AtlanticRhodo

www.AtlanticRhodo.org

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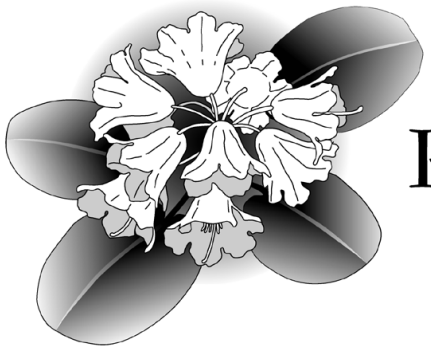

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

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

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

Membership

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

The current membership period is September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. The membership fee is $20.00 if paid between September1, 2017 and November 30, 2018, and $30.00 after Nov. 30, 2017. 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 $57.00 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**

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: The Rhododendron Park and Botanic Garden, Bremen, Germany. [Photo Hartwig Schepker]

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.

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Jan. 02	**Panel discussion: Siting and Planting rhododendrons and companions.** Four of our ARHS members will discuss their experiences and respond to your questions.
Feb. 06	**Revelations and dreams in my Garden,** Dennis Crouse. Dennis is an ARHS member and board member. His talk is based on his garden experiences at home in St. Margaret's Bay, as a professional landscaper, and as a visitor to other gardens in Canada and abroad. All of these have influenced and inspired the development, design and maintenance of his own garden.
Mar. 06	**Hydrangeas: Ain't no time for the summertime blues**, Bob Howard. Bob Howard will present images and discuss what he is learning about hydrangeas. He will review a bit of the natural history, the history of plant exploration and the early breeding work in Europe. There will be pictures of visits to some prominent hydrangea gardens, including the Heritage Museum in Sandwich, MA, and the Shamrock Association in Normandy, France. The focus will be on summer and late summer bloom, fall foliage, and how to use hydrangeas in design in Nova Scotia.
Apr. 03	**Introduction to Ikebana, The Art of Japanese Flower Arrangement**, Miyako Ballesteros. This presentation will introduce the basic concepts and structure of an ikebana arrangement followed by live demonstrations showing basic and advanced styles. Miyako is a qualified instructor in the Sogetsu School of ikebana with a rank of 2nd Grade Jōnin Sanyo, and is an active teaching member of the Sogetsu Teachers' Association Currently, she teaches ikebana at her studio in Halifax.
May 01	**Member-to-member plant sale**. To take place at the NS Museum.
May 20 – 27	**ARS Annual Spring Conference,** to be held in Bremen, Germany, with pre- and post-tours to Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland (May 6 – 31) For more information please see the article in this newsletter and/or go to: arsstore.org/ARS2018 2.webloc

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 joined ARHS since November .

Sydney Dumareaq	**Chester, NS**	**Lana Liable**	**Hubbards, NS**
Colin Burgoyne	**Wolfville, NS**	**Gisèle Robicheau**	**Italy Cross,**
Eileen Pease	**Dartmouth, NS**	**Janet Alsop**	**Brooklyn Corner, NS**
Randle Manning	**Toronto, ON**		

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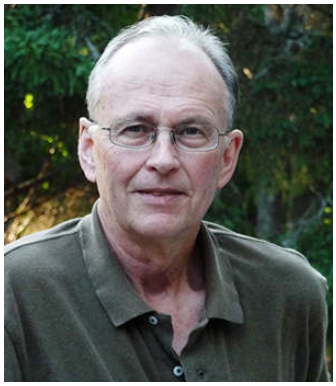
THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Reflections in a Winter Garden.

By John Brett



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Though spring is still a way off, a twenty five foot Spruce blown down the middle of the Dick Steele Garden in one of our January storms gave me a substantial winter chore to attend to. Yesterday was the day of reckoning. The spruce lay down the middle of one of the rhodo beds. It had done some damage but it looked worse than it was – a few branches off a large Rhododendron Barbara Hall, with the same treatment dealt out to a Magnolia Jennifer Robinson. For the most part however, the rhodo branches were flexible enough to bend and not break. So with the help of a very good friend and his chainsaw we had the boughs off and the trunk bucked up into firewood within an hour. Only the tangled nest of spruce roots, now standing vertical and embedded with sizable rocks, remained to be dealt with. And we both agreed this was better left until April when the earth around the root had unfrozen and the whole mass was more pliable. Pondering its unwelcome presence, I thought I might draw some inspiration from Duff and Donna Evers, and turn it into a witch's seat. You can read about their magical transformation of obstacle into ornament in this newsletter, in Donna's wonderful article, "Gardening in a Swamp".

It was a beautiful morning with very little wind, above freezing, and really pleasant to be outdoors. I was almost grateful to that spruce for blowing down and giving me a reason to enjoy the February garden, which I don't do often enough. The heat of the sun was noticeable, a reminder that we sit at the same latitude as Venice, Italy. And there was a change in the kind and vitality of the bird song coming from chickadees, song sparrows, and a sole cardinal, that signified the seasons are indeed changing.

Standing beneath the tall white pines and bare red oaks, enjoying the moment thoroughly, I started thinking about the ways this garden keeps me feeling young, even in the depths of winter. Perhaps I am more sensitive to this influence now, three months after a serious surgery and still recovering. Physically young, of course, for who can deny that the exercise is good for both body and soul. But just as important, active gardening encourages a youthful frame of mind, at least it does for me, because it keeps me focused on the future. As we all know, a garden may have a beginning but it does not really have an end. As long as the garden is being maintained and developed, the future will be full of promise.

I felt this promise – this aura of optimism – descend upon me as I hauled the boughs of that windfall spruce down the paths to the brush pile. The feeling coincided with certain observations made as I trudged along with my burden: Some of the rhodos were starting to crowd the pathways. So a mental note was made that pruning needs to be done any time from now on. This thought was followed by an image in my mind's eye of how good this minor trim will look come late June. And then there was a glimpse of fern fronds next to my boot, flattened against the rocky duff but still green, which brought to mind the many early woodlanders planted over the years, companions to all these rhododendrons, that might even now be poking out of the ground. Sure enough, bending over and scuffing away the oak leaves, I discovered the tiny pointed spears of snowdrops and small cabbage-like heads of emerging hellebores. Such displays of rugged persistence are an inspiration made more precious to me because they appear when virtually nothing else in the garden is showing any sign of active life.

Moving from these reflections, with their individual and idiosyncratic associations, I found myself applying them in a more general way to our own society. It seemed equally true to me at that particular moment, that for the ARHS to maintain a vigorous and youthful outlook, it should do more than support the individual gardening efforts of its members. Fortunately, after a quick mental review of the previous year's accomplishments, I concluded that it is doing this, and with great conviction judging by the members' support of the Kentville interpretive signage project, approved at our November 2017 AGM.

With great pleasure, I found myself imagining this attractive and informative new signage installed close by a glorious bank of giant rhododendrons, in full bloom, at the Kentville Research Station. And beyond that, my thoughts jumped to other exciting initiatives as yet undefined, that may arise out of this collaboration between our society and the research station. I felt equal pleasure while conjuring images of rhododendron beds and conifer windbreaks recently established at Stratford Way Park, another collaboration between an arm of our government – in this case HRM – and the ARHS. How wonderful those plantings will look in even five years' time.

These two initiatives, which sprung so readily to mind that winter morning, triggering such pleasurable expectations, are only two of many we undertake as a society, many of which serve our members while also making a positive impact on the larger community. I described and praised these in some detail in my previous column in Atlantic Rhodo, February 2017. In that same column the absolutely key role played by our volunteers was also emphasised.

Volunteers. Without them, the ARHS would become much less than it is now. The focus would have to be narrower and, I fear, more rigid. We would tend our own gardens and enjoy those of like-minded enthusiasts. Nothing the matter with this, of course, but personally I don't believe it would take full advantage of the many and diverse talents to be found within our membership. It would be a diminishing of our present vision, at least as I conceive it.

Standing in the Dick Steele Garden in the middle of February, my thoughts naturally turned to the man himself. Dick was known for his many colourful sayings and doings. And that's where I will end this column, with a story that says a lot about him. Dick was in his late 80's at the time and we were in the Heather House at Bayport viewing some rooted cuttings of rhodo crosses that Dick thought had potential. He was pulling gently at the stems, feeling for the attachment of the new root to the soil medium, and he commented without a hint of irony – and him in his late 80's with his fair share of infirmities – "Well, I can hardly wait to see how these things look in 10 years."

And perhaps therein lies the secret for maintaining vital individuals and vital organisations: Stay engaged. Keep planting, literally and metaphorically. Be optimistic. Look to the future. ¤

Update on the Kentville Rhododendron Project

Sheila Stevenson

After the membership approved the budget for the Kentville Interpetive Panel project at our Annual General Meeting last November 7th, Stephen Archibald and I met at the Kentville Research Station in late November with Mike Pulsifer, Debra Oxby, and Sue Corbin. We figured out the best locations for the panels that will be interpreting the rhododendron plantings at Blair House and on the grounds. We've been lucky to get photos from John Weagle, Donna Oxby, and Don Ells who works at the research station, and a Barbara Hall scrapbook in the keeping of John Brett. These will help us develop the content and provide images for the interpretive panels.

I've been culling articles and extant information to compile a timeline for rhododendrons in Nova Scotia that runs from 1912 to 2018. Stephen and I have also been doing some work with photos and label writing, and now need to begin working with a designer on the graphics and the visual presentation of the material, which will help us determine the final number of panels and their sizes. I will bring some of the materials we are working with to the March meeting and 'set up' in a corner so that anyone interested can come take a look and chat. Perhaps we will have met with the designer by then. And please, be in touch if you have photos of the Rhododendron Bank at Kentville in peak bloom. ¤

The rhododendron bank at the Kentville Research Station, June 2017. [Photo - Jamie Ellison]

2018 ARHS Seed Exchange

Sharon Bryson Seed Exchange Chair

Welcome to the 2018 Seed Exchange for the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

The electronic approach to the Seed Exchange seems to work very well. The seed list and order form go out to all those with email addresses. A hard copy is made available to those without email.

