Mattson, Sweden NOR - Peter Norris, Martha's Vineyard, MA OST - Walter Ostrom, Lunenburg, NS REE - Ed Reekie, Wolfville, NS ROM - Gwen Romanes, Prospect Bay, NS SHA - Ken Shannik, Halifax, NS STA - Barry Starling, Devon, UK STE - Sheila Stevenson, Ferguson's Cove, NS TRA - Arnold Trachenberg, Leonia, NJ WEA - John Weagle, Halifax, NS WIL - Bill Wilgenhof, Antigonish, NS

Rhododendron Species – Wild Collected - \$2.50

- 001 SHA *R. canadense*, native Rhodora (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
 002 COS *R. caucasicum*, (c.w. collection was done in Dombay, Karachay-Cherkessia, Caucasus)
 003 EIB *R. luteum*, orange form ex Turkey

Rhododendron Species - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

- 004 ROM *R. auriculatum*, ex Meagher Van Dusen seedling few (selfed)
 005 BIR *R. fortunei*, selfed
 006 WEA *R. kaempferi* v. *latisepalum*, siblings Halifax Public Gardens, evergreen azalea
 007 SHA *R. minus* var. *carolinianum*, Halifax Chamagne Residence. Pink, good habit & foliage
 008 OST *R. schlippenbachii*, Indian Harbor Best - good pink form
 009 WEA *R. trichostomum*, (Jens Birck form, good pink)

Rhododendron Species - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 010 CRE *R. alabamense*, 'Creel's Alabammy' (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
 011 CRE *R. atlanticum*, Snowbird op near yellow triploids (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
 012 CRE *R. austrinum*, 'Millie Mac', OP near *canescens* (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
 013 ADD *R. brachycarpum compactum*, OP Hardy Minnesota Zone 3
 014 WEA *R. camtschaticum*, OP
 015 WEA *R. camtschaticum*, white form, OP
 016 WIL *R. cumberlandense*, from ARS2001#539
 017 CRE *R. eastmanii*, North Wall plants rooted from Crane Creek, Richland County, SC in a group of isolated plants (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
 018 CRE *R. flammeum*, 'Edisto Redhead'. OP near other *flammeums* (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
 019 CRE *R. flammeum*, 'Maggie Chavis'. Excellent orange red, originally from South Carolina (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
 20 WEA *R. kiusianum*, mixed colours
 21 WEA *R. kiusianum*, 'Komo Kulshan'. Prostrate evergreen azalea smothered with magenta and white two-toned flowers (fr. 2016 seed-ex) (actually AZ. Hyb.OP)

- 022 REE *R. luteum* (Sweet Azalea), 2 to 3 m. in height, yellow, very fragrant flowers; native to SE Europe and SW Asia

- 023 HAR *R. makinoi*

- 024 ADD *R. minus* var. *carolinianum*, OP collected Colt Estate, RI

- 025 REE *R. molle* ssp. *japonicum*

- 026 WEA *R. mucronulatum* v. *ciliatum*, dwarf pink

- 027 ADD *R. mucronulatum* 'Easter Bunny', OP. Light pink, collected Carlson Gardens

- 028 WEA *R. mucronulatum* v. *taquetii*, Compact

- 029 WEA *R. mucronulatum* 'Woodland Pink' x 'Cornell Pink', a good percentage will come true

- 030 WEA *R. poukhanense* v. *rose*, a very hardy evergreen azalea (fr. 2016 seed-ex)

- 031 REE *R. prinophyllum* (Roseshell Azalea) – native to Northeastern North America; very fragrant pink flowers (fr.2016 seed-ex)

- 032 CRE *R. prunifolium*, 'Early Prune', (orange-red) (fr. 2016 seed-ex)

Rhododendron Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated -\$2.00

- 033 CLY 'Astrid' x 'Hawaii'

- 034 CLY 'Azurro' x 'Right Mighty Splendid' †1

- 035 BIR ('Bambi' x *R. proteoides*) #25 x *R. recurvoides* (fr. 2016 seed-ex)

Rhododendron Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated -\$2.00

- 036 CLY ('Barbara Hall' x *R. sutchuenense*) †2 x ('Connecticut Yankee' x *R. calophytum*) †3

- 037 CLY 'Bellefontaine' x 'Babylon'

- 038 WEA (*R. brachycarpum*, compact x *R. proteoides*) x *R. yuefengense*

- 039 WEA *R. brachycarpum* Meagher x *R. yuefengense*

- 040 WEA (*R. brachycarpum* 'Tony Law' x *R. rex* ssp *Fictolactum*) x 'Babylon'

- 041 DOI *R. brachycarpum* v. *roseum* x *R. taliense* SBEC 334 (Glendoick)

- 042 DOI *R. brachycarpum* v. *roseum* x *R. haematodes* (RSF)

- 043 DOI *R. brachycarpum* v. *roseum* x *R. traillianum* v. *dictyotum* 'Kathmandu; AM'

Rhododendron Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

- 044 DOI *R. brachycarpum* v. *roseum* x (*R. haematodes* x 'Carmen'; Glendoick)
- 045 DOI (*R. brachycarpum* v. *roseum* x *R. didymium*) x (*R. tsariense* x *R. proteoides*)
- 046 DOI (*R. brachycarpum* v. *roseum* x *R. pronum*) x *R. proteoides* (RSF)
- 047 CLY ('Calsap' x *R. calophytum*) x 'Babylon' (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 048 CLY 'Casanova' x 'Nancy Steele' (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 049 REE 'Firestorm' x *R. fortunei* ssp. *discolor*
- 050 REE 'Firestorm' x *R. maximum*
- 051 NOR *R. fortunei discolor* (RSBG) x ('Midsummer' x "Red Max")
- 052 CLY *R. fortunei* 'LuShan' x 'Right Mighty Splendid'
- 053 NOR 'Freeman Schumacher #1' x *R. yuefengense*
- 054 CLY Gable's 'Red Cat' x Gable's 'Red Max' †4 (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 055 NOR 'Gloxineum' x 'Freeman Schumacher #1'
- 056 BIR 'Goldsprengl' x *R. rex* 'Tue Jorgeson' (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 057 WEA 'Grand Pre' x *R. yuefengense*
- 058 CLY ('Great Eastern' x Steele Bayport 92-M) †5 x 'Right Mighty Splendid'
- 059 BIR *R. hanceanum* v. *nanum* 'Rowallane' x *R. cinnabarinum* 'Nepal' hp
- 060 WEA 'Harold Amateis' x *R. yuefengense*
- 061 NOR 'Independence' (*R. maximum* clone) x *R. fortunei discolor* (RSBG)
- 062 CLY ('Janet Blair' x 'Dexter's Honeydew') †6 x 'Right Mighty Splendid'
- 063 CLY 'Kittatinny' †7 x 'Nancy Steele'
- 064 REE *R. maximum* x *R. facetum*
- 065 REE *R. maximum* x *R. fortunei* ssp. *discolor*
- 066 BRU *R. maximum* †8 x *R. macabeanum* (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 067 BRU *R. maximum* †8 x *R. proteoides* (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 068 WEA *Rhododendron orbiculare* x *R. yuefengense* RSBG#248sd2006 H.P.
- 069 BIR *R. pachysanthum* x *R. citriniflorum* ssp. *Horaenum*
- 070 NOR 'Pilkington's Pride' x 'Gloxineum'
- 071 BIR *R. proteoides* KGB700 x *R. citriniflorum* ssp. *Horaenum*
- 072 BIR *R. proteoides* R.151 x *R. proteoides* KGB70 (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 073 DOI 'Red Majesty' x ['Carmen' x {(*R. yak* x *R. pseudochrysanthum*) x *Rhaematodes*}] 'Red Majesty' = (*R. elliottii* x *R. strigillosum*)
- 074 CLY 'Right Mighty Splendid' x 'Babylon'
- 075 CLY 'R. O. Delp' †9 x 'Nancy Steele'
- 076 CLY 'Scintillation' x 'Sandra Hinton' (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 077 CLY 'Summer Snow' x [(*R. brachycarpum* v. *Tigerstedtii* x *R. auriculatum*) x ('Babylon' x *R. auriculatum*) (fr. 2016 seed-ex)]
- 078 WEA 'Sundust' x *R. yuefengense*

