

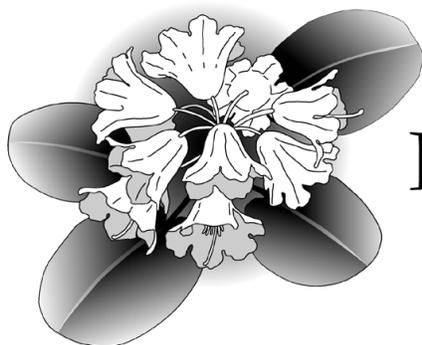
AtlanticRhodo

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.

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Membership

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015, due September 2014. 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.

Published three times a year. February, May and November

Editor: Sheila Stevenson,
17 Stanbrae Rd.
Fergusons Cove, Nova Scotia. B3V 1G4
902 479-3740

Cover Photo: **R. 'Minas Grand Pre'** - (*catwabiense* 'Compactum' x *williamsianum*), 30+ year-old plant, a gift from the hybridizer, George Swain, to Sterling Levy [Photo Sterling Levy]



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'.

- Tuesday, Feb 24** (rescheduled) **Breeding for a Cold Climate -Sixty Years of Hybridizing in Nova Scotia - John Weagle**
John will review the challenges and advantages of our Nova Scotian climate - wet, foggy, windy, stormy - for growing and breeding rhododendrons. From the early 'ironclads', he will lead us through the breeding work of Don Craig, George Swain, Capt. Steele, and Joe Brueckner to recent breeding work and testing of varieties and species with promise for "this unruly climate of the North Atlantic."
- Saturday, Feb. 28**
Deadline for tissue culture orders
- Tuesday, March 3**
The English Country Garden: Changing Directions - Jenny Sandison
During the twentieth century, landscape design in England evolved from the colour co-ordinated rooms of Sissinghurst and Hidcote into more relaxed gardens created by Christopher Lloyd and Beth Chatto, among others. Towards the end of the century Piet Oudolf introduced sweeping changes to garden sign with his prairie style of planting. These ideas inform many gardens today.
- March 18**
Submit orders for spring 2015 pre-ordered plant sale for members
- Tuesday, April 7**
How about that botanical Latin and Greek?
Nick Hill will be our translator and guide as we venture into the territory of botanical Latin, Greek, and taxonomy, with a focus on ericaceae. A self-employed wetland ecologist, Nick is also an adjunct professor at Acadia and Dalhousie.
<http://fernhillns.ca/fernhillnsWP/>
- Sat May 2 10 am – 1 pm**
Members' Pre-ordered Sale 957 Prospect Road at Petal Pushers, the same location as last year (also the site of Goodwood Enviro Depot) Volunteers needed from 9 am-1:30 pm! Contact liz.anne.naylor@gmail.com or 902-809-8440
- Tuesday, May 5** **Members-to-Members Plant Sale 6141 Watt Street, Halifax. LeMarchant-St. Thomas School**
In addition to 'unusual and choice' plants, we want to broaden the variety of plants on offer this year, for members who are still establishing their gardens or are extending or renewing their plantings.
- Saturday, June 13.**
Annual Garden Tour and Potluck Supper (Rain date: Sunday June 14.)
Hosts: Frances and Tom Howard, Dartmouth.
- Wednesday, Sept 16**
Hollies - to be confirmed
- Tuesday, Oct 6.**
Clematis - to be confirmed
- Tuesday, Nov 3.**
Steele Lecture - George Woodard
George Woodard is the long-time Gardens superintendent at the Phipps Estate, Old Westbury Gardens, an important horticultural estate on Long Island.
<http://oldwestburygardens.org> He is a member of the New York chapter of the American Rhodo Society which awarded him the bronze medal to recognize his service to the chapter as well as 30 years of rhododendron hybridizing to combine the colors and superior truss sizes of the west with the hardiness of the eastern hybrids. With a connection to family and friends in Halifax, he knew and knows our rhodo heroes here in NS, and feels honoured to give the Steele lecture.
- Tuesday, Dec 1**
Christmas party

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

Editor's Notes

February ... when we can't imagine seeing those geophytes in bloom! And those longer days are so welcome.

When weather conditions require us to cancel a meeting, you will be notified - by email - on the ARHS facebook page - and online at the CBC Storm Center <http://www.cbc.ca/stormcentre/> Please be sure to check before heading out!

AND please be sure that Gloria Hardy, our membership coordinator, has your current phone number and email address. Please notify her through <http://atlanticrhodo.org/contact-us/> or by phone at 902-477-4411

Program director, Bob Howard, is always keen to get ideas and info re speakers and topics of interest to you. Please let him know who and what is on your wish list! By phone at 902-532- 0834, through the website contact, or tell him you accept his invitation to have tea.