The Seed Exchange List will also be available online. There will be a full complement of links to many plant images and to information that will help in your decision-making. The online version will have periodic updates on seed lot availability. So before you order, to be absolutely sure that your seed choices are still available, please check the online seed exchange list. To do this, visit the Willow Garden website and follow the links for the 2018 ARHS Seed Exchange. The Seed Exchange list can also be accessed via the Atlantic Rhodo website.

We again wish to thank those faithful contributors to the seed exchange. Its success depends upon donations by our members, so please remember to save some interesting seeds for next year's Exchange, companion plants as well as Azaleas and Rhododendrons. And please purchase seeds and grow them on. It's such a simple, inexpensive way to add variety and interest to your garden. Our success depends upon these sales, which helps to cover some of our costs of operating the exchange.

Our seed list this year is a bit on the scanty side. This emphasizes the need for seed donations. Members who have never contributed might consider becoming seed donors in the coming year. Even a few packets add to the inventory.

Our 2018 list has several seed lots "recycled" from the 2017 list. These include both 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 left-over seed go to waste.

This year, there are a series of Paeonia species included in the Exchange. They can be a bit tricky to germinate, but overall are easy to grow. Most will require a series of alternating warm/moist and cold/moist treatments. Patience is the key.

We have tried to give several seed lots their prerequisite cool treatment. Please note that most moist-packed seed cannot be mailed until temperatures moderate towards spring.

We have maintained last years' charge of $3.00 for shipping and handling. With increased Canadian postal rates this charge brings us pretty close to the break-even point.

The deadline for submitting members-only orders is Feb 20, 2018. Please remember that the seeds go out on a first-come, first-served basis, and depending on seed quantity, your order may not be filled. So get your orders in early and you'll have the best chance of getting everything on your list. In the case that you do miss out on one or two items, it is VERY helpful if you list second choices on the order form. If none are listed, we have to make that decision on your behalf.

We do encourage everyone to try growing Rhododendrons and Azaleas from seed. It is not difficult, and instructions are available online at both the Atlantic Rhodo and the Willow Garden websites. As an added encouragement, we are offering a FREE package of seed whether or not you order any other seeds. This free package is noted in the seed list as lot 61, under the section "Hybrid Azaleas". To receive it, indicate lot 61 on the order form and send it in with $3 to cover postage.

The Seed Exchange will be open to non-members after Feb.20, 2018, and will close April 30, 2018. So please feel free to share the seed exchange list with other gardeners who might not be members of the ARHS. Over the years, we have had orders from many places around the world. Stories of your past successes and /or failures with seed growing are most interesting and welcome. Please send them on to me, along with any questions you may have about planting and germinating seeds. My email address is: willowgarden_ns@hotmail.com ¤

ARHS 2018 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 20, 2018 for members-only.
The Exchange will be open to the public after Feb. 20, 2018 until April 30, 2018
Enquiries may be directed to
willowgarden_ns@hotmail.com

Send all orders to: **Sharon Bryson, #407 Old Maryvale Rd., Maryvale, Nova Scotia B2G 2L1 CANADA** Please make your cheque or money order payable to **'Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society'**. Add **$3.00** CDN for postage & padded envelope. **Please list substitutes as quantities for some lots are small.**

Seed Lots that become unavailable will have a strikethrough 000_NLA

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: ADD - Betty Ann Addison, Minneapolis, MN **BIR -** Jens Birck, Copenhagen, Denmark **CLY -** Bruce Clyburn, New Waterford, NS **DOI -** Y. Doi, Japan **EVE -** Donna Evers, Hammond's Plains, NS **HAR -** Joe Harvey, Victoria, BC **MAT -** Stefan Mattson, Sweden **NOR -** Peter Norris, Marth's Vineyard, MA **REE -** Ed Reekie, Wolfville, NS **SHA -** Ken Shannik, Halifax, NS **STE -** Sheila Stevenson, Ferguson's Cove, NS **WEA -** John Weagle, Halifax, NS **WIL -** Bill Wilgenhof, Antigonish, NS

SEED LIST

Rhododendron Species - Collected Wild - $2.50

no offerings

Rhododendron Species - Hand-Pollinated - $2.00

001 BIR *R. fortunei*, selfed (from 2017 exchange)
002 WEA *R. kaempferi* v. latisepalum siblings
Halifax Public Gardens evergreen azalea
(from 2017 exchange)
003 SHA *R. minus* var. carolinianum
Chamagne Res., Pink, good habit & foliage
(from 2017 exchange)
004 WEA *Rhododendron trichostomum*
(Jens Birck form, good pink)
(from 2017 exchange)

Rhododendron Species - Open-Pollinated - $1.50

005 ADD *R. brachycarpum compactum* OP
Hardy Minnesota Zone 3 (from 2017 exchange)
006 WEA *R. camtschaticum* (from 2017 exchange)
007 WIL *R. cumberlandense* from ARS2001#53
008 WIL *R. luteum* (Sweet Azalea), 2 to 3 m. in height
with yellow, very fragrant flowers
009 REE *R. maximum*
010 REE *R. molle ssp. japonicum* (orange flowers)
011 REE *R. molle ssp. japonicum* (yellow flowers)
012 WEA *R. mucronulatum* v. ciliatum
Dwarf pink (from 2017 exchange)
013 WEA *R. mucronulatum v. taquetii,*
Compact (from 2017 exchange)
014 NOR *Rhododendron pentaphyllum*
Native to Japan, hardy to ~ -25C
Deciduous, usually pink, blooms early.
collected Polly Hill Arboretum (from 2017 exchange)

Rhododendron Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated -$2.00

015 LOO 'Anna H. Hall' x 'Polka Dot'
016 CLY 'Azurro' x 'Right Might Splendid'**†1**
(from 2017 exchange)
017 CLY ('Barbara Hall' x *R. sutchuenense*) x
('Connecticut Yankee' x *R. calophytum*) **†2**
(from 2017 exchange)
018 LOO 'Blazing Grace' **†3** x 'Casanova'
019 WEA (*R. brachycarpum* , compact x *R. proteoides*)
x *R. yuefengense* (from 2017 exchange)
020 DOI *R. brachycarpum* v. roseum x (*R. haematodes* x
'Carmen'; Glendoick) (from 2017 exchange)
021 DOI (*R. brachycarpum* v. roseum x *R. didymium*) x
(*R. tsariense* x *R. proteoides*) (from 2017 exchange)
022 REE *R. catawbiense boursault* x *R. huianum*
023 NOR "Freeman Schumacher #1" x *R. yuefengense*
(from 2017 exchange)
024 CLY ('Great Eastern' x Steele Bpt 92-M) **†4**
x 'Right Mighty Splendid' (from 2017 exchange)
025 NOR 'Independence' (*R. maximum* clone) x
R. fortunei discolor (RSBG) (from 2017 exchange)
026 CLY ('Janet Blair' x 'Dexter' Honeydew') **†5**
x 'Right Mighty Splendid'(from 2017 exchange)
027 LOO 'Midnight Mystique' x ('Anna Delp' x 'Night
Music' #2-16')
028 REE 'Mikkeli' x 'Cadis'
029 REE *R. maximum* x *R. brachycarpum*
030 REE *R. maximum* x *R. fortunei*
031 WEA *Rhododendron orbiculare* x *R. yuefengense*
RSBG#248sd 2006 H.P. (from 2017 exchange)
032 BIR *R. pachysanthum* x *R. citriniflorum ssp.*
Horaeum (from 2017 exchange)
33 CLY 'Right Mighty Splendid' x 'Babylon' (2017 exchange)
34 CLY ('Russell Harmon' x *R. rex*) x *R. fictolacteum* RSF 99/173
035 LOO ('Sandra Hinton x 'Golden Horseshoe'**†6**)
#3-17 x 'Blazing Grace'

036 LOO ('Sandra Hinton' x 'Golden Horseshoe') x ['Golden Horseshoe' x {('R.O.Delp' x 'Sunsheen') x (V6609 x 'Fiery Orange) **†7**}] #4-17
037 LOO ('Sandra Hinton' x 'Yellow Stone') x ('Golden Horseshoe' x 'Yellowstone'**†8**) #5-17
038 LOO {('Stoke's Bronze Wings'**†9** x 'September Song') x 'Golden Horseshoe'} x 'Blazing Grace'
039 CLY 'Summer Snow' x 'Summer Summit'
040 LOO V-6609 **†10** x 'Dead Ringer'**†11**
041 CLY (V-6609 x 'Fiery Orange') x 'Nancy Steele' (from 2017 exchange)
042 CLY 'Whitestone' x *R. brachycarpum* v. Tigerstedtii
043 CLY (*R.yakushimanum* x *R. fictolacteum*) x [(*R. smirnowii* x *R.yakushimanum*) x *R. rex*]

Rhododendron Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - $1.50

044 ADD ('Bubblegum' x 'Hi Tech') (@Jack Looye's) ('Bubble Gum X 'Hi Tech'), has big trusses and is a Tetraploid
045 ADD 'Calsap' (collected @Jack Looye's)
046 WIL *R. dauricum* cross, unknown origin, white
047 WEA 'Harold Amateis' (from 2017 exchange)
048 ADD 'Queen Anne's'
049 ADD (*R. tetra carolinianum* x *R. fastigiatum* f2) x 'Crater Lake' (collected @ Jack Looye's)

Azalea Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - $2.00

050 CLY 'Gilbraltar' x 'Balzac' (from 2017 exchange)
051 REE 'Pink & Sweet' x *R. molle ssp. japonicum*
052 REE 'Ribbon Candy' x *R. occidentale* (RSF 77-384)
053 REE *R. molle ssp. japonicum* x *R. prinophyllum* (from 2017 exchange)
054 CLY ('Summer Eyelet' x *R arborescens*) x 'July Jester' (from 2017 exchange)
055 WEA 'Watchet', selfed Evergreen azalea Robin Hill azalea, large pink flower (from 2017 exchange)