- 079 DOI (*R. tsariense* x *R. proteoides*) x *R. roxieanum* v. *globigerum*
- 080 CLY (V-6609 x 'Fiery Orange') †10 x 'Nancy Steele'
- 081 DOI *R. yakushmanum* (dwarf, select;RSF) x (*R. tsariense* x *R. proteoides*)

Rhododendron Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 082 WEA (*R. brachycarpum* 'Tony Law' x *R. rex* ssp. *Fictolacteum*) OP
- 083 ADD (*R. dauricum album* x *R. dauricum nanum*) F3
- 084 WIL *R. dauricum* cross, unknown origin, white (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 085 WEA *R. 'Harold Amateis'* OP

Azalea Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

- 086 DAU 526-7 x 'July Jester' (526-7 is ARS2007#526 - *R. viscosum*, OP) (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 087 DAU 570-7 x ('Red Velvet' x 'Tri-lights') (570-7 is from ARS 2007 #570, *R. prinophyllum*, cw, Grant County, WV; from one plant population) (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 088 REE *R. calendulaceum* x 'Washington State Centennial' (fr.2016 seed-ex)
- 089 DAU 'Chetco' x 'Earl's Gold' (fr.2016 seed-ex)
- 090 DAU 'Clear Creek' (Aromi hyb.) x 'Red Velvet' (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 091 CLY 'Gilbraltar' x 'Balzac'
- 092 CLY 'Gilbraltar' x *R. luteum*
- 093 REE *R. molle* ssp. *japonicum* x *R. prinophyllum*
- 094 DAU 'My Mary' x 'King's Red'
- 095 DAU 'Pink Ember' x 'Millenium'
- 096 DAU 'Snowbird' x 'Gallipoli' (fr.2016 seed-ex)
- 097 CLY ('Summer Eyelet' x *R. arborescens*) x 'July Jester'
- 098 REE *R. viscosum* x 'Weston's Lemon Drop'
- 099 WEA 'Watchet', selfed Evergreen azalea Robin Hill azalea, large pink flower
- 100 CLY 'Washington State Centennial' x *R. calendulaceum*, orange & gold
- 101 CLY 'Washington State Centennial' x ('Marydel' x 'Smoky Mountaineer') (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 102 REE 'Weston's Lemon Drop' x *R. viscosum*

Azalea Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 103 DAU 'Berry Rose' OP (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 104 DAU 'Candy Lights' OP (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 105 DAU 'Clear Creek' (Aromi hyb.) OP (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 106 DAU 'Jolie Madame' OP (fr.2016 seed-ex)
- 107 WEA (*R. nakaharae* orange f. x *R. kiusianum* 'Mt. Fuji') F2 x Siblings evergreen azalea
- 108 WIL 'Pennsylvania' OP very late blooming (August)
- 109 WEA 'Snowbird' (fr. 2016 seed-ex)
- 110 WIL Unnamed azalea seedling from ARHS'01#74 (*R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense*) Late blooming (Pink, fragrant)
- 111 WIL Deciduous azalea, mix - FREE

Companion Plants - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 112 WEA *Agapanthus* 'Summer Skies' HP, Halifax hardy – Perennial (Per)
- 113 WEA *Albizia julibrissin* v. Rosea 'Ernest Wilson' F2 silk tree or mimosa, is a small tree that produces an abundance of pink, powder puff-like flowers from June-Sept. Zone 5b-6 from Hopkinton, MA - Tree
- 114 WEA *Albizia julibrissin* v. Rosea 'Ernest Wilson', F3 silk tree or mimosa -Tree
- 115 WEA *Arisaema ciliatum* v. liubuense (very dark form) RARE Collection made by the Alpine Garden Society Chinese Expedition in the mid-90's. Will self-seed. Very hardy(Z4b) - Per
- 116 NOR *Asclepias incarnata*, (Milkweed) Pink - Per
- 117 WIL *Asclepias incarnata*, 'Cinderella' OP Milkweed, pink flowers, 2-3 Ft. - Per
- 118 WIL *Begonia grandis*, semi hardy begonia with beautiful foliage, pink flowers until hard frost; supplied as small tubers - Tuber
- 119 HAR *Billardiera longiflora*, (blue fruit) A slow, non-invasive climber with yellowish flowers, conspicuous, long-lasting fruit. Seed needs stratification, sometimes for 3 years Tender - Vine
- 120 HAR *Billardiera longiflora*, (white fruit) A slow, non-invasive climber with yellowish flowers, conspicuous, long-lasting fruit. Seed needs stratification, sometimes for 3 years. Tender - Vine
- 121 WEA *Cercis canadensis*, Redbud from Kentville, NS - Tree
- 122 MAT *Chelone obliqua*, (Turtlehead) pink, 2-3Ft. - Per
- 123 STE *Clethra barbinervis*, Japanese Clethra. White, fragrant flowers - Sm. Tree
- 124 CAR *Corydalis nobilis*, Yellow, early spring. 12-15" dormant in summer †11 - Per
- 125 WEA *Cyclamen coum*, (known as Adjaricum) lightly marked leaves, pink flowers hardy - Per
- 126 WEA *Cyclamen hederifolium*, ex good leaf forms -Per
- 127 WEA *Cyclamen kuznetzowii*, - Per
- 128 WEA *Cyclamen purpurascens*, †11 - Per
- 129 HAR *Cydonia oblonga* (Quince). Unknown cultivar, but not the common, 'Champion'. Very large, round no pear-shaped fruit - Small Tree
- 130 HAR *Dicentra scandens*, unusual climbing yellow-flowered bleeding heart, seeds germinate well but seem to need a mycorrhizal fungus. Sow in humus rich soil. Aka., *Dactylicapnos macrocapnos*) - Per
- 131 WIL *Dictamnus purpurea*, pink form, Gasplant Compact plant †11 - Per
- 132 STA *Enkianthus cernuus* 'Rubens', red flowering quite dwarf - Shrub
- 133 LAY *Enkianthus perulatu*, Shrub
- 134 COO *Erythronium* spp. & Hybrids mixed ex Alleyne Cook †11 - Per
- 135 NOR *Franklinia altamaha* (Franklin tree), typically grows as a single-trunk tree with a rounded crown or as a multi-stemmed shrub. ~ 20Ft. Camellia-like, cup-shaped, 5-petaled, fragrant, white flowers (~3" diam.) late summer -Tree
- 136 WEA *Fraxinus ornus* (flowering ash) Creamy white flowers in May, Halifax hardy 40-50' tall - Tree
- 137 GAL *Glaucidium palmatum*, (Japanese Wood Poppy) prefers rich, shaded location ~18" - Per
- 138 WEA *Hyacinthoides nonscripta*, (English Bluebell) blue - Bulb
- 139 SHA *Isoplexis canariensis*, Canary Island Foxglove. Tawny apricot flowers with pointed petals. Glossy dark green leaves, dark stems. Tender, evergreen perennial
- 140 LEV *Kalopanax septemlobus*, †11 - Tree
- 141 MAT *Lavatera cashmeriana*, tall, pink, mallow-like flowers Very rare. – (hopefully) Per
- 142 DAN *Lilium formosanum*, scented, white similar to the Easter lily. † 12 - bulb
- 143 WIL *Lilium martagon*, mixed pink and white † 12 - Bulb
- 144 NOR *Lobelia cardinalis*, (Cardinal flower) red, prefers a moist soil, sun to semi-shade 2-3 Ft. - Per
- 145 WEA *Magnolia acuminata*, (cucumber tree) greenish yellow flowers. >40 Ft. -Tree †13
- 146 WIL *M. x loebneri* ex 'Ballerina', OP, white blooms - Tree †13
- 147 WIL *Magnolia loebneri* hyb. ex.'Leonard Messel', pink, mid-sized - Tree †13
- 148 SHA *Magnolia x loebneri* 'Spring Snow' selfed -Tree †13
- 149 WEA *Magnolia sieboldii* ex cw Korea, F3 White with pink stamens, vigorous. - Tree †13
- 150 WEA *Magnolia sieboldii* (Ex Korea) F2 -Tree †13