Rhododendron 'Minas Grand Pre' is gracing not only our cover, but that of the winter 2015 *American Rhodo Society Journal* with a photo by member, Bruce Clyburn. "Elepidote rhododendron 'Minas Grand Pre', hybridized by George Swain at Kentville Research Station" is at the top of the ARS List for 'Plant of the Year' for the Northeast. The entire list is at <http://www.rhododendron.org/roy15ne.htm>

Some of you had things to say in the Survey about the Newsletter, **and I'd love for more members to submit short pieces about their experiences, their spectacular plants, and to suggest other content.**

- *I have been very happy with the quality of the newsletters and information provided by the ARHS over the years.*
- *We enjoy the articles and always partake of the tissue-culture sales.*
- *Maybe some short education articles in a newsletter from new or experienced members, or maybe a spectacular plant of the month with a brief write up.*

Noticed in the Niagara newsletter re their upcoming programs: *Sunday, April 19, 2015 John Brett, Halifax, N.S. Breeding for Hardiness: Niagara's & Atlantic's Experiences with Brueckner Hybrids*

ARHS member Niki Jabbour is a contributor to the online newsletter, Savvy Gardening. You might want to subscribe. Check it out at <http://savvygardening.com/>.

Even though you think you are not interested in the Seed Exchange, I beg you to look through the list of donations that Sharon Bryson has assembled. It's quite a thing. For some of our members, it is either THE thing or one of the things most valuable .

- *As living in Finland most important for me are the seed exchange, not so much getting but donating, and connections to friends in Nova Scotia.*
- *The newsletter, website, seed exchange, and tissue culture sale make membership worthwhile for me.*

Cora Swinamer is managing the website these days. Please contact her if you run into any issues or have content for posting. One of you specified that you'd like *A lively website with elaborate information for the members.* To help make it lively, we'd like members to send plant and garden images for use on the site to Cora support@underthearbor.ca And our newsletter layout man, Sterling Levy, is prepping the last 15 years of newsletters for eventual posting to the website.

Congratulations to Jasmine Cress, the ARHS Passionate Plants Person for 2014-15 in the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University. Jasmine is a B Tech student pursuing a major in Environmental Landscape Horticulture. She writes, "*Thank you so much for your generosity. Plants have truly been my passion for a number of years now. Receiving a scholarship is the best kind of boost for a student and a huge relief of financial stress. Thank you very much.*"

Be sure to take a good look at the 70th Anniversary program for the ARS in Sydney BC. It looks like an awesome event. And we know an event like this takes a lot of time and energy. Best wishes to all. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-american-rhododendron-society-2015-annual-convention-registration-5917145341?ref=ecount>

Post and see questions, joys, sorrows, events, and plant and garden photos on the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/340130989363045/> We are now 163 individuals in the group (up from 95 last spring) ☐

The 2015 Tissue Culture Story

By Jon Porter, tissue culture sale coordinator.

Part One – Ordering Plants

This sale is available to paid-up members in the Atlantic Region. You can order Spring 2015 Tissue Culture plants until Feb 28. You will pick them up in early April, in Halifax, time and place to be announced via email and on the website once we get confirmation of the arrival date.

We have to buy a minimum number of each plant variety, so we will probably have some extras, not spoken for, for sale on the day of the pick-up. This year we have 23 plants, new varieties as well as some older ones that our newer members may not have. You can see the selection on the website <http://atlanticrhodo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/2014-ARHS-Tissue-Culture-Plant-Descriptions.pdf>

We expect the price to increase to \$5.50/plant this year as a result of increases in freight and the change in exchange rate. **DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY WITH YOUR ORDER. YOU WILL BE BILLED WHEN YOUR ORDER IS PICKED UP OR SENT.**

Special shipping charges may apply. Orders that are not picked up in Halifax on the sale date will be shipped collect by whatever method you have indicated on your order. Where shipping options are limited, the parcel will be shipped by Canada Post.

Please send your order by Feb. 28 to ARHS c/o Jon Porter
1103 Brooklyn Shore Rd RR 1, Brooklyn, NS
B0J1H0
902-354-2387
E-mail jonporter@eastlink.ca

PLEASE make sure to include your phone number and your email on the order form.
REMEMBER TO MAKE A COPY OF YOUR ORDER.

Part Two: — How to care for these plants to keep them alive

REMEMBER THESE PLANTS HAVE NOT BEEN HARDENED OFF. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU GIVE THEM A GOOD WATERING AND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, POT THEM UP IN 4" POTS. A mixture of one part peat, one part perlite and one part commercial mix makes a nice light mix for these small rhodies.