Azalea Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - $1.50

056 ADD ex 'Carousel', dwarf , flower with scarlet buds that open to pale pink with a golden blotch.
057 WIL ex 'Pennsylvania' very late blooming (August)
058 ADD Unknown azalea, tall, vigorous from Vineland Research Station
059 WIL Unnamed azalea seedling from ARHS'01#74 (*R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense*) Late blooming (Pink, fragrant)
060 WIL Unnamed yellow from ARS'04 #261 (*R. narcissiflora* cross)
061 WIL Deciduous azalea, mix - **FREE**

Companion Plants - Open-Pollinated - $1.50

062 WEA Agapanthus x 'Summer Skies' Lily of the Nile, blue flowers Halifax hardy - Per
063 EVE Agapanthus x 'Summer Skies' Lily of the Nile , blue flowers - Per
064 WIL *Alcea rosea* Red, single Hollyhock ~4 Ft. - Per
065 WIL *Ampelopsis brevipendunculata* (Porcelaine Vine) Grape-like vine with beautiful blue-violet berries in fall. **†12** - Vine
066 SHA Arisaema ciliatum v. liubaense ACE94-1570 (Alpine Garden Society China Expedition
067 SHA Arisaema ciliatum ex RBG 1519 - Per
068 SHA *Arisaema consanguineum* giant green form
069 STE *Atriplex hortensis*, (Red Orac) Self-sown annual, tall with striking red foliage. Edible when young. Seed came from the Great Dixter Garden in 2003. - Annual
070 WIL *Begonia grandis*, semi hardy begonia with beautiful foliage, pink flower until hard frost; supplied as small tubers - Tuber
071 EVE *Begonia luxurians* (Palm-leaf Begonia) An unusual species from the rain forests of Brazil . Tender, needs indoor wintering. May grow upwards of 8Ft. Maintain as a potted speciman
072 WIL *Capsicum annuum* "Calic" Ornamental hot pepper. Attractive variegated foliage (green/purple/white) with purple flowers and fruits which are small but edible. Great container plant, ~ 18" - Annual
073 SHA *Cardiocrinum cordatum* v. glehnii op Japanese version of the Himalayan *Cardiocrinum giganteum*, except much easier to cultivate & hardier (fine at the Montréal Botanic Garden). It makes a green skunk cabbage-like rosette for three years before producing a 6' tall flowering stalk lined with tubular, very fragrant, green flowers.
074 WIL *Catalpa bignonioides*, (Souther Catalpa) Rapid grower, large leaves. Flowers in July. Not as hardy as *C. speciosa* - Tree
075 WIL *Catalpa speciosa*, (Norther Catalpa) Large tree, July flowering. Hardy - Tree
076 HAR *Dactylicapnos macrocapnos* Unusual climbing yellow-flowered bleeding hear, seeds germinate well but seem to need a mycorrhizal fungus. Sow in humus rich soil. aka (*Dicentra scandens*) - Per
077 WIL *Enkianthus campanulatus* Unusual greenish-white flowers quite dwarf with golden fall foliage. - Shrub
078 EVE *Enkianthus perulatus* Compact, slow-growing, deciduous shrub eventually growing to 2 m tall and wide. It bears dainty, white pendulous bells in spring. Brilliant red foliage in fall. - Shrub
079 SHA *Fritillaria pontica* OP This exotic 1826 heirloom has greenish-white flowers with intriguing purplish-brown edges and highlights, and one to three nodding, bell-shaped flower per leaf-bedecked stem.
080 WIL *Halesia carolina* (Silver Bel Tree)
081 MAT *Lavatera cashmeriana* Tall,pin, mallow -like flowers Very rare. hopefully Per (2017 exchange)
082 ADD *Lilium martagon* , ex hybrid 'Claude Shrid' Deep mahoghany red **†13** - Bulb
083 WI L *Lychnis chalcedonica* (White Maltese Cross) ~4 Ft. - Per
084 WEA *Magnolia grandiflora*, 'Bracken's Brown Beauty' selfed (hp) **†13** - Tree Cultivar of the southern magnolia that is quite tolerant of cold weather. Zone 6 *** seed is very suspect, order @ no charge**
085 WEA Magnolia 'Mazeppa' OP It is a rapid-growing tree that will eventually become very large ,the huge flower dwarf all other magnolias. **Very few †13** - Tree
086 EVE ex Magnolia 'Pink Surprise' x 'Coral Reef' from a John Weagle hybrid **†13 - Tree**
087 WIL *Magnolia sieboldii* ex cw Korea White with pink stamens, vigorous. - Tree **†13**
088 WIL *Magnolia tripetala* , large leaves add an exotic touch Creamy flowers late June - Tree **†13**
089 HAR *Paeonia daurica*, yellow OP (*P. mlokosewitchii*) **†14** - Per.

090 HAR *Paeonia potaninii*, multiple-flowered member of the *P. delavayi* complex. Flowers - single orange - Per. **†14**

091 HAR *Paeonia rockii*, hand pollinated between two wild collected plants, i.e. pure *P.rocki* **†14** Flowers - single white with a black blotch -Per.

092 HAR (*Paeonia rockii* x *P. linyanshanii*) x *P. linyanshanii* Hybrid wild tree peony HP backcross = 75% *P. linyanshanii*. **†14** Flowers white single with black blotch -Per

093 WIL *Paeonia suffructicosa* var Spontanea, from pink flowering seedling. - Per **†14**

094 WIL *Polemonium pauciflorum* (Yellow Jacob's Ladder) tender perennial, will self-seed

095 HAR *Polygonatum* species, collected Guizhou CGG14107(far reaches) quite tall - Per.

096 WIL *Phaseolus vulgaris 'Held'* OP A large, flat -podded Romano type pole bean. Very flavourful with a long period of production. Grows upwards of 6-7 Ft. Annual

097 SHA *Rhodochiton atrosanguineus* (Purple Bell Vine) is a quickly growing climber with heart-shaped leave and stems that coil around any support. Although perennial in warm climates, in cooler areas it is usually grown as an annual, flowering from late summer until the first hard frost. -Per

098 SHA *Scilla scilloides* (Hinkley) OP A late summer blooming Scilla with tall spikes of small fluffy pale pink flowers. 12-16″high. Full sun and good drainage. Zone 6, maybe colder. Hardy in Halifax - Bulb

FOOTNOTES

†1. 'Right Mighty Splendid' from Captain Dick Steele 1970's, Bpt 81-RS3 (*R. fortunei* x *R.catawbiense*), scented

†2. ('Connecticut Yankee' x *R. calophytum*) Cross from B. Clyburn 2000, early flowers, large leaf.

†3 'Blazing Grace' = 'Percy Wiseman' x 'September Song'

†4. ('Great Eastern' x Steele Bpt 92-M) Cross from B. Clyburn, 2002, scented

†5. **(**'Janet Blair' x 'Dexter's Honeydew') Cross from B. Clyburn 2004, scented.

†6. 'Golden Horseshoe' = ('Papaya Punch' x 'Casanova')

†7. (V-6609 x 'Fiery Orange') is a Jack Looye cross, yellow rhododendron

†8. 'Yellowstone' is a Chris Trautman yellow

†9. 'Stoke's Bronze Wings' = R. maximum x R. catawbiense

†10. V6609 = sister to 'Vinemount'

†11. Tom Ring hybrid of 'Phyllis Ballard'

†12. Seed has been stratified. Store in fridge in plastic packet as received until March/April then sow in warm soil.

†13. *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. Store in fridge in plastic packet as received until March/April then sow in warm soil. **Seed will not be shipped until post-freezing temperatures**

†14. **Peony seed may need two cycles of warm/moist followed by cold/moist**

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 be labelled as being "ex" that species or cultivar.

2. The 2017 Seed List will be posted on the Internet with insertion of images and links to help in your decision-making. Updates re availability will be posted there.
http://www.willowgarden.ne
Follow the links for 2018 ARHS Seed Exchange.
A link to the list will be inserted on the Atlantic Rhodo site.
www.atlanticrhodo.org

3. Also see the ARHS website for an article on growing rhododendrons from seed.

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.

¤¤¤

Gardening in a Swamp

Donna Evers

The Lower Woods or "the Swamp", as it is affectionately known, comprises about one third of our property. It slopes from just below our septic field to a natural berm and then drops to the lake's edge. The area is mostly wet and downright boggy with few dry patches. The bogs drain through the rocky berm and eventually into the lake but even in the hottest days of summer they are never completely dry. At first, "the Swamp" was used as a dumping ground for excess plant material and we didn't pay much attention it. But about eight years ago that changed, and over time we have transformed it into what is now one of our favorite areas of the garden.

Initially it looked like this, mostly roots, rocks and bogs - actually *two* very large and sometimes overflowing bogs. Trees blew down and others had to be cut down. Mostly, we ignored this unsightly view, except to construct a little footbridge so we could cross the bogs and scramble over the berm to the mossy lakeside. Then Mother Nature intervened and we *had* to deal with it.

More trees blew down! Three of them with big root systems toppled and upended everything in their path. Thoughts of lugging this root uphill forced us to get creative. It is now The Witch's Seat.

Another complication! The loss of those big trees caused water to find a new direction so we built a dry streambed. Yet another use for our never ending supply of rocks. This seems to have slowed the run off and stopped erosion. By mid-spring the rocks of the dry streambed were completely hidden with plants and it was no longer an eye sore. This was our first year with this experiment in landscaping.

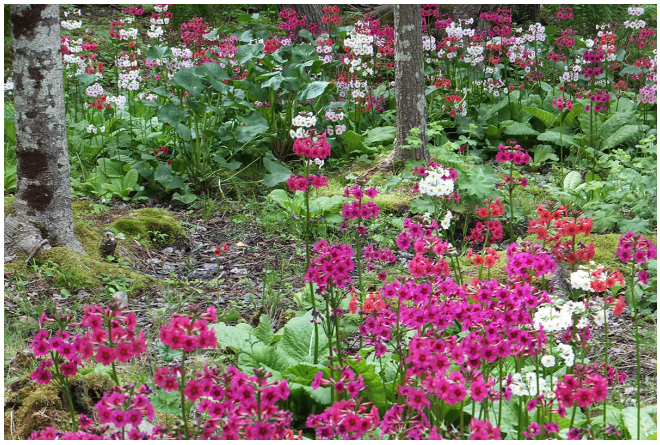
To lessen the danger of injury to life and limb, more creative effort was required. Recycled decking was turned into two gently sloping boardwalks. They run down both sides of the lower woods and meet at the grassy path in the middle of the garden. Rubber boots are now mandatory only for gardening chores.