Companion Plants - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 151 WIL *Magnolia sieboldii* ex cw Korea, White with pink stamens, vigorous - Tree †13
- 152 WIL *Magnolia stellata*, multi- petalled, fragrant white flowers in early to mid-spring - Tree †13
- 153 WIL *Magnolia tripetala*, large leaves add an exotic touch - Tree †13
- 154 WEA *Menzesia cilicalyx* v. purpurea, (dwarf form) (fr. 2016 seed-ex.) - Shrub
- 155 WEA *Nomocharis* Spp. & hybrid mix. Similar to lilies, tender - Bulb
- 156 WIL *Paeonia suffruticosa* var Spontanea, from pink flowering seedling. - Per †11
- 157 WEA *Pieris floribunda*, Boulderwood - Shrub
- 158 WEA *Pinus parviflora*, 'Aizu'. Japanese White Pine, very dwarf form -Tree
- 159 WIL *Pterocarya stenoptera*, (Chinese Wing Nut) Dark, glossy foliage, interesting bark. †11 Insignificant flowers followed by seed pods resembling "wing nuts". 60 ft. - Tree
- 160 WIL *Salvia sclarea* (Clary Sage) violet flowers, aromatic, attractive foliage - Biennial
- 161 WEA *Styrax symplocarpus* †11 - Tree

- 162 NOR *Symplocarpus foetidus*, commonly known as skunk cabbage. A low growing, foul-smelling plant that grows in wetlands of eastern North America. (VERY FEW) - Per
- 163 TRA *Tetradium daniellii*, known as the Bee Bee tree. White flowers, mid-summer 30-50 Ft. - Tree
- 164 WIL *Wisteria macrostachya*, 'Blue Moon', OP. Lilac blooms in July. Blooms young . - Vine

FOOTNOTES and NOTES

- †1. 'Right Mighty Splendid' from Captain Dick Steele 1970's, Bayport 81-RS3 (*R. fortunei* x *R. catawbiense*), scented
- †2. ('Barbara Hall' x *R. sutchuenense*) Cross from J. Weagle 1998, early flowers, large leaf.
- †3. ('Connecticut Yankee' x *R. calophytum*) Cross from B. Clyburn 2000, early flowers, large leaf.
- †4. Joe Gable's selections of the reddest flowered forms of the two native rhododendrons, *R. catawbiense* and *R. maximum* crossed.
- †5. ('Great Eastern' x Steele Bayport 92-M) Cross from B. Clyburn, 2002, scented
- †6. ('Janet Blair' x 'Dexter's Honeydew') Cross from B. Clyburn 2004, scented.
- †7. 'Kittatinny' = 'Golden Star' x *R. vernicosum* aff. Rock 18139
- †8. *R. maximum* in all cases is a red seedling of Mt. Mitchell form, aka 'Red Picotee' (Bruso crosses)
- †9. 'R. O. Delp' = 'Lodestar' x 'Mary Belle'

- †10. (V-6609 x 'Fiery Orange') is a yellow rhododendron Jack Looye cross.
- †11. Seed has been stratified. Store in fridge in plastic packet as received until March/April then sow in warm soil.
- †12. ***Lilium* seeds may require a warm/moist period, followed by a cold period, if there is no germination. Plant cold treated pots outside in spring.**
- †13. Magnolia seed has been stratified. Seed will not be shipped until post-freezing temperatures, March/April. Store in fridge in plastic packet when received until you can plant in warm soil.

1. Open-pollinated species, with few exceptions, come true from seed.
2. Cultivars, with the exception of a few perennials, do not come true. Plants from these seeds should be labelled as being "ex" that species or cultivar.
3. Go to http://www.willowgarden.net/2017%20ARHS%20SeedEx/ARHS_2017_SeedList.pdf for images links and updates re availability.
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. ☒



R. oreodoxa var. *fargesii*. [Jenny Sandison]

Some Rhododendron Favourites

"My Favorite Rhododendrons" was the topic for presentation and discussion at our January 2017 meeting. Jenny Sandison, Bob Howard, John Weagle and Sheila Stevenson accepted Bob's invitation to choose five favourites and talk about them. For the record, here are their picks.

Jenny Sandison



'Parkers Pink' (L) 'Komo Kulshan' (R)

My top pick for Favourite Rhododendron would be '**Parker's Pink**', a Dexter hybrid. This has made a nicely shaped bush to 5 feet over the course of 18 years. The flowers are dense trusses of good medium pink and the plant produces flowers on all branch tips. Described in "Dave's Garden" on-line as one of the best. Mine has also had to suffer pruning as I planted a white Japanese anemone in front of it - which is great in the fall - and the rhodie was threatening to overgrow the anemone. "Parker's Pink" has endured this assault and filled in with new growth every time.

Next: a hybrid evergreen azalea, '**Komo Kulshan**'. This plant remains small. It is now only 18 inches tall and like many evergreen azaleas, can be positioned in front of taller shrubs to hide leggy plants and give a layering effect. In spring, this plant is smothered in flowers of a deep shocking pink with paler interior. Some people think this is too much but, in the spring when all I want is more colour, I think it's wonderful.

Third would be *R. oreodoxa var. fargesii*. My plant came from Dick Steele. It's 6 feet tall now and grows under a pink star magnolia. They flower at roughly the same time, early in the season, and complement one another well. The rhodie has drooping bells of light pink spotted with darker pink.

I also love *R. 'Rangoon'*. This is a good strong red. When I started growing rhodies I was in my delicate phase, but after several years decided this was a bit feeble. 'Rangoon' was the first strongly-coloured rhodie I bought and it never fails to add drama. It is quite compact with good, dark green foliage and has blended with other evergreens to create a section of interesting effect in that part of the garden.

Finally, *R. 'Weston's Pink Diamond'* was such a treat last fall when most of the old leaves turned scarlet and gold before they dropped. One doesn't think of rhodies as contributing to the fall show, but this one is a star. In the spring, it has small trusses of shocking pink flowers, much more appealing to me than the mass - planted 'PJM'. In time, it will get tall but is easy to prune to keep to around four feet in height.

John Weagle

My first three picks are species lepidotes. All three require sharp drainage. All three require careful watering until they are growing vigorously and show signs they have settled in.

