

Annual General Meeting of the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society, November 2, 2021

Jim Sharpe, interim president, called the first hybrid Zoom meeting, held at the Nova Scotia museum, to order. As there were 25 people and about 25 on ZOOM, a quorum (25 people) was declared.

President's report and summary of the past year:

- Covid restrictions cancelled in person meetings and restricted travel so ZOOM technology was used to continue the mission of promoting Rhododendrons and gardens. Covid increased interest in gardening around the world and when the link to the meeting was circulated online and there was record attendance at some of the meetings.
- Hosted the first ever virtual *Rhododendron* convention which was praised across North America for as an innovative and informative event.
- Don Weigle and Jack Lloyd received the ARHS gold medal, the highest award given to those who made a significant national or international contribution to the genus *Rhododendron*.

Summary of the ARS convention:

- Introduction to Mi'kma'ki by Gerald Gloade
- The history of *Rhododendron* breeding in our region by Shelia Stephenson, explained our unique region and contribution to Rhodo breeding.
- Outstanding speakers from Canada included Todd Boland, Dianne MacLeod, Freeman Paterson, Ken Shannik, Christina Woodward, Nick Yarmoshuk and Phil MacDougal.
- International speakers included Ken Cox (Scotland), Joe Brusco (Massachusetts) Kristian Theqvist (Finland) and Juliana Madeiros (Ohio)
- Videos of gardens from Kings county Annapolis Royal, Halls Road Indian Harbour and the Coastal Barrens were presented.
- The Rhodo breeders roundtable (70-80 people) was organised by Jamie Ellison and John Weagle
- thank you to all who made the convention a success

Virtual plant sale was held with over 10,000 in plants sold by three local propagators.

Eight meetings were held throughout the year:

- October: Dennis Crouse, Fall gardening
- November: David Patriquin, Coastal Barrens
- December: slides from member's gardens
- January: Todd Boland, New Zealand gardens
- February: Jeff Babco (Pennsylvania) clematis
- March: Steve Hootman from the Rhodo species foundation e
- March exploring Vietnamese Rhodos
- April: Jamie Ellison pro garden I
- May: presentation of the plants from the plant sale

Two garden tours held in the September 2020 and September 2021 featuring member gardens in Prospect, Boutilliers Point and Bayport were successful. Thanks to the members who opened their gardens and to Lynn Rotin for organizing.

The ARHS board of director met 6 times throughout the year

At the AGM 2020 two new directors were welcomed Carol Morrison and Dennis Steubing. The society is in need of a treasurer, contact Jim Sharpe by email if you know somebody who might volunteer.

Special thanks to all who are continuing on the board. Jean Henshaw as secretary and newsletter editor, Rebecca Lancaster (membership) who will continue as vice president and are continuing on the board Dennis Crouse who will help with the plant sale Those finishing their terms include John Brett (president) Sandy and Syd Demaresk and Lynn Rotin. New directors to the board include Nancy Lewis (secretary) and Jane Plant (membership). Thank you to Sharon Bryson for organizing the seed exchange, Chris Hopgood for garden outreach, Bonnie Conrad and Francis Howard for maintaining the library which was moved from the museum. Thanks were also given to Trudy Campbell for maintaining the "Passionate Person of Plants" award for a student at Kingstec and Dalhousie Agriculture campus. Thank you to Sandra Demaresk for her work especially with the convention last year. A special thanks to Bob Howard for organizing the ARHS programs the past ten years and suggestions for the coming year. Thanks also to John Brett for his leadership during the past years. He has also done an outstanding job editing the journal He brought the opportunity to host the ARS convention and worked on the plant sale associated with it.

Meetings will continue on ZOOM as well as in person at the museum when permitted.

The 75th ARS 2022 convention will be held in Vancouver Washington. Registration opens 21 Dec 2021.

Minutes of the 2020 AGM (3 November 2020, posted on web site). The fees were raised from \$20 to \$30. A report on the convention was included. Jean Henshaw moved and Rebecca Lancaster seconded the motion that the minutes be accepted as circulated.

The ARS bronze medal award was presented to Sharon Bryson for her contribution to the ARHS especially managing the seed exchange and encouraging members to grow and nurture Rhodos.

Financial report (posted on the website), presented by Sandra Dumaresq (Treasurer). Thanks to Chris Hopgood for auditing the books. Plant sale and convention led to income over \$11,000. The plant sale is what keeps the ARHS going, membership doesn't provide enough revenue. No one opposed and the financial statement was approved to circulate.

Nominations report:

Jim Sharpe (president)
Rebecca Lancaster (vice president)
Nancy Lewis (secretary)
Jean (Henshall newsletter)
Dennis Crouse
Carol Morrison
Dennis Stuebbing

A call was made for new nominations then they were approved as slated.

Other business:

Syd Demaresk (past board member) thanked Jim Sharpe for taking over as president and for co-chairing the convention with Rebecca Lancaster. Thanked Sandy Demaresk for doing the books.

A short AGM was followed by a presentation on meadow gardens.

Two fall garden

- Declaration of quorum
- Welcome by Jim Sharpe, Interim President
- Minutes of the 2020 ARHS AGM
- Presentation of ARS Bronze Medal
- Financial Reports Sandra Dumaresq, Treasurer
- Nomination Report
- Election of the Board of Directors
- Other Business
- Motion of Adjournment