So what have we planted in The Swamp? One lonely Caltha palustris was the first perennial in the bogs. It wasn't lonely for long, having now multiplied and travelled down four properties. Not certain what the neighbors think about this.

At the mossy end of the lakeside we found our native pitcher plant and Drosera/sundews. We added several more exotic Sarracenia. They have survived with a little winter protection. Other bog loving plants have found a home in "The Swamp". Our native Symplocarpus foetidus is making a start. Both the white Lysichiton camtschatcensis and the yellow Lysichiton americanus are well established. The white form is happily re seeding and the little ones are being relocated.

A word of warning might be in order. This monster is growing in the boggy end of the lakeside. It appears to be a cream colour, so perhaps a cross between Lysichiton americanus and Lysichiton camtschatcensis. It is spectacular!

We were given three primula japonica. They have reseeded in every damp hollow and are now too numerous to count. *Primula florindae* and *primula bulleyana* are both making colonies, thus extending the primula season. It is worth a visit in June. The much maligned Spanish bluebell looks lovely with the primula and I am happy to let it increase.

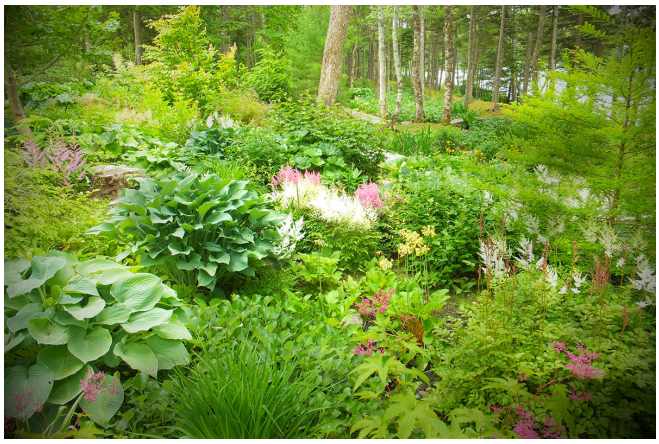


In late spring and early summer Geum, Filipendula, Astilbe, Hosta, Rodgersia, Siberian Iris and Darmera peltata provide texture and colour. To the native Cinnamon and Interrupted Ferns we have added other moisture loving ferns from Fernwood Nursery. A Gunnera manicata is the only tender plant in The Swamp. It is being mollycoddled for the time being.

In late summer and early autumn Turtle head/Chelone, Lobelia siphilitica, Anemone japonica and Helenium add some late season colour.

Moisture loving trees and shrubs have been added to keep the perennials company. Bald Cyprus/Taxodium distichum and Dawn Redwood/Metasequoia glyptostroboides are doing well. And there are the mandatory willows, both tree and shrub forms. Sweet scented Clethera is spreading out nicely.

Buttonbush/Cephalanthus occidentalis was an oddity found at end of season in the Sobeys' garden centre. It thrives in the wettest area.



And in the drier parts…

In the few drier parts of this garden there is a lovely Ironwood/Parrotia persica, several magnolias, and a Tulip tree/ Liriodendron tulipifera that should bloom next year. Fingers crossed. Heptacodium miconioides var. “Seven Sons” is a recent addition. It is blooming this summer and we are hoping that with hot September weather we will see it set fruit.

Natives

Duff has nurtured two patches of our native Viburnum lantanoides, well worth the effort, for the spring blossoms and the fall colour. He has also protected several patches of Mayflower from my compulsion to fill a seemingly empty patch of earth with yet another new plant.

A patch of Blue-bead lily/Clintonia borealis has won me over and is no longer in danger of being ousted. Likewise for Mitchella repens and Goldthread/Coptis trifolia.

Grasses

The grasses we moved to this lower garden are wild and lovely. I have decided to ignore the fact that they might sometime need dividing. A large bamboo was dug out and divided. These divisions have been planted in the text book moist but well drained soil.

Riff Raff Plants

Nuisance plants like sundrops, gooseneck loosestrife and welsh poppy have also found a home here. The theory is that they will run about until they hit soil conditions not to their liking. So far so good. We desperately need a bit of garden that is low maintentance. We are hoping this is it.

And yes, there are rhododendrons in this garden. They do well as long as they are carefully sited. The shoulders of the raised central path seems to be a good spot for them, safely elevated above the water table.

It is starting to look like a garden, albeit a wild one.

Confession time

Long time members of ARHS may remember the big leafed magnolias John Weagle gave us. They received a lot of attention from visitors. Alas, one had to be rescued from the excessive moisture. Thank you Jamie Ellison. The other one is struggling. We are hoping to save some seed, if not the plant. Gardening has a way of keeping you humble.

We owe thanks to generous gardening friends who shared plants and gave encouragement. Please come visit “the Swamp”. You are all most welcome. ¤

Gardens and Lectures of the 2018 ARS Convention in Bremen, Germany

By Hartwig Schepker

(Editor's note: The Atlantic Rhodo newsletter would like to thank both the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society and Hartwig Schepker for their kind permission to republish this article.)

The ARS annual convention will be held in the city of Bremen in northwestern Germany, May 20-26, 2018. This is a once-in-a-lifetime event that rhododendron enthusiasts will not want to miss. The German Rhododendron Society (DRG) will be organizing a combined ARS/DRG conference with garden visits, lectures, social events and sightseeing. Bremen is home to a huge and very diverse rhododendron collection. And there is no better time to see it than May when the rhododendron bloom is at its spectacular peak. In addition, there will be two days of fascinating, informative talks given by an array of international speakers. From their various perspectives, they will address the theme of the convention which is "From out of the wild and into your life".

A map of locations of the German tour sites around Bremen

On day one of the talks, Hartwig Schepker, director of the Bremen Rhododendron Park and Botanic Garden, will start off with an overview of rhododendron plant explorers, past and present. He will be followed by other eminent speakers. Rama Lopez-Rivera will talk about his travels in Korea and Japan, where he visited fantastic populations of *Rhododendron pachysanthum* and *R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushimanum*. Steve Hootman, Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden, will describe sensational new rhododendron species discovered in the central areas of China. Ulrich Pietzarka, Curator of the Forest Botanic Garden, will then lead the audience to the Far East of Russia, to amazing rhododendron landscapes and exotic cultures. Ole Jonny Larsen, of the Norwegian Rhododendron Society, will talk about both Lapponicas and lamas that he encountered during his travels in Sichuan, China. Finally, Seamus O'Brien, manager of the Kilmacurragh Arboretum, will tell us about his travels in the footsteps of both Augustine Henry, in China, and J.D. Hooker in Sikkim. Descriptions of his research journeys and the impacts of Henry's and Hooker's plants on Irish gardens will link the first day of the talks to the second, which will focus on how to best use rhododendrons in the cultivated landscape.

Day two will start with Jürgen Schlenz, Managing Director of a horticultural consultancy company in Westerstede, Germany. Jürgen will give an overview of the hundreds of nurseries in the Ammerland area which, collectively, produce half of all rhododendrons sold in European garden centers. Ken Cox from Glendoick, Scotland, will offer insights into woodland gardening with rhododendrons. This promises to be an informative presentation, peppered with many useful observations related to garden development and maintenance. Nils Blatt, a celebrated landscape architect from Bremen, will consider how rhododendrons are being incorporated into contemporary gardening settings in Germany. Matthias Ulrich, a professor at Jacobs University in Bremen, will report on his current research into finding new antibiotics that may be extracted from rhododendrons. Moving from medicine to the arts, Ken Cox will consider rhododendrons and their connection to music, visual arts and other forms of cultural expression. The banquet speaker will be Don Hyatt, a well-known storyteller from the Washington, DC area, who will give an entertaining multimedia program called "The Crazy World of Rhododendrons."

For more details about the speakers' program please check out www.ars2018.org

And then there are the truly extraordinary garden parks and nurseries you will be visiting during the conference. Please read on to get a taste of what you can expect to experience during these unique tours.

Rhododendron Park and Botanic Garden, Bremen

The Bremen Rhododendron Park began in the late 1930s at the initiative of the German Rhododendron Society. Today it compromises 46 ha (114 acres), and includes a large conservatory for non-hardy rhododendrons. This collection is truly a showcase for the genus, containing the world's second largest concentration of rhododendrons and azaleas, with about 600 species and subspecies (including vireyas) and more than 3300 cultivars. All of these are labelled, allowing visitors to easily identify plants of interest.

Rhododendron Park, Bremen. [Photo - Hartwig Schepker]

The older part of the garden is a well-maintained park where large rhododendrons are set beneath old oaks, pines, beeches and ashes. Long vistas and expansive lawns alternate with intensive rhododendron beds planted along ponds and streams. Hundreds of different Mollis, Knap-Hill, Ghent and Rustica azaleas are coordinated either by color or provenance. *R. williamsianum*, *wardii*, *insigne*, and *repens* hybrids are grouped together, as are more special plantings with American, Czech or German hybrids. The garden also holds one of the largest collections of the historic Seidel hybrids, which were bred in the late 19th century mainly for cold hardiness. In recent years, almost a hundred hydrangea cultivars have been added to create more color during the summer time, in what would otherwise be a mostly green surroundings.

The newer area of the park, opened to the public in 2002, contains rhododendron hybrids developed during the last 30-40 years. They are either grouped together by the leading species in the parentage or by color. In the "Yakushimanum Valley," more than 100 German *R. Yakushimanum* cultivars are combined to produce a massive pink to white blooming experience in May. In the "Hedge Garden," modern elepidotes are organized in red, pink, violet and yellow-orange groups. A "Novelty Garden," renewed every four years (the next time in spring 2018), contains the newest German cultivars that are combined with many different shrubs, grasses and perennials. This novelty garden is both a test and a display garden at the same time, introducing new hybrids and giving inspiration to gardeners. A German novelty is the planting of rhododendrons in alphabetical sequence by name, with more than 300 Japanese azaleas and almost 1000 elepidotes hybrids planted from A to Z, an easy way for visitors to locate a specific cultivar .