DO NO OVERWATER. Keep them inside under lights IN A COOL PLACE until all risk of frost is past (at least late May). On nice days you can place them outside in a shady spot so they can begin hardening off, but do not leave outside overnight until the risk of frost is over.

In June put them in the ground in a cold frame or other well sheltered spot. Mulch to keep the moisture and temperature stable. Water as needed.

Provide some protection in the first winter. Use a coldframe, burlap, or conifer boughs and make sure they are mulched well. Do not use clear plastic as it will cause burning and may even kill them. Shade cloth (which can be purchased at Lee Valley among other places) provides excellent shade and wind protection.

Good luck with your little plants and make some notes on how they do. We would really appreciate feedback on their performance. ☺

The ARHS 2015 SEED EXCHANGE

By Sharon Bryson

***NOTE 1:** Until February 28, 2015 the sale is open to ARHS members only, then open to members and the public until April 30, 2015. The plant list is at <http://www.willowgarden.net/>. All orders must be on the form provided at http://www.willowgarden.net/2015%20ARHS%20Seed%20Exchange/2015_OrderForm.pdf

Many interesting plants can be added to our gardens by simply growing a few seeds, like the numerous perennials in the Companion Plants section 116- 174. We have had quite a large number of new seed lots donated to our 2015 Exchange. Plant enthusiasts outside of our regional society have again made valuable contributions to our annual Exchange.

Among the novel seeds available this year are several tree species and some native azaleas. Most of the wonderful azalea selections are from Tadeusz Dauksza of Illinois. There are also three additions from member Betty Ann Addison of Minneapolis. Her selections represent some very hardy rhododendron forms. The offering of hand pollinated Rhododendron hybrids is quite extensive. The hybridizers have chosen interesting parents in their quest for great foliage, increased hardiness, and wonderful blooms. We thank the faithful contributors who make this possible. Make a “mental note” to save some seeds for next years’ Exchange.

***NOTE 2:** This list dates from *Feb. 7, 2015* and will be updated with availability as orders are filled and sent out. **It is important for people to check that list because things will become unavailable as days go by. Seed lots which are NOT AVAILABLE will have a strikethrough**

***NOTE 3 :** There are and will be a few additions to this list compared to the copy you received via email. Several donors have a few late additions. **Additions have been added at the end of the original list** Please insert the lot number manually on the order form.

Members who have already submitted an order but wish to add some of these new lots to their order can email me with your additions and I will add them to your original form. sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca Any extra money will need to be added at some point!

All orders must be on the form provided. One packet per lot per person. You may order more than one, but whether or not you get more than one is subject to availability. Please list substitutes as quantities for some lots are small.

Please make cheque or money order payable to **Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society**.

Seed packets are \$2.50 CDN each for collected-wild

\$2.00 CDN each for hand-pollinated

\$1.50 CDN each for open-pollinated

Add **\$3.00** CDN for postage & padded envelope.

Send to **Sharon Bryson, #407 Old Maryvale Rd., RR#3 Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2L1 CANADA**

As in other years, most cold/moist packed seeds will not be sent out until milder weather sets in.

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.

SEED LIST DONORS

ADD - Betty Ann Addison, Minneapolis, MN **BIE** - Sophie Bieger, Halifax, NS **BIR** - Jens Birck, Copenhagen, Denmark **BRU** - Joe Bruso, Hopkinton, MA **CHR** - Ian Christie, Kirriemuir, Scotland

CLY - Bruce Clyburn, New Waterford, NS **CRE** - Mike Creel, Lexington, SC **DAU** - Tadeusz Dauksza, Orland Park, IL **DOI** - Y. Doi, Japan **FIE** - Ray Fielding NS, **HAR** - Joe Harvey, Victoria, BC **HOP** - Chris Hopgood, Halifax, NS

KRE - Steve Krebs, Kirtland, OH **LOO** - Jack Looye, Niagara on the Lake, ON **MEI** - Rocky Mei, Toronto, ON **POP** - Harold Popma, Sackville, NB **REE** - Ed Reekie, Wolfville, NS **SHA** - Ken Shannik, Halifax, NS

THE - Kristian Theqvist, Finland **WEA** - John Weagle, Halifax, NS **WES** - Dennis Weston, Dresden, ON **WIL** - Bill Wilgenhof, Antigonish, NS ☐

ARHS SPRING 2015 Pre-ordered PLANT SALE FOR MEMBERS

The plant list and these instructions, compiled for us by Anitra Laycock and Wendy Cornwall, were sent out by Jean Henshall via email on Feb 13, 2015. Only ARHS members whose dues are current may order from the plant list. The plant list and order form are available on the ARHS website. <http://atlanticrhodo.org/news-programs/plant-sales-and-seed-exchanges/>