Number one is *R. carolinianum*, now called *R. minus Carolinianum Group*. Every gardener should grow some *R. carolinianum* from seed. It will be a prized possession. It's bone hardy and easy to maintain. Seed of this species is offered in the ARHS 2017 Seed Exchange.

Site selection is of prime importance - a slope is preferred, but for sure a slightly dryish site, even gravelly or sandy. Heavy clay is fatal. Some watering will be required the first year after planting, but err on the side of restraint. This is especially true when still growing in a pot. Keep the pot itself shielded from direct sunlight! The *minus Carolinianum Group* species eventually become a shrub 6-8ft tall by as much wide. They flower more heavily with at least a half day of full sun but is a delight even with fewer flowers.



R. carolinianum 'Barbara Hall' in sandy soil at the crest of a very sharp slope.



R. mucronulatum v. *taquetii* in Halifax

My second choice is ***R. dauricum***. It is one of the first rhododendrons to flower, usually around the last week of April in Halifax. The type species is tall and willowy to 2 meters, with small evergreen roundish leaves the size of a thumb-print. Small purple flowers are borne in great profusion. The autumn colour is spectacular when grown in full sun. If conditions are suitable (drainage-wise at least) this species will seed about the garden, though *dauricum* may be more difficult to establish as it is less tolerant of excessive moisture, and the white form is even crankier.

While the plant itself is bone hardy - even growing in Siberia and remaining evergreen - its flower buds can be fooled during a winter thaw or mild March into thinking spring has arrived and any subsequent frost can zap buds that move even slightly. However, there are exceptions to this rule. The *dauricum* plant I gave to the inspired Halifax artist-gardener, Ruth Wainwright, flowers reliably and has never blown buds. It was grown by Walter Ostrom from seed originating in Hokkaido, Japan's very cold northernmost island, and is one of a few seedlings he passed on to me. It has turned out to be of faultless habit and I have named it 'Ruth Wainwright'. Another form selected by David Leach called *dauricum* 'Arctic Pearl' is well worth searching for.

If your garden is susceptible to late frosts or mid-winter warming, plant *dauricum* in a westerly aspect to avoid the rising sun which can ruin frosted flowers.

Those with limited space are in luck. This species has a dwarf form, *dauricum* v. *nanum*, in a range of colours - purple, pink, and white and grows eventually to .3m high and wide in many years. One of my favourites is *dauricum* v. *nanum* 'Compactum Rosea' grown by the Wilgenhofs from seed offered in our Seed Exchange.

Should your *dauricum* lose all of its leaves in winter, it is not *dauricum* (or the related and very similar specie *R. sichotense*), it is *mucronulatum* or a hybrid of *mucronulatum*, which is completely deciduous.

The third is ***R. mucronulatum* var. *mucronulatum***. This is the first rhododendron I ever planted in 1971 or '72. In 45 years this 3-4 meter-tall willowy plant has never been frosted nor has it failed to flower fully. It's a seedling from a cross of two pink forms ('Woodland Pink' x 'Cornell Pink') made by Canadian rhodo pioneer, the late Les Hancock. It came from his Woodland Gardens in Mississauga labelled as a 'mucroulatum seedling'

While my plant is a clean soft pink, the type species is lavender. Many prefer the pink, but when kept away from one other and on its own, the lavender is a beauty too. In 2009 my plant had been shaded out, was listing to starboard and not very happy due to the neighbour's huge Nootka Cypress - which he removed that year. In 2012, I chopped back my plant to encourage a better habit, and in 2017 it is a bushy 2.5m tall.

R. mucronulatum also has dwarf forms, thanks to the collection made by friend, the late Warren Berg, and the legendary Hideo Suzuki, high in the mountains of Cheju Island, Korea where it grows amongst boulders in rocky soil. The story goes that Suzuki grew 100,000 seedlings and got one white one. One wonders where that plant is now! In the mid 1980s, I bought a plant of this purple pink dwarf as *R. mucronulatum* 'Cheju'. Later it was named *R. mucronulatum* v. *chejuense* in Cox & Cox, and more recently as *R. mucronulatum* v. *taquetii*. There is a slightly different dwarf form which is 'barky', var. *ciliatum*. We have a nice rosy red form, grown from seed donated by Dr. Yasuyuki Doi in Hokkaido, Japan.

Though all true *mucronulatum*s are fully deciduous in winter, the dwarf forms when very young can keep some leaves through the winter. But after 5 or 6 years they will be fully deciduous. Plants retaining leaves above the snowline in winter are either hybrids with *dauricum* or *dauricum* species.

You will find seed of this species in the ARHS 2017 Seed Exchange, offered in several forms. Cuttings root easily in early July.

The fact that these three species prefer dry spots doesn't mean one should not water them heavily in prolonged periods of drought such as this past summer. When you water, avoid watering in daytime. Wait till evening when the temperature is cooler and the water colder. Warm wet conditions can lead to root rot. Water for 2 hours and do not water again for 2 weeks.

My fourth pick is *R. yakushimanum*, one of the finest species you can grow. And the selection 'Koichiro Wada' has it all - superb foliage, splendid new growth, a faultless habit, and exquisite flowers. Hardly surprising that members of the Royal Horticultural Society's Rhododendron, Camelia and Magnolia Group last year voted it the most popular rhododendron of the 100 Best. It was named 'Koichiro Wada' after the distinguished Japanese collector-nurseryman who collected it in the wild.

Not far behind in the beauty contest is the English selection 'Exbury'. My recollection is that it is very slightly larger-growing and a tad looser but not noticeably so, making for a very acceptable substitution. More compact selections are still being made, especially in Europe. Svend Hansen has a lovely one he calls 'Best Dane', even more compact, a stronger pink upon opening. We very much hope to see it in the near future. Jens says it's hardy to -25c. In Danish conditions the size in 10 years is .7m high x .7m wide, likely .5m x .5m here.

Rhododendron *yakushimanum* hails from one single island in southernmost Japan, Yakushima, where it grows in the mist belt of the high altitudes. It seems to relish the foggy and windy climate of coastal Nova Scotia. It should be perfectly hardy in Zone 5. Drainage should be good, roots kept cool, and it should receive at least a half day of sun. Though it is not as rampant as yak hybrids, like 'Mist Maiden' and company, give it plenty of room to spread as this species is not terribly keen on a move later in life.

A week after Hurricane Juan struck Halifax I was surveying the damage in the Halifax Public Garden. At one point we stopped at the foot of a huge fallen European beech. Looking up into the now-vertical lawn which lay atop its former root system I spied a curious hole more than a metre wide and the blue sky showing through. Puzzled, we walked round the other side to find a forgotten yak that had been planted behind the beech. Its mulch was still intact and it was thoroughly unfazed, showing you how well anchored in the ground these yaks can be. If only I had taken a picture!

Sheila Stevenson [Photos Stephen Archibald]

I couldn't resist favouring the rhodies that bring me early spring joy: twiggy lepidotes with lovely little flowers in shades of pink and purple, red and white. These are hybrid plants with family stories, but I've never taken the time to sort out and name the antecedents involved. So this has been a chance to dig into some of that genealogy. What's fun, I think, is that my picks dovetail neatly with those of John Weagle because, as you will see, *R. minus* Carolinianum Group, *dauricum*, and *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink' are central characters.