Hybrids play an important role in the Bremen collection, but the species assortment is similarly extensive. The non-hardy species like the Vireyas, the Maddenias, etc. are shown in the botanika greenhouses, the only part of the garden which is not free admission. Here, artificial rocks, waterfalls and large companion trees and shrubs simulate conditions in Borneo and in the tropical and subtropical areas of the Himalayas.

Many of the smaller lepidote species are grouped in their own area, "the Rhododendron Rock Garden", with its peak bloom in late April and early May. As well, there is the recently created "Species Garden", a one hectare (2.5 acres) area set aside to showcase around 200 hardy rhododendron species, from big-leaf types like *R. sinofalconeri* and *preptum*, to the colorful members of the Trifora section, and the newest finds from China such as *R. yuefengense* and *R. magniflorum*.

Another recent and quite unique addition is the "foliage rhododendrons" display, where *R. pachysanthum*, *bureavii*, *makinoi*, *degronianum* subsp. *yakushimanum* and others are combined to create a "second bloom." Flowers are welcome, but the focus here is on the beauty of the new foliage in the summer.

The conference tour of the Bremen Rhododendron Park concludes with an evening buffet dinner in the greenhouse. For more information on the extensive holdings in the park please check out www.rhododendronparkbremen.de.

Park of the Gardens. [Photo courtesy Park of the Gardens.]

Park of the Gardens. [Photo courtesy Park of the Gardens.]

Park der Gärten (Park of Gardens), Bad Zwischenahn

The central exhibition area of the Park of Gardens was created in 2002. Today, it covers roughly 14 ha (35 acres) and consists of more than 90 theme gardens. Throughout the park you will find areas dedicated to special plant communities, arranged according to their origin or their habitat needs, ranging from the "Alpinum" with its alpine plants, to the "Arboretum," a recently created area of ornamental topiary. More than 2000 cultivars and species of rhododendrons and azaleas grow here, forming together with the Bremen Rhododendron Park and the large collection at the Schröder Nursery, the backbone of the "German Genebank Rhododendron," a network of more than 50 partners that have joined to conserve rhododendrons in Germany.

The Park of Gardens is the horticultural centre of Lower Saxony. It is also a place where organizations and school classes of all ages can participate in the varied educational programs on offer. For more information on the Park of Gardens please check out www.park-der-gaerten.de.

Schröder Nursery, Wiefelstede

The Schroder Nursery specializes in rhododendrons and azaleas, growing on approximately 1.5 million plants per year! A specialty of the nursery is large-flowered, elepidote hybrids, propagated by grafting scions onto unrooted cuttings of 'Cunningham's White'. The graft union and the rooting process happen simultaneously, under controlled conditions, in seemingly endless rows of tunnels and large greenhouses, before they are potted and moved on to the outdoor container fields.

The highlight of any visit to Schröder Nursery in May is the stock plant displays. The flowering of hectares of square blocks of color is simply spectacular, and a ride through 12 ha (30 acres) of mother plants on trailers while sitting on bales is an unforgettable experience. For more on the nursery please check out www.schroeder-rhododendron.de.

This brief survey of the ARS 2018 conference garden tours should give you an idea of the memorable experiences that await you. And there's more! Three other extraordinary nurseries will also be visited during the conference. To find out more about them please see their websites:

Bruns Nursery & Rhododendron-Park www.bruns.de
Van den Berk Rhododendron www.vdberk-rhododendron.com
zu Jeddeloh Pflanzen Nursery www.jeddeloh.de

Schröder Nursery. Photo by Hartwig Schepker.

Schröder Nursery. Photo by Hartwig Schepker.

Rhododendron Species Conservation

A talk by Tom Clark **(Summary by Bob Howard)**

R. 'Yuka' A North Tisbury hybrid.

R. 'Joseph Hill' A North Tisbury hybrid.

For the Steele lecture this year, Tom Clark presented research on rhododendron species threatened in their natural habitats and efforts to conserve them. Tom is part of a project funded by the ARS Research Foundation focusing on three deciduous azalea species native to the southeastern United States. He is currently director and curator at the Mount Holyoke College Botanic Garden. Previously Tom was curator and manager of the living collections at The Polly Hill Arboretum, a partner in the ARS rhododendron conservation project.

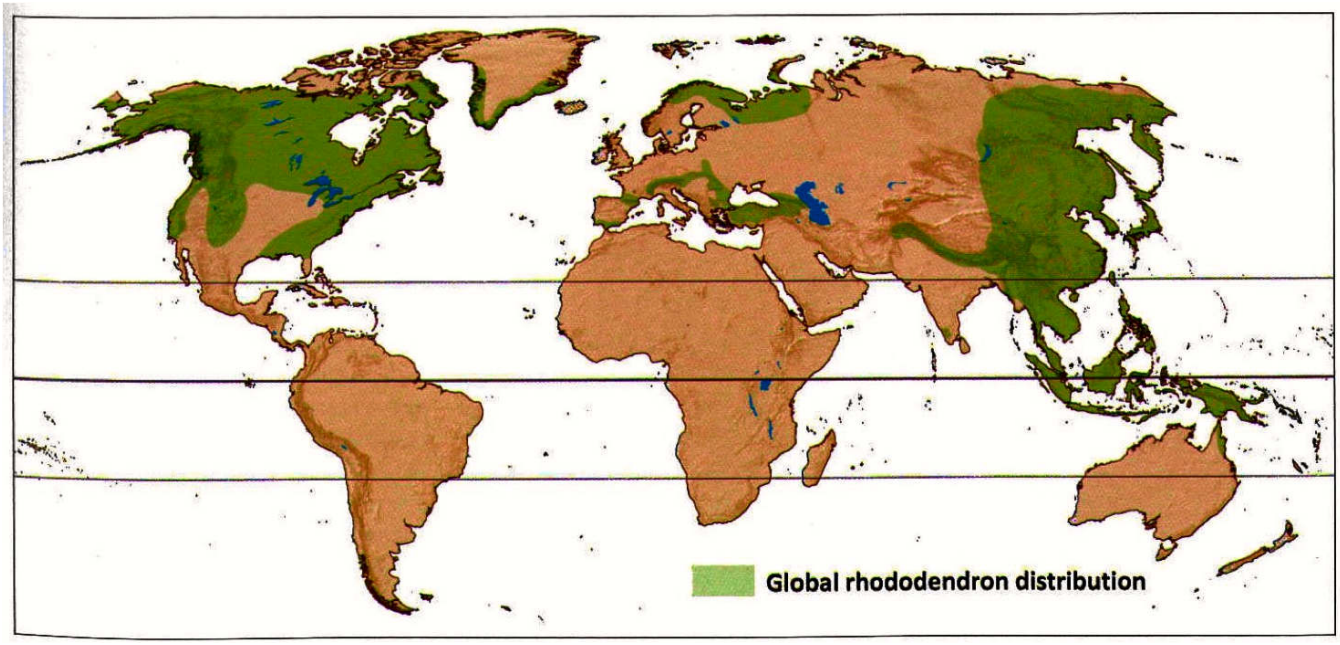
The Polly Hill Arboretum fits naturally into the landscape of Martha's Vineyard with fieldstone rock walls, conserved fields and woodland, and shingle-clad buildings. Beginning in 1958, Polly Hill developed a 40 acre abandoned farm into a concentrated and adventurous collection of trees and shrubs. The core plants are from the floras of Martha's Vineyard, the Atlantic Coastal Plain, and eastern Asia—including stewartias, witch hazels, camellias, hollies, magnolias, conifers and more. Rhododendrons and azaleas represent the most significant group. Before moving to the farm, Polly gardened in Wilmington, DE. She took classes at Longwood Gardens and elsewhere, knew the wonderful gardens of the Philadelphia area, and eventually received seeds, cuttings and plants from informed gardeners there. Best-known of her many plant introductions are perhaps the North Tisbury azaleas.

Today the Polly Hill Arboretum is open daily. Started by one person sixty years ago, the Arboretum is a place of beauty, wide-ranging educational activity and public engagement. It's now on my list of gardens I must visit. The website is pollyhillaroboretum.org

For the ARS Research Foundation rhododendron conservation study, the team focused on the *Rhododendron* subgenus *Pentanthera* group because several of those species are grown in the Polly Hill Arboretum. Those plants do well there. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species. The 2011 Red List for Rhododendrons ranks more than 1,000 species of rhododendrons at seven levels of risk, from extinct to of least concern. Seventy-five (75) of the world's rhododendron species are endangered or critically endangered, and 241 are considered vulnerable. The ARS study focused on "Assessing and Increasing the Genetic Diversity" of three of these "vulnerable" *Pentanthera* species: *R. eastmanii* (May-White Azalea), *R. flammeum* (Oconee Azalea), and *R. vaseyi* (Pink-shell Azalea).

While conservation assessment is wide-ranging around the world, the depth of our understanding is limited by time, budgets and access to some areas. The worldwide *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* aims to increase our understanding and the conservation of natural species, both in their native habitat and in gardens. Looking at the global distribution map, I'm surprised to see that rhododendrons are native to most of Canada, from Nova Scotia to Labrador to British Columbia and the Yukon. Efloras.org lists seven species as mapped in Canada: *lapponicum*, *columbianum*, *tomentosum*, *groenlandicum*, *albiflorum*, *canadense*, and *macrophyllum*. What about *maximum* that David Patriquin recommended we grow? Will it re-establish here? What is the conservation status of our native rhododendrons?

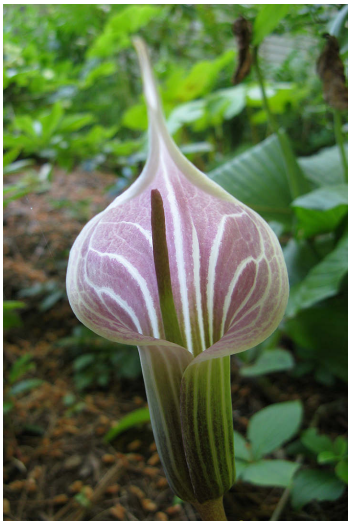
R. vaseyi



Collecting and displaying species plants while educating about the value of the natural plant world are core efforts of many Botanic Gardens. Known for their rhododendrons, the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, and now the Polly Hill Arboretum are much admired institutions for our members. Tom showed images of the ARS study group botanizing in the southeastern US. This involves old-fashioned herbarium sheets and modern GPS mapping, slogging through swampy woodland thickets and touring dramatic canyons with the Natural Lands Manager at Callaway Gardens. The end result is a better understanding of species in the wild, along with a deeper appreciation of wild nature, more conservation of genetic diversity in botanic gardens and seed banks, and, for us gardeners, perhaps growing some native plants in our own gardens. In this azalea group, but not yet native here, I have a *R. viscosum* from an ARHS plant sale doing well along a streambed at our place. With very fragrant white bloom and great fall color, it fits right in to my Nova Scotia landscape. Now growing wild in Vermont and Maine, it will not need a passport to cross our border. ¤

Why I Start Seeds

Roslyn Duffus



'*Arisaema candidissimum* '

My gardening career started with vegetables, so sowing seed was not unusual for me. However, the reward of planting in spring for a summer/ fall harvest comes quickly, while the huge satisfaction that comes from starting seeds to reach long term goals takes longer. But with patience and determination you can get yourself some treasures and bragging rights. When the rock garden plants that I wanted in 1991 exceeded my funds, I was able to find seed in the Ontario Rock Garden Society Seed Exchange for plants either not available in the trade or quite expensive. A few of the best things I got from their seed exchanges include *Glaucidium palmatum, Callianthemum anemonoides and Jeffersonia dubia.*

Over time I've received seed from the Arisaema Enthiusiasts (Group http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/Arisaema-L/) as well as from our ARHS SeedEx. More recently I joined the Trillium Group on Facebook, and used their SeedEx, which sends seed out in the fall -- much earlier than most other seed exchanges. This is very important for *Trillium* as the seed is reputed to die in dry storage, or at most will take several years to germinate, and poorly at that.

I have learned the different requirements for successful germination of the seeds I've tried, and that some of the most wanted plants can be a challenge:

Callianthemum anemonoides

Glaucidium palmatum

- Some seed either germinates poorly (*Glaucidium*) or not at all (*Trillium*) if allowed to dry out, and is best planted as soon as ripe.
- *Trillium* may take several years to germinate even when planted fresh.
- Some seed will germinate after drying but it may take two, or even several, years before germination occurs (*Helleborus*)
- Some seeds seem to require a period of warm moist conditions when they may develop a root, followed by a cold period after which they will show top growth. (*Peony*)
- Others seem to germinate best after a winter with fluctuating temperatures, which we do pretty well here in Nova Scotia. I often sow seed in pots as soon as they are ripe and leave the pots outside until germination happens. Other times I put damp vermiculite and seed in baggies in the fridge for a period of time before sowing in a pot in late winter and putting outside for spring germination.
- Other useful information has to do with the size of the seed and the depth that the seed should be covered. Some is even sown on the surface and exposed to light.
- The planting medium also may differ depending on the seed being planted.

There are many strategies to get more reliable germination, and even to hurry growth by getting two seasons of growth in one year. I have done this with *Arisaema* seeds, by sowing seed in fall or winter, growing under lights until the top growth dies back, at that point putting the tubers in the fridge for a few months, then bringing out into growth again.

If you want to collect your own seed, you have to pay attention in order to get your harvest. Rodents will steal your seed as soon as, or even before, the pods begin to open. Ants will take the seed of *Trillium*, *Hepatica*, *Sanguinaria*, and other native wildflowers. This helps to naturally disperse the seed. So you can leave nature to do the work. You just need to recognize the seedlings so you don't weed them out.

Sources I have used include the Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society Germination Guide; *Wildflowers: A Guide to Growing and Propagating Native Flowers of North America* (The New England Wild Flower Society) by William Cullina; *Seed Germination Theory and Practice* by Norman Deno; as well as sources on the internet. ¤

Jeffersonia dubia.

Sanguinaria canadensis (Bloodroot)

Rhododendrons in Iceland: A Gardner's Perspective

Liz Malicki

(Editor's note: This article is adapted and condensed by the author from a talk given by her to the Niagara Chapter, ARS district 12, on November 5, 2017. We would like to thank her and the Niagara chapter newsletter for permission to adapt and republish it in the Atlantic Rhodo.)

A glacier feeds a river flowing through the subarctic tundra of the interior.

The author by Lake Jokulsarlon with Iceland's largest ice cap in the background .

At the start of my presentation to the Niagara Chapter last November I asked the audience, "How many of you have travelled to Iceland?" Three people responded. "And how many had seen rhododendrons there?" No positive response from anyone. How exciting! I was going to lead the members into unknown rhododendron territory!

In retrospect, this lack of positive response from my audience should not have been surprising. When preparing for my presentation to the Chapter, my own research into rhododendron culture in Iceland was hampered by a serious lack of literature. It became abundantly clear that the only way a gardener contemplating a visit was going to find information was by word of mouth or by visiting the country.

In fact, our September trip to Iceland was planned around my husband's passion for astronomy, not my passion for plants. In particular, he hoped to see the Aurora Borealis in all its glory. I had included two Icelandic botanical gardens in our tour but my expectations were low, especially for rhododendrons in September. I didn't expect there could be much if anything in bloom. In spite of this, I was looking forward to experiencing the unique terrain, assessing the environments, feeling the weather influences on my face, smelling the air and running my fingers through the soils. So you can imagine my surprise when the horticultural realities far exceeded my expectations. The gardens of Iceland are well worth a visit in late summer, and it turned out – perhaps even more astonishing - that rhododendrons are among the wonders to be discovered there.

Gardening with rhododendrons for 30 years has nurtured my respect for their adaptability. My own woodland garden specializes in the genus. They grow among a selection of ericaceous companion plants. Experience has taught me that successful cultivation requires specific conditions. Let us examine how Iceland meets these requirements:

Rhododendrons need adequate light and temperature:

Iceland is situated just south of the Arctic Circle (66°30'N). At this high latitude, it receives a specific kind of daylight. The Sun is never high in the sky and as the days approach the summer solstice (June 21), the sun barely sets. As the year approaches winter solstice (Dec. 21) the sun barely rises. Plants growing in Iceland need to accommodate to these light conditions.

The climate is tempered by ocean currents (particularly the Irminger Current, a branch of the warm Gulf Stream flowing South & West) and this creates a cool Temperate Maritime Climate. Weather is varied and unstable. A common Icelandic phrase admits, "If you do not like the weather, wait five minutes." Temperatures in the summer range from 10 to 13 degrees C (cooler in the north) and in the winter 0 to -13 degrees C in the south and -25 to -30 degrees C in the north.

Rhododendrons need the right soil.

Iceland is a land of fire and ice. Its landforms reflect this. There are 130 active volcanoes and numerous geysers, hot springs, mud pots, rhyolite mountains, steam vents, hot rivers and springs. The volcanic ash that is deposited on the land is rich in nitrogen along with various chemicals and minerals. The mixing of plant material into this ash prevents erosion by wind and water, and coagulates the nutrients for 'grower-friendly conditions'. By way of contrast, 10% of Iceland is

covered by jokulls (ice-caps), with icebergs melting into cold lakes or ocean waters. Other landforms include vast expanses of cooled molten rock, basaltic columns, lava deserts, craters of extinct volcanoes, the Rift Valley, fjords and sheltered inlets. The Botanic Gardens are found in some of these secluded microclimates.

Rhododendrons need regular hydration.

Water is a significant feature of Iceland. It ranges from an annual mean precipitation count of 5000 mm dropping on the glacial caps to 400 mm hydrating the dryer lowlands. But the visitor encounters water as a constant companion. It is found in the glaciers, icebergs, lakes, fjords, beaches, lagoons, rivers, ponds, bogs. It falls out of the skies. It hisses, pops and spits out of geysers and hot vents. It surrounds the country with oceans. It falls off the tectonic plate in the Rift Valley. It showcases itself in the extraordinary abundance of foss (waterfalls). At some scenic viewpoints you will count as many as 20 of them!

Rhododendrons need protection from harsh climactic conditions.

Winds seem to be ever present in Iceland. There are the prevailing easterlies, with highest wind speeds in the highlands. Certain topographic features can also cause strong gusts in the lowlands. Winds can blow 60 km/p/h continuously for 10-20 days in the lowlands, and for 50 days in the highlands. Occasionally, Iceland experiences hurricane force winds of 225 km/p/h to 270 km/p/h! Exotic plants not adapted to these harsh conditions will certainly meet their demise.

However!

Native plants have adapted to this inhospitable environment. Tundra vegetation covers many parts of the land and includes shrubs, sedges, mosses, lichens, grasses. The native dwarf birch (*Betula nana*) and the dwarf willow (*Salix herbacea*) grow in forests and exhibit a warm colour palette of yellows, rusts and ochres in September.

In the 9th century, 40% of Iceland was covered by birch forests. With settlement by the Vikings, their logging, burning practices, and overgrazing by livestock, as well as nature's volcanic activities, glacial movements, and the unfavourable climate, only 5% of these woodlands were left by the 20th century. Wind and water erosion prevented plants from getting a foothold in the shifting soils. Flora and fauna could no longer survive. Many of my hiking trips were eerily quiet. No bird or animal activity was evident.

Nowadays vast tracts of land are being reforested with exotic trees such as oak, beech, apple, pear, cherry, Sitka spruce, Russian larch, Alaskan cottonwood, Lodgepole pine, birch, mountain ash (citation: Newsweek, Nov. 14, 2014). According to one Icelandic forestry association, global climate change is causing warmer weather and a longer growing season. Current forest growth rates are about 50% faster than in the 1960's.

Enthusiastic Icelandic horticulturalists are examples of defiance in the face of the "inhospitable". Both commercially and privately, numerous greenhouses harness energy from two of Iceland's natural resources, hydro power and geothermal power, allowing for an inexpensive means of growing tomatoes, grapes, vegetables and hothouse flowers that could never grow or ripen outdoors.