R. 'Airy Fairy'



R. 'April Rose'



R. 'Milestone'

Spring Joy # 1 is **R. 'Airy Fairy'**, a (*lutescens* x *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink') cross by Maloney. Its *lutescens* parentage makes it the first in the year to bloom at Rockburn. The pinkish/coral flowers with their fascinating long upswept stamens - also from *lutescens* - not only look, but are delicate and they have fallen prey to frost at least once. My sparse notes say: "April 19, 2011 a few buds showing colour", "All buds showing pink 29 April", "Continues to open May 2." As the name suggests, 'Airy Fairy' has an open upright willowy habit, and loses most of its leaves in our climate. That transparency makes it a particularly good winter companion at Rockburn for the dense evergreen *R. adenogynum*. Our 16-year-old 'Airy Fairy' measured 120-130 cm w. x 160 cm h. in 2016.

Spring Joy #2 is **R. 'April Rose'**, that I adore in very early May with its bright rose-pink double flowers. The parentage says it all: (*minus* var. *minus* Carolinianum Group *album* x *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink') x [*dauricum* *album* x *dauricum*]. So you won't be surprised that my notes say: "Requires excellent drainage". It is a 1972 cross by Mehlquist of Storrs, Connecticut. I say you need more than one of these very hardy and upright, bushy plants if you have any amount of space. It stars again in the fall with its dark mahogany-red foliage.

Spring Joy # 3 is **R. 'Milestone'**. Being a cross of *carolinianum* x *dauricum* v. *sempervirens*, it is early and very floriferous - not surprising when we remember that *dauricum* bears a great profusion of small purple flowers. 'Milestone' has frilled, purplish-red flowers in flat ball-shaped trusses - lovely on their own, but even better when planted (by chance on our part) beside the somewhat acidic 'Bayport Early Yellow' elepidote (akin to 'Nancy Steele') that blooms at the same time. My notes say, "showing colour April 28, '98", "starting to come out, May 4, 2001", "May 8, 2001 florets separating out", "Hit by frost May 13, '05." Ouch.

'Milestone' is also a multi-season doer - it has wonderful orange/red fall colour, and its mostly deciduous nature and dense habit makes it a dynamic player in an evergreen composition on the east slope at Rockburn. The plant we bought in '93 is now 140-150 cm (4.5 - 5 feet) high x 140 cm (4.5 feet) wide.

In his wonderful 1999 article, "The Weston Hybrids", the late Dick Brooks talked about the breeding goals and outcomes that, "*the Mezitt family at Weston Nurseries in Hopkinton Mass has been quietly pursuing for three generations. A continuing goal has been a hardy, red-flowered lepidote. The first introduction in this category, 'Milestone', resulted from a 1969 mating of a compact form of R. minus with R. dauricum Sempervirens Group. This forms a twiggy, compact, semi-deciduous plant with excellent fall color. The flowers open from pink buds, and the color intensifies as they age, to a brilliant magenta-red. Bloom typically coincides with the running of the Boston Marathon on Patriot's Day, April 19. Further breeding in the 'red lepidote' category explored other genetic combinations: 'New Patriot' ([PJM Group x pink R. mucronulatum) selfed] x unknown); 'Red Quest' ('Waltham' x pink R. dauricum Sempervirens Group); and 'Landmark' ('Counterpoint' x Carolina Rose Group). All have flowers in varying shades of deep pink, which appear nearly red from a distance.*" We have R 'Landmark' at Rockburn but it has never had the same impact for me as 'Milestone'.

Spring Joy # 4 is **R. 'Staccato'**, another Mezitt hybrid, which Dick Brooks says is one of, "*a group known collectively as the Shrimp Pink Hybrids produced from a 1958 Weston cross of a white form of Rhododendron minus Carolinianum Group with R. mucronulatum 'Cornell Pink'*". The deep, silvery pink, semi-double flowers start to open at Rockburn just as the light pink blooms of its neighbour, Viburnum 'Dawn', are going over. It was 95% in bloom in May 12 in '07.

R. 'Staccato's' lush green summer foliage transitions into a very nice fall show and most of its leaves are gone by February, but what's left becomes mahogany. We planted our 'Staccato' in 1997 and in 2016 it measured 150 cm w. x 110 cm h. The RSCAR sale notes suggested it would be 8' in 10 years. Perhaps Viburnum 'Dawn' is in the way of the full sun it wants?

Spring Joy #5 is the dwarf **R. 'Hudson Bay'**, a cross by David Leach of (*minus* var *minus* Carolinianum Group white form x *dauricum* white form). This is one to add to the list of rhodies for the rock garden that Todd Boland presented at our September 2016 meeting. Despite their *dauricum* genes, the two we bought in the 1997 tissue culture sale have survived the Rockburn swamp challenge! One is 90 cm w. x 80-100 cm h.; the other is 90-110 cm w. x 90 cm h. The buds are a red-purple; the flowers white with pink. In winter it shows its *dauricum* heritage as it keeps its leaves.

An on-line piece says: "*Perhaps the most important features of R. dauricum are its hardiness down to -25°C and its very early bloom time. Depending on which country it is growing in, it can bloom from January - February to April - May. These characteristics of hardiness and early bloom have influenced many hybridizers to use R. dauricum as a parent when making crosses. One of the first, Isaac Davis, crossed R. dauricum with R. ciliatum to produce 'Praecox', a hybrid with crimson buds and pink - mauve flowers and an earlier bloomer than both parents. This cross was made in 1860 and in 1926 it was awarded The Award of Garden Merit in England. ... In 1978 Leach's 'Yukon' [R. dauricum x R. minus var. minus (white Carolinianum Group)], and from the same cross, 1979 Leach's 'Hudson Bay'.*"

I must add Spring Joy #6 R. 'Bluenose', which shares *dauricum* Sempervirens Group parentage with R. 'Milestone'. The cross, made in New Brunswick by Brueckner, is 'Russautini' x *dauricum Sempervirens Group*. And there is nothing like it of which I am aware. The 2001 and 2002 sale description accurately said, "large, 2" funnel-shaped, early clear blue flowers in lax trusses of 3-5. Olive green foliage. New growth is yellow. Upright, open habit, 7.5' x 7.5' in 15 yrs." I would add, "gangly shrub, associates beautifully with native false holly, *Ilex mucronata* (aka *Nemopanthus mucronata*). And it might be fun to plant R 'Milestone' with 'Bluenose'. ... If I can find one!

Bob Howard

Bob's choices are

R. *yakushimanum* 'Mist Maiden'

Jack Looye's R. 'R.O. Delp' x 'Sweet Lulu'

Brueckner's H-63-20

Weagle's evergreen azalea, 'Scotia Breeze'

R. *pronum*

Editor's Note: Bob Howard is enjoying himself in warmer climes and taking a break from the world of emails and cell phones. So we are able to supply our readers with only his list of favourites. Bob is returning in March, so any readers who wish to know more about his choices can get in touch with Bob directly. ☺



'Staccato' - [Stephen Archibald]



'Rangoon' [Jenny Sandison]



R. *dauricum* white - [John Weagle]



'Scotia Breeze' - [John Weagle]

Heritage Rhododendrons at Rock Cottage, Yarmouth, N.S.

David Sollows

The property that became known as 'Rock Cottage' in Yarmouth was an extensive estate located on the east side of a rocky hill. It was the location of an octagonal fortification constructed for defense in the War of 1812, then owned by Dr. Joseph N. Bond, Colonel in the Militia and Yarmouth's first practicing doctor. The house was built about 1844 for his son, Dr. James Bond. When James died in 1854, it became the home of his daughter, Elizabeth and her husband, George S. Brown. The property had well established lawns and gardens when it was purchased by Yarmouth merchant, J. D. Dennis, in 1877.