The gardens that surround peoples' houses exhibit riots of annual and perennial colour, individual design and ingenuity. Public spaces display a love of culture by incorporating plaques of poetic verse and sculptural forms amidst the plantings. Like keen gardeners everywhere, Icelanders join together to support and further their shared enthusiasm. The Horticultural Society of Iceland organises talks, seminars, and garden tours, with a focus on growing hardy perennials, vegetables and collecting seeds.

The two Botanical Gardens that I visited in Iceland are equally notable examples of stretching the horticultural possibilities. It is in these special niches where I experienced, most unexpectedly, 'The Wow Factor.' Both gardens reveal the fertile, the temperate and the verdant and are such a contrast with the stark, inhospitable expanses where a gardener's first thought is, "What can grow here?"

R. "Dreamland" in Reykjavik Botanical Garden.

Rhododendron display at the Reykjavik Botanical Garden.

Rhododendrons can be found in the following Botanical Gardens:

Akureyri Botanical Garden:

This most northern Botanical Garden is located in a sheltered inlet, almost sitting on top of the Arctic Circle. In existence since 1957 it houses 6600 alien taxa and 430 native taxa. Experimenting with shrubs, trees and plants surviving on the 'edge', this public space exhibits an incredibly inclusive collection of perennials meticulously planted side by side, labelled and carefully tended to. It was indeed an educational experience to meander among the rows and rows of plantings and observe the familiar species' identifier labels and think, "Wow, this could be a garden in Ontario!" A small plot of rhododendrons growing amidst a stand of evergreen trees exhibited healthy growth with a significant bud development for next year's bloom. They included the following:

Showy red buds on 'Gartendirkctor Gloker growing outside a private greenhouse.

Rhododendron ' Helsinki University':

Plant Habit: mid-size / round
Height: 2 m in 10 years
Cold Hardiness: -37 degrees C
Bloom: truss is pink with a dark spotted pattern / blooms in mid-June**.**
Parentage: *R. brachycarpum* var. *tigerstedtii** x pollinator unknown

Note: one of the first extremely hardy hybrids from Finland introduced in 1990 to celebrate the University of Helsinki's 350th anniversary
**The R. brachycarpum var. tigerstedtii hybrid is the plant that Kristian Theqvist praised for its super hardiness in his hybridizing program.*

Rhododendron 'Mikkeli':

Habit: shrub blooms better with age
Height: 5 feet x 5 feet
Cold hardiness: -33 degrees C
Bloom: large red truss buds open in June / fades into pale pink then into white
Parent: cross between 2 hardy wild species - *R. brachycarpum* var. *tigerstedtii* x *R. smirnowii*
Note: 'Mikkeli' or 'St. Michel' is a Finnish hardy hybrid. Under ideal conditions it can live to 40 years easily or even longer**.**

Rhododendron aureum:

Habit: 1 m tall – low growing
Hardiness: -26 degrees C
Bloom: pale yellow truss (aureum means gold) flowers in July
Parentage: elepidote of R. ponticum subsection - *Pontica*

Note: lives in E. Russia / Korea / Japan / N. China at an elevation of 5000 – 9000 feet

Grasagardur Reykjavikur:

This Botanical Garden, also situated in a sheltered inlet, was founded in 1961 to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the city of Reykjavik. 5000 plant species, both indigenous and alien, are cultivated to demonstrate the horticultural diversity possible in the Northern Temperate Zone. "Lyngros" (the Icelandic word for rhododendron) have been grown in this garden since 1977. All plants are meticulously labelled and spaced according to the same practices used at the Akureyri Botanical Garden. This large healthy collection of rhododendrons is interplanted with various companion evergreens.

Rhododendron oreodoxa var. fargesii:

Plant Habit: upright / bushy shrub
Height: 5 feet in 10 years
Cold hardiness: -21 degrees C
Bloom: flowers (bell-shaped) can be white or soft pink and bloom in the early spring
Origin: *oreodoxa* (meaning glory of the mountain) / found in the China/Sichuan mountains / grows above the tree line (7,000-13,000 ft.)

Rhododendron 'Gartendirektor Glocker':

Plant habit: round
Height: 4 feet in 10 years
Cold Hardiness: -21 degrees C
Bloom: rose red bell-shaped flowers / blooms in April - May
Parentage: 'Doncaster' x *williamsianum*
Hybridized: Hobbie Nurseries in North Germany

***Rhododendron* 'Dreamland':**

Habit: dense growing shrub
Height: 4 feet x 4 feet in 10-20 years
Cold hardiness: -20 C
Bloom: truss is pale pink bordered by a deeper pink edging / flowers in spring are red
Parentage: *yakushimanum* hybrid, listed by Roslyn Nursery (1996)

***Rhododendron yakushimanum* 'Koichiro Wada':**

Habit: compact dome shaped
Height: 1.5m x 1.5m in 10-20 years
Cold hardiness: -20C
Bloom: pink buds change into white bell-shaped flowers in mid spring

Notes: In the 1930's, K. Wada, a Japanese nurseryman, sent Lionel de Rothschild his finest selection of R. yakushimanum. It is considered by many hybridizers to be the best form.

One Final Note:
Whether it is the neon green curtains of the Aurora Borealis, or the reflection of a glaciated mountain in a still pool of water, or the majestic truss of a flowering evergreen, Iceland is certainly a land of marvels not to be missed.

Acknowledgement:

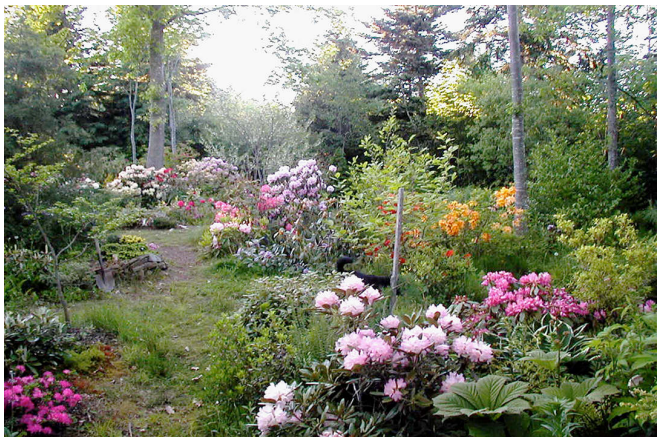
I extend a sincere 'thank you' to Kristian Theqvist, (Ecologist, Plantsman, and Rhododendron hybridizer), our colleague in Finland, who so willingly and generously shared his vast scientific knowledge of rhododendron species and hybrids, and who advised me regarding the plants mentioned in this article. ¤

A majestic scene showing one of iceland's estimated 10,000 waterfalls.

Fjordlands: a stark contrast showing the barren and the verdant.

Twenty-five years of Growing ARHS Tissue Culture Plants

Ian Lawrence



The Garden

Asked to write something about my garden, my thoughts first turned to why I actually garden. Sometimes, while I sit here looking out as winter sets in, the question seems a mystery to me. But as the ground thaws and the smell of the earth returns, so too does my enthusiasm and the pressing need to work the soil. In the hectic modern world, the therapeutic value of gardening cannot be overstated.

My interest in plants began early enough--as a child I recall growing sweet peas, bachelor's buttons, nasturtiums, and, inexplicably, kohlrabi! And as a young renter, I yearly started annuals and perennials to set out around that house. However, by the time I finished my own home in 1992 that interest in bedding plants had evolved into something of an obsession with rhododendrons. Key to that evolution was a friend's father, the late Wilfred Armstrong of Granville Beach. A federal government scientist who had retired home to Nova Scotia from Ottawa, he also had an abiding interest in plants. Although primarily interested in roses, he was a member of the Atlantic Rhododendron Society and was acquainted with Captain Steele. When Wilfred enquired of my background in plants, I told him that my year and a half of botany at Acadia had only qualified me as 'dangerous'. He seemed pleased with my response! With Wilfred's encouragement, I joined the Society and began buying tissue culture, initially two of everything, fearing a high casualty rate.

Early in my membership, I read an article in the Society's newsletter by one Sir Peter Smithers, a retired British diplomat living in Switzerland. He wrote of the joy in creating a woodland garden and laid out a number of principles in establishing a successful one. The gist of the article was that such a garden, started in one's early middle age, would grow and mature along with the gardener, to a point that the garden would require minimal work to maintain. Said gardener could eventually bask languidly in the dappled sunlight and cooling shade he had created. The theory seemed tailor-made for me!

Our home is built on a six-acre property next to the Annapolis River, halfway between Annapolis Royal and Bridgetown. It is land that had been tilled by the Acadians in the 17th and early 18th centuries, and that by the 19th century had become part of the farm of the Roney family. Elderly locals remembered old Henry Roney, a blacksmith, who ploughed the land with a horse, followed by his three unmarried daughters, Annie, Etta and Isa. The three middle-aged women would then heave the exposed rocks onto the stone walls lining the property. To this day, the ground is notably free of boulders.

When Valerie and I bought the land, remnants of the Roney pear orchard stood on a slight knoll near the centre of the property. The knoll turned out to be a glacial deposit of compacted sand, and became the site of our house. The remaining upland, bordered by marsh, is of a heavy clay soil. To the east, near the property line bordering a lane to the river, was a gnarled old red oak. It stood, with about a dozen of its progeny, on land that slopes gently upward towards the house. The mixed wood included white and red spruce, wire birch, alder, wild cherry, Indian pear or shadbush, viburnums and Canada holly.

R. 'Casanova'

Those first tissue culture choices were planted along a path from the edge of the lawn down to that old red oak. In time, as my obsession grew, so too did the woodland garden. It now covers not quite ½ acre of interconnected paths with a few low retaining walls built of the Roney girls' basalt. Initially reluctant to open the canopy radically, dryness and persistent problems with spider mites required the elimination of the spruce and much of the second story. In their place, I planted half a dozen white pine and a couple of English white oak to create an upper canopy with the existing red oak. To the remaining understory trees below, I have added Acer, Chimonanthes, Cornus, Halesia, Hammemalis, Magnolia,

Oxydendron, Stewartia and Styrax, as well as a variety of conifers. The rhododendrons and azaleas I have loosely grouped by breeder, while trying to maintain a pleasing colour sensibility. David Leach's hybrids fill one large bed, Dexter/ Consolini's another, and Kentville hybrids, a third. A European "quarter" features German and Finnish hybrids and one Czech (the lovely R. 'Elena'). Likewise, the azaleas are presented for the most part by breeding: Exbury, Knaphill and the Northern Lights series. The lower story of the garden I have supplemented with Corylopsis, Hydrangea, Pieris, Kalmia, Leucothoe and Viburnum. Species rhododendrons and azaleas populate the edge of the woodland garden. The garden floor is planted with ferns (supplementing the native population), sweet woodruff, hellebores, vinca, peonies, iris, hemerocallis. Most bulbs have proved a challenge with the burgeoning chipmunk and squirrel population.

Over time, as the garden has evolved, I have become more selective, and replaced a number of the plants that were not good "doers", or didn't impress me for whatever reason (a pink rhododendron needs to be a special pink to bowl me over these days). I don't mulch much, and fertilize even less. The garden is not highly groomed. I rake up the fallen leaves in the springtime and weed out any unwelcome new arrivals. The original section now requires little maintenance, actually behaving as Sir Peter indicated it would. And that old red oak, the garden's initial focus? Well, clearly beyond its prime, it blew over during tropical storm 'Nicole' in 2010. It was possibly the one time in my life that I was struck speechless!

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: R. 'Cannon's Double'

: R. 'Sunte Nectarine'

The standouts of my garden?

I am actually partial to azaleas, and probably the queen of the show is the deciduous Exbury azalea 'Cannon's Double'. Nearly 25 years old, it is about 7 feet tall and approaching 14 feet wide. The plant is impressive year-round. Its habit tends to horizontal branching which gives it an attractive form through the winter. The leaves are textured and become bronze/rust in the fall. But it is the double flowers that cover the plant in season, yellowish-white with pink lobes, and their scent that people comment on.

Other azaleas that draw remarks are the Exbury 'Sunte Nectarine', the Knaphill azaleas 'Homebush', 'Linnet' and 'Sophie Hedges' and the more recent hybrid 'Arneson Gem'. The.rhododendron hybridizer whose crosses I particularly like is David Leach. His plants, for the most part, are reliably hardy in my area, and offer a variety of colour and form. A favourite is *R.* 'Casanova', whose cherry red buds open to a pale yellow with a pink blush, fading to white. Anthony Consolini's *R.* 'Consolini's Windmill' always draws comment. Its large bicolour flowers, a strong pink-red with a white centre, are almost garish; but it is a sight to behold in full flower. Among the lepidotes, *R.* 'Weston's Pink Diamond' and *R.* 'April Mist' stand out. Both have double flowers, the latter with blossoms a silvery pink, almost lavender colour.

Wilfred was only able to visit my garden a couple of times, when it was young and he was old. I remember him, nearly blind, lying prostrate on the ground next to young tissue culture plants, so to better see the single bloom or particular indumentum of my then measly specimens! Were he to see the garden today, he would, I think, approve. ¤

Green Patience: The Formula for Woodlanders

A talk by Philip MacDougall

(Summary by Bob Howard)

Epimedium fargesii

Epimedium wushanense x -(red as a maple)

At 153 slides and with unbridled enthusiasm, Philip's talk impressed me with gorgeous images and rare names. The next time I go to Vancouver, I hope to take an empty, extra suitcase and to visit his nursery. Beyond that if someone is going to Vancouver, I would like to form a partnership to help pay for transporting that suitcase of plants. Or perhaps there is some other way for us to bring in some of his plants for our member-to-member plants sale?

Philip advised patience and provoked envy. He opened windows on the life of a global plant explorer-collector who is also an adventurous seed propagator and an ardent grower of rare and distinguished plants. To publish the complete list of the plants he showed, with slides, knew the Latin names of and discussed how to grow would be beyond the scope of this article. How, then, to share the wealth he laid out in that talk? I will focus on only two of the genera he presented, *Epimedium* and *Polygonatum*, and just mention a few names in other genera so you can look them up if you like.

Epimedium is a group of plants whose botanical name gardeners have accepted as its common name--epimediums, probably because the alternative common name, barrenwort, sounds like herbal medicine. Wikipedia notes there are currently around 65 accepted species. Most are endemic to China. Botanists keep identifying new species. In the 2002 edition of the *Encyclopedia of Shade Perennials*, George Schmid says, "The genus *Epimedium* has more than doubled its former count of 20 or so species in recent years." Since then, even more species have been discovered and named. Philip put up a slide that lists 45 species in China alone.

Epimediums found in local nurseries are generally hardy to zone 5 or even 4. Some species locally available are *E. grandiflorum*, *E. pinnatum* , *E.* x *rubrum*,. *E.* x *youngianum*, with selected cultivars. Philip showed these and other species in his introduction to the epimediums. For example, *E.* x *versicolor* is a garden hybrid, yellow flowering above the foliage on the slide he showed. Another photo was of *E.* x *rubrum*, with rose and white flowers above red-edged light green leaves. That one grows well for me, an easy, spreading groundcover. With a species called *E. chlorandrum*, he moved into showing dramatic leaf variegation. *E. fargesii*, almost evergreen, from western China, hardy to zone 5, throws numerous light purple shooting star flowers at the same time as the new foliage emerges in a light burnt-orange contrast.

We hit a high note with *E. wushanense*, with 50 – 100 white to yellow flowers on 90cm plus stems, evergreen, from Sichuan. George Schmid calls this one "revolutionary. Its truly unusual flowers will surely give rise to new hybrid epimediums." And that is what Philip showed next, his hybrid seedlings, crowding the seedbeds of his nursery. Leaves mottled with purple. Then he showed an epimedium, normally thought of as groundcover, which stood as tall as his shoulders. This is he calls 'The Giant". Flowers like flocks of certain spider orchids. Leaves as red as a maple.

Cultural notes he gave for epimediums are briefly listed: "Typically acidic soils with organics. Older European types are more drought-tolerant. Species are not self-fertile. Older hybrids are sterile. Seed must be fresh. For germination, give warmth then cold stratification. Typically bloom after 24 months from sowing, but may bloom first year. Root growth is in later fall until early spring. Rhizome types vary; clumpers form a very woody center and may need a chainsaw."

I have a question: For propagation we should divide them in late autumn or very early in the spring. Does anyone reading this have experience with this? If I divide them in the fall, should they be grown on in a cool house or does it work to plant them outside for the winter? Philip noted one should make sure each piece has a growing tip.

Polygonatum falcatum 'Kon Chiri'

Polygonatum falcatum 'Silver Stripe'

We finished up the springtime section with lovely blue *Hepatica transylvanica*, with *Sanguinaria*, *Trillium* and *Paris*. Ah, yes, Paris. Then back on the bus and into summer, *Thalictrum*, *Meconopsis*, *Paeonia*.

Now we approach *Polygonatum*, the popular Soloman's seals, but with caution! The taxonomy is muddled, new discoveries abound, changes in labels will be required. There are approximately 63 species in the genus, which is currently in the *Asparagaceae* family. The Solomon's seals grow around the world in most temperate regions of the northern hemisphere. Philip organized the list of species by area, with representatives in Europe/west Asia, eastern Asia, China and the Himalaya, and in North America.

Philip started with *P. odoratum*. showing some variegated forms of this widespread and "probably the best known and most appreciated of all garden-worthy Soloman's seals…." (Schmid) Next he talked about *P. verticillatum* and *P. curvistylum*, species that grow very tall (4' – 8') in the wild, with dramatic, narrow, whorled leaves, making lofty, architectural plants for the shade. They belong to the Sibiricum group of polygonatums and may grow well for us in that they prefer cool, moist summers.

Philip definitely likes variegated plants and showed a couple of pretty cool examples in *P. falcatum 'Silver Stripe'* and 'Kon Chiri', hardy to zone 6. *P. punctatum* has bright red fruits, contrary to my reference book which says "dull brownish red". He must have a superior form. Although he did not mention *P. humile*, the dwarf Solomon's seal from Japan, Korea and China, it is available in local nurseries occasionally and makes a very handsome, low-growing groundcover. We have a patch in moist shade by our front walk. It seems easy to grow.

The high note for the polygonatums was also a surprisingly tall plant for this genus. In the slide, Philip is reaching to full extension and his hand is still at least a foot short of the top of this plant growing in his greenhouse. Native to China, hardy to zone 5b, this one is available at Far Reaches Nursery in Washington State in the US. They list it to 8' – 12'. It has a narrow stalk like a lily but with the flowers held tightly to the bottom of the stem rather than reaching out from the top. The lovely hanging coral (the catalogue calls them orange) corollas remind me of some penstemon flowers.

Polygonatums like plenty of organic matter in the soil, shady, moist, yet well-drained woodlands, with a few species tolerating some dryness. Every year the stem that grew that year leaves a scar on the rhizome when it dies down and falls off in the fall. George Schmid reports that he has counted nearly 60 such scars on some native plants in Georgia, indicating the long life these plants can attain. As to beauty, Timmy Foster writes simply of their "graceful laddered stalks and small pendent bells."

Nomarcharis aperta

I have skipped over a lot of plants, including hellebores. Philip showed a vigorous mat of *Epigea repens*, our native mayflower, sending up new shoots through pine duff in his garden. This fragrant groundcover should be found planted more frequently in our own shady gardens. He showed a Turkish hillside covered with *E. gaultherioides*, with larger, pinker flowers, and he showed these plants along with a video clip of villagers dancing with joy.

I have no space left to discuss *Nomarcharis aperta*, a wonderful plant, as you can see in the photo nearby. Ian Christie sent us seed of that, but my sowing failed out of neglect. I'd like to have another shot at growing it. ¤

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Photo Album **More amazing rhodo vistas from the Bremen region, northern Germany.**

[Photo - Hartwig Schepker]

[Photo - Hartwig Schepker]

[Photo - zu Jeddeloh Nursery]

[Photo - Hachmann Nursery]

Photo - Hachmann Nursery]

[Photo - Van den Berk Nursery]

[Photo - Hartwig Schepker]

[Photo - zu Jeddeloh Nursery]