The earliest known image of Rock Cottage. Although notes with the image state that Norman James Bond is standing at left, with Dr. James Bond, Sarah Bond and Lady Jane Bond (wife of Norman Bond) on the right, it is more likely given the size of the vegetation that the photo shows the second owners of the home, George S. Brown and Elizabeth (Bond) Brown. Their young son, Georgie, drowned tragically in an artificial pond on the property.



Looking from the Forest Street entrance towards Rock Cottage c. 1910. An open 'summer house' with a south-west view over the harbour is at the top of the hill on the right. Stairs led from the summer house down the south side of the rock to the front door of the house.

It was after 1906, when Alfred Rankin of New York purchased the property and it became the Rankin summer home, that the Rankin family introduced plantings of rhododendrons to the estate. Tradition has it, that the rhododendrons were brought from France and planted along the east facing wall of the sheltering rock. According to the late Henry Bates Ross, the secret to the success of the rhododendrons was that Mrs. Rankin had cartloads of alluvial mud brought in for the new shrubs. They also benefitted from the shelter of the rocky elevation behind them that protected them from the prevailing westerly winds and oriented them to receive morning sunshine. Azaleas were planted to complement the rhododendrons, along with extensive plantings of rambling roses along rock walls and arbours.

Rock Cottage became the home of Rankin's daughter, Mrs. Florence C. Montgomery. She died in 1969 and the contents of the home were sold in an auction that lasted three days.

Sadly, after changing hands a few times following the death of Mrs. Montgomery, the house was abandoned. On Halloween night 1997, it was largely destroyed by fire. The remains of this once grand home were demolished and removed. Still, each spring, some of the remaining rhododendrons, now over 100 years old, continue to flower in shades ranging from mauve to red, to pale pink and white. Though the names of the particular varieties of these stately shrubs are long forgotten, they remain a reminder of an elegant past.



Rock Cottage c. 1890



Rock Cottage gardens c. 1960, showing east facing rhododendrons



Looking north along the pathway leading to the Forest Street entrance c. 1960.

Dried Pips

A post by John Weagle on December 16, 2016 to the ARHS Facebook page.

On this bitter day I received a freshly-picked rhodo bud from the mildest part of the province near Yarmouth. That part of the province had the worst summer drought in recorded history - approximately one third the total precipitation received in the record drought of 1915. I dissected the bud, only 4 hours old, pulling off scale by scale until I reached the embryonic flowers called pips. Of 21 pips, only 3 were alive. The drought had killed 86% of the pips in this one bud. The theory has always been that a drought will spark great bud set in an effort by the mother plant to live on through the seed, in case she should succumb. Seems there is a drought-limit which I reckon was well surpassed in southern NS this year. I suspect we'll even see some damage here in Halifax come spring. Even 'PJM' does this, but it flowers so heavily one never notices. Why not check a few buds?

Photo 1 shows bud before dissection. Photo 2 shows the live embryonic flower pip with the tiny petals stripped away and the stamens and pistil already formed (left) and the obvious dead one (right).



Photo: 1



Photo: 2

The bud was hard as rock. If it had been soft I'd not have bothered as it would have been apparent they were dead. It took 45 minutes to peel bud scales and count the pips with scalpel and tiny tweezers.

Steele and I used to check pips in the autumn after he complained of the winter killing flower buds on his *aureum* x 'Prelude' crosses. By chance, I checked a 'PJM' one autumn and was startled at what I found, so Dick and I decided to do these autumn checks routinely. Presumably, the drought itself can abort pips OR after a drought the first good rains cause buds to move and then they get hammered in winter. The former in this case. In the latter case, species, or hybrids based on species, from high altitudes or where the growing season is very short are especially prone to this drought/rain trickery. ☘

Plant Explorers and the Species Rhododendrons They Discovered

- Mike Stewart, 2016 Steele Lecturer

Mike Stewart is an ARS past President and recipient of the ARS Gold Medal. He is also President of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. Mike and his wife Maria own Dover Nursery in Sandy, Oregon.

This lists the major discoveries of species rhododendrons by plant explorers from 1656 through 1926, but is not a complete list of either plant explorers or discoveries. Credit to Steve Henning for information used in compiling the list.

1656	Charles L'Escluse	<i>R. hirsutum</i>		<i>R. glaucophyllum</i>
				<i>R. cinnabarinum</i>
1734	John Bartram	<i>R. canescens</i>		<i>R. lepidotum</i>
		<i>R. nudiflorum</i>		
		<i>R. viscosum</i>	1852	Thomas J. Booth
1736	John Bartram	<i>R. maximum</i>		<i>R. hookeri</i>
				<i>R. nuttallii</i>
1750	Clas Alströmer	<i>R. ponticum</i>	1854	Jules E. Planchon
				<i>R. simsii</i>
1780	Peter Simon Pallas	<i>R. dauricum</i>	1854	Robert Fortune
1784		<i>R. camtschaticum</i>	1855	Robert Fortune
1793		<i>R. luteum</i>		<i>R. fortunei</i>
1796		<i>R. chrysanthum</i>	1881	Père A. David
				<i>R. davidii</i>
1789	William Bartram	<i>R. flammeum</i>		<i>R. calophyllum</i>
			1881	Père Jean Marie Delavay
1792	Archibald Menzies	<i>R. macrophyllum</i>		<i>R. delavayi</i>
			1881	Père Paul Farges
1795	André Michaux	<i>R. carolinianum</i>		<i>R. fargesii</i>
		<i>R. calendulaceum</i>		<i>R. adenopodium</i>
			1884	Delavay
				<i>R. ciliicalyx</i>
1809	John Fraser	<i>R. catawbiense</i>		<i>R. fictolacteum</i>
				<i>R. lacteum</i>
1814	William Bartram	<i>R. arborescens</i>		<i>R. neriiflorum</i>
				<i>R. campylogynum</i>
1811	Thomas Hardwicke	<i>R. arboreum</i>	1885	Delavay
1821	George Don	<i>R. anthopogon</i>		<i>R. crassum</i>
		<i>R. setosum</i>	1886	Delavay
		<i>R. molle</i>		<i>R. haematodes</i>
1823	George Don	<i>R. campanulatum</i>		<i>R. bullatum</i>
1825	George Don	<i>R. zeylanicum</i>		<i>R. irroratum</i>
1832	William B. Booth	<i>R. scarbrum</i>	1886	Ernest Farver
1834	George Don	<i>R. barbatum</i>		<i>R. concinnum</i>
1849	Nathaniel Wallich		1887	Delavay
				<i>R. sulfureum</i>
1849	Joseph Hooker	<i>R. campylocarpum</i>	1889	Delavay
		<i>R. wightii</i>		<i>R. racemosum</i>
		<i>R. thomsonii</i>	1889	Delavay
		<i>R. falconeri</i>		<i>R. spinuliferum</i>
1849	Joseph Hooker	<i>R. grande</i>		<i>R. rubiginosum</i>
		<i>R. hodgsonii</i>		<i>R. yunnanense</i>
		<i>R. dalhousiae</i>	1889	Augustine Henry
		<i>R. maddenii</i>		<i>R. augustinii</i>
		<i>R. griffithianum</i>	1893	Père Jean Soulié
		<i>R. triflorum</i>		<i>R. chasmanthum</i>
		<i>R. edgeworthii</i>	1894	Père Jean Soulié
		<i>R. fulgens</i>		<i>R. vernicosum</i>
		<i>R. niveum</i>		<i>R. saluenense</i>
		<i>R. wallichii</i>	1900	Ernest Wilson
		<i>R. lanatum</i>		<i>R. discolor</i>
				<i>R. praevernium</i>
				<i>R. ponticum</i>

1901	Ernest Wilson	<i>R. micranthum</i>	1917	George Forrest	<i>R. griersonianum</i>
		<i>R. sutchuenense</i>			<i>R. meddianum</i>
1904	Ernest Wilson	<i>R. ambiguum</i>			<i>R. didymum</i>
		<i>R. intricatum</i>			<i>R. eclecteum</i>
		<i>R. longesquamatum</i>			<i>R. eudoxum</i>
		<i>R. orbiculare</i>			<i>R. arizelum</i>
		<i>R. oreodoxa</i>	1919	George Forrest	<i>R. keleticum</i>
		<i>R. tricanthum</i>			<i>R. scyphocalyx</i>
		<i>R. wasonii</i>	1919	Kingdon-Ward and R. Farrer	<i>R. aperantum</i>
1908	Ernest Wilson	<i>R. davidsonianum</i>			
		<i>R. insigne</i>	1919	Reginald Farrer	<i>R. serabile</i>
		<i>R. williamsianum</i>			<i>R. caloxanthum</i>
1909	Ernest Wilson	<i>R. moupinense</i>	1920	Reginald Farrer	<i>R. tephropeplum</i>
1904	George Forrest	<i>R. haemaleum</i>			
		<i>R. strigillosum</i>	1920	Kingdon-Ward	<i>R. concatenans</i>
		<i>R. stewartianum</i>			<i>R. xanthocodon</i>
1905	George Forrest	<i>R. forrestii</i>			
1906	George Forrest	<i>R. oreotrephes</i>	1924	Kingdon-Ward	<i>R. leucaspis</i>
1911	George Forrest	<i>R. impeditum</i>			<i>R. valentinianum</i>
1912	George Forrest	<i>R. fulvum</i>			<i>R. pemakoense</i>
		<i>R. sinogrande</i>			
1912	F. Kingdon-Ward	<i>R. chryseum</i>	1925	George Forrest	<i>R. taggianum</i>
1913	George Forrest	<i>R. puralbum</i>			
		<i>R. scintillans</i>	1926	Kingdon-Ward	<i>R. recurvooides</i>
		<i>R. russatum</i>			
		<i>R. diaprepes</i>			
1913	Kingdon-Ward	<i>R. hippophaeoides</i>			
1914	Kingdon-Ward	<i>R. megacalyx</i>			
		<i>R. calostrotum</i>			
1914	George Forrest	<i>R. eriogynum</i>			

Frank Kingdon-Ward (1885-1958), went on approximately 25 expeditions to Tibet, NW China, Burma, (Myanmar) Assam, (now NE India) over the course of 50 years.

Joseph Rock (1884-1962), collected in Asia from 1920 through 1949. On his 1924 expedition alone, he collected over 20,000 herbarium specimens of various plant materials. The list of rhododendron seed collected and distributed is rather extensive. ☘

Some Suggestions from Mike Stewart, in response to a query from Bob Howard

From: "Mike Stewart" <mike@dovernursery.com>

Subject: Rhododendrons

Date: December 27, 2016

To: "Bob Howard"

Hi Bob, I would imagine that growing species in Nova Scotia would depend greatly where they were planted. Along the water, or in sheltered places would be best. Out of the wind would be important. That is probably contrary to planting by the water, but you would know better than me about these warmer places.

I can recommend a couple of the most obvious hardy species including, *R. mucronulatum*, *R. schlippenbachii*, *R. dauricum* and *R. brachycarpum*. Also, I think that *R. sutchuenense* and *R. glanduliferum* may be good species to try (out of the wind on these two for sure). The other species that I really am fond of for its leaf shape is *R. roxieanum*. Most of the deciduous rhododendrons including *R. canadense* would be good recommendations.

If I were to recommend dwarfs, *R. campylogynum* *Myrtilloides*, *R. keleticum*, *R. saluenense* and *R. ferrugineum* would be low growing enough to get some cold weather protection from leaves falling from your deciduous trees, etc. They are all great rock garden plants. I'm sure that John Weagle would have experience with these and could give the final verdict on success. Most of the dwarfs in the subsection *Laponica* should do very well. *R. yakushmanum* obviously does well in NS.

Hope that this helps. Mike ☘

2017 Tissue Culture Plants



Rhododendron 'Absolute Citron' (Ron Rabideau)

The flowers of 'Absolute Citron' open from deep yellow buds to bright medium yellow with red speckling on the upper lobe. Early midseason.
4-5' x 4-5'. Zone 5.



Rhododendron 'Florence Parks' (Joe Parks)

Heavy flowering purple. Named after wife Florence (Roseum Elegans x Olin O. Dobbs). 5' x 6'. Zone 4.



Rhododendron 'Hachmann's Picobello' (Hachmann)

A beautiful medium sized grower, displaying large trusses of white flowers with a dark purple eye. It blooms mid-late season atop attractive green, medium sized foliage. Prefers dappled shade, humitic, acid soil, with regular water. Pollinator friendly. 3' x 4'. Zone 6.



Rhododendron 'Lisetta' (Hachmann)

Deep red flower. Compact with dark green foliage. (Ovation x Erato). 3' x 3'. Zone 6.



Rhododendron 'Melrose Flash' (Sanders)

A 'Scintillation' hybrid, heat tolerant, pink flowers with ivory on the inside, pink edges. 5' x 4'. Zone 6.



Rhododendron 'PJM Elite' (Weston Nurseries)

This is the latest to bloom and generally the most vigorous and upright-growing of the PJM clones. Flowers are the usual lavender-pink in early spring. Very cold hardy and heat tolerant. Lepidote. 5' x 5'. Zone 4.



Rhododendron 'Sapporo' (Hachmann)

One of Mr. Hachmann's personal favorites. The flowers open pale purple in late- midseason and quickly turn white with a strong blotch of deep purplish-red. Compact, somewhat open habit. 5' x 5'. Zone 6.



Rhododendron 'Trocadero' (Hachmann)

This extremely floriferous plant is covered with creamy yellow blossoms that are flushed with peach-pink as they open. Its dense, compact, rounded form is neatly dressed in thick, deep green, glossy foliage. Easy to grow and very dependable. Early- midseason. 4' x 4'. Zone 5.



Rhododendron 'Wine and Roses' (Ken Cox)

Wine & Roses' has more than beautiful bright red-pink flowers. The undersides of the leaves are deep red-purple. Best when protected from the warmest sun, in humidic, well drained soil, with regular water. 5' x 5'. Zone 6



Rhododendron 'Yaku Sunrise' (Ben Lancaster)

Rose-pink flower with darker edges. Midseason. Leaves to 3" long, dark green with light cinnamon tomentum and thick white indumentum. Afternoon sun protection is best. 2' high in 10 years. Zone 5.



Rhododendron diversipilosum 'Milky Way'

This plant is aptly named, when it blooms in mid spring, it is blanketed with what appear to be a million white stars. The distinctive foliage is small and hairy. 3' x 3'. Zone 5.



Rhododendron mucronulatum 'Cornell Pink'

A deciduous rhododendron with clear pink flowers (not the magenta of the species) that appear ahead of the leaves. Very early; blooms at the same time as forsythia. The soft-green foliage turns yellow and bronze in fall. Well-branched habit. AGM winner. 6' x 6'. Zone 5.



Azalea 'Arneson Ruby' (Arneson)

A stunning plant with strong red, wavy-edged flowers in ball-shaped trusses that are produced in abundance in midseason. A vigorous grower with an upright habit. 4 1/2' x 3'. Zone 5.



Azalea 'Klondyke' (Rothschild)

The superior, bronzy, mildew-resistant foliage competes with the fragrant, golden-yellow blooms for top honors on this compact hybrid. Early-midseason bloom. AGM winner. 4-6' x 3-5'. Zone 5.



Azalea 'Mount Saint Helens' (Girard)

Deep red buds open to large, fragrant, rosy pink flowers that turn red, orange, and yellow as they mature. Late-midseason bloom. 6' x 4'. Zone 5.



Azalea 'Tangerine Delight'

This native Azalea cross puts on a real show in the mid-Spring! Frilly, vibrant orange flowers appear in large clusters, matching up to its large size potential. Dappled shade. Bees & Bird friendly. 8' x 5'. Zone 5.



Azalea 'Fairy Pillow' or 'Feenkissen' (Hachmann)

Another diminutive grower, 'Fairy Pillow' will be adorned with masses of semi-double flowers for more than two weeks in spring. Glossy green, eye catching foliage grows like small pillows in the landscape. Part shade. 10" x 20". Zone 6.



Azalea 'Hino-crimson' (Vermeulen)

In midseason, the broad tiers of small leaves disappear beneath a blanket of crimson flowers. Handsome bronze-red Winter foliage color is the icing on the cake. AGM winner. 3' x 4'. Zone 6.



Betula utilis var. jacquemontii

The Himalayan white birch is noted for its striking white bark, which is found even on relatively young specimens, and lustrous foliage. It is handsome the year round, but especially so in winter. GPP award. 50-60' x 25-30'. Zone 5.



Carex oshimensis 'Evergold'

This evergreen sedge has striking, banded leaves with a central stripe that is creamy white on new growth, creamy yellow on mature foliage. Makes a bright accent. 1.5' x 2'. Zone 6.



Clematis hybrid 'Madame Julia Correvon'

A charming and beautiful small vine that will produce a plethora of three inch flowers in a sumptuous shade of rosy wine-red. Grow it scrambling through a large shrub or small tree, or over a fence or trellis. 12' x 6'. Zone 5



Clethra alnifolia 'Sixteen Candles'

This selection from a batch of 'Hummingbird' seedlings is very compact and heavy flowering. Holds its 4-6" spikes of white, fragrant flowers rigidly upright. Like all summer sweets, it tolerates shade and damp soil. Yellow fall foliage color. 2.5' x 4' Zone 4.



Corydalis 'Blue Heron'

Intense sapphire-blue, lightly fragrant flowers grace the lacy blue-grey foliage in spring, and often again in fall. Blue Heron may go dormant in summer, but reappears the following spring. 1' x 1' Zone 6.



Deutzia gracilis 'Nikko'

'Nikko' is an outstanding low-growing Deutzia, well suited for small spaces or use as a groundcover. The gently arching branches are covered by white flowers in late April and early May. The willow-like leaves go deep burgundy in the Fall. Prefers full sun but would like some shelter in warmer areas. 2' x 5'. Zone 5.



Erica x darleyensis 'Kramers Red'

Upright, bushy habit with glimmering flowers which are dark pink to red. Blooms January to April. Foliage is very dark green. 14" x 24". Zone 5.



Gaultheria procumbens 'Cherry Berries' (Gaulsidh5)

Cherry Berries™ wintergreen features glossy evergreen foliage that turns merlot in the cool of Winter. Delicate, bell-like white flowers in Summer, followed by plentiful, showy, exceptionally large berries, Fall through Spring. Best in partial shade, in well drained soil. Zone 3.



Gaylussacia brachycera 'Berried Treasure'

The box huckleberry (Gaylussacia brachycera) is an evergreen subshrub with small, glossy, leathery leaves, flowering in the spring. 12-18" high. Zone 5.



Hakonechloa macra 'Beni-kaze'

A rarer form of Hakone Grass. Flowing mounds of green foliage take on striking red tones in the fall. The cultivar name can be translated as "red wind," describing this plant's autumn look perfectly. 24-36" x 24-36". Zone 5.



Helleborus x hybridus ROYAL HERITAGE

They have long-lasting, cup- shaped flowers in a range of colors that includes shades of purple, pink, green, white, and near black, all with a contrasting center of yellow stamens. Leathery, dark green leaves persist well into



Kalmia latifolia 'Minuet'

A banded "little leaf" selection. The light pink buds open to flowers bearing a bright cinnamon-maroon band. Blooms are large for a compact plant. 2 1/2' x 2 1/2'. Zone 5.



Phylliopsis 'Sugar Plum'

A superb ericaceous plant with needle-like evergreen foliage and pink, urn shaped flowers. The bloom starts in late spring and repeats through summer. Fabulous in rock gardens and containers. 6" x 24". Zone 5.



Pieris 'Flaming Silver'

A very choice variegated selection. Silver-edged foliage is set off by spectacular pinkish-red new growth. White flowers in early spring. Best in partial shade; foliage may burn in full sun. Compact habit. 4' x 5'. Zone 5.



Vaccinium vitis-idaea 'Koralle'

A low, dense, evergreen shrub that creeps to form a dense thicket. It produces small white flowers in midspring and a crop (sometimes two) of large, bright red berries in summer. Foliage turns an attractive mahogany in winter. Best in full sun and evenly moist soil. 1' x 2'. Zone 2.



Yucca filamentosa 'Color Guard'

Variegated swordlike leaves of creamy yellow with green edges. In fall and winter, the foliage takes on pink tones. Towering clusters of white flowers steal the show in mid- to late summer. A first-rate four- season plant. 3' x 3'. Zone 4.

Positions of Responsibility

Officers and Directors of the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticulture Society for 2016 -17

President:	John Brett	902-479-3740
Vice-President:	Roslyn Duffus	902-832-0204
Secretary:	Jean Henshall	902-477-2933
Treasurer:	Rachel Martin	902-425-3779
Past President:	Sheila Stevenson	902 479-3740
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Director, Education:	Bob Howard	902-532-0834
Director, Plant Material/ Horticulture:	Wendy Cornwall	902-477-6121
Director, Social:	Sophie Bieger	902-422-3817
Director at Large and Membership Coordinator:	Gloria Hardy	902-477-4411
Director at Large:	Dennis Crouse	902-826-7165
Director & Volunteer Coordinator	Lynn Rotin	902-346-2018

Other Positions of Responsibility

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Coordinator, Tissue Culture Plant Sale :	Jon Porter	902-350-0010
Coordinators, Members' Pre-ordered Sale:	Wendy Cornwall & Antitra Laycock	902-477-6121
Tech Support at Meetings:	Rachel Martin	902-425-3779
Gardens Care Outreach:	Chris Hopgood	902-479-0811
District 12 ARS Rep (American Rhodo Society):	Lynne Melnyk, Toronto	705-835-0372

Photo Album -



R. campylogynum var *myrtilloides* . [Mike Stewart]



R. baileyi - [Mike Stewart]



R. hodgsonii - [Mike Stewart]



R. fulgens - [Mike Stewart]



R. dauricum v. *nanum* 'Compactum Roseum' - [John Weagle]



R. anthopogon - [Mike Stewart]



'Hudson Bay' - [Stephen Archibald]



R. yakushmanum 'Best Dane' [J C Birck]