- Please note that the mark-up on these plants is minimal. For this reason we are not able to provide a warranty with the plants
- **Submit orders before March 18, 2015.** Orders will be accepted after this date, but quantities of many of the listed plants are limited. Our orders to suppliers will be adjusted to suit actual demand, subject to availability, on March 31.
- Please use the order form, or list the plants you want in the order they appear on the form.
- You may order more than one plant per variety. Plants will be allocated in the order in which members' order forms are received, on the basis of one plant per variety per membership. After this allocation, any surplus will be divided amongst multiple orders.
- You may list acceptable substitutions for specific plants by entering the substitute number in the substitute column beside the plant you are ordering.
- Send orders by email to Sandra.Sperker@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca. Or by Canada Post to Sandra Sperker, 6061 Cherry Street, Halifax, NS B3H 2K4 Do not send payment with your order
- You will pick up your order between **10 am – 1 pm** on **Sat May 2** at 957 Prospect Road, Petal Pushers, the same location as last year (also the site of Goodwood Enviro Depot) Plants will not be shipped. If you are unable to pick up your plants on this day, please arrange to have someone pick them up for you.
- Plants are to be paid for when they are picked up. Payment by cheque is preferred but cash will of course be accepted. Do not send payment with your order form.

Volunteers needed from 9 am - 1:30 pm! Contact liz.anne.naylor@gmail.com or 902-809-8440 ☐

Members-to-Members Plant Sale

In addition to unusual and choice plants, this year we want to broaden the variety of plants on offer, for members who are still establishing their gardens or are extending or renewing their plantings. We encourage members to bring divisions of your 'good – doers' and favourites. Photos of your plants, if available, will be much appreciated by potential buyers. Each plant should have two labels, one identifying the plant, the other naming the seller and the price. Members are reminded that they keep the proceeds of their sales.

The sale is on **our May meeting night, Tuesday May 2**, but held at **LeMarchant – St. Thomas School gym**, 6141 Watt Street, Halifax. Tables are available at the School, but sellers should arrive early to help with set-up, and be prepared to assist with clean-up at the end.

No Public Sale in 2015

"The best laid plans o' mice an' men gang aft agley". ... The very small group of Public Sale organizers got even smaller recently because of job changes and travel opportunities. So ARHS is taking a break in 2015 from the very labour-intensive Public Plant Sale arena and will think about options for the future. A few survey respondents pointed out that the Public Sale needs re-thinking. Promoting the pre-ordered sale for ARHS members as the best way to access plants may be a plank in a membership drive! In the meantime, paid-up members accustomed to buying plants at the Public Sale rather than through the Pre-ordered Sale might want to place an order this year! ☐



A very warm welcome to our ARHS members who have joined or returned since the May

Marion Bryson,
Dawn Casey,
Adam Gilmore,
Annie Jivalian,

Halifax, NS
Halifax, NS
Seabright, NS
Halifax, NS

☐☐☐

Who would have known?

in *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science* Volume 46 2011 Part 2

LATE BLOOMING OF PLANTS FROM NORTHERN NOVA SCOTIA: RESPONSES TO A MILD FALL AND WINTER

David J. Garbary, Jonathan Ferrier, Barry R. Taylor

Abstract

Over 1400 flowering records of 135 species were recorded from over 125 visits to more than 20 sites in Antigonish County, Nova Scotia from November 2005 to January 2006, when the growing season is normally over. The species identified were primarily herbaceous dicots; however, there were four species of woody plants (*Cornus sericea*, *Spiraea latifolia*, *Symphoricarpos albus* and *Salix* sp.) and one monocot (*Allium schoenoprasum*). The number of species flowering declined linearly as fall progressed, as did the amount of flowering for each species. Nevertheless, over 40 species were still in flower in early December, and over 20 species flowered in January. The final flowering date was 21 January, when ten species were found. This work builds on a previous study in 2001, when 93 species were recorded in flower during November-December. In addition to the 30% increase in recorded species in 2005, almost 50% of the species found in 2005 were not recorded in 2001. This study provides an expanded baseline against which changes in flowering phenology can be evaluated with respect to subsequent regional climate change.

Key Words: Antigonish, flowering, Nova Scotia, phenology, climate change

<https://ojs.library.dal.ca/nsis/article/view/nsis46-2garbary>

A Rare and Unusual Horticultural Weekend in Annapolis Royal May 16 - 17

By Bob Howard (Photos by Author)



Part of the "Sale Crowd".

What started out six years ago as a small local plant sale in Annapolis Royal has grown into a whole horticultural weekend of plant sales and seminars. "It's really amazing. I never expected that we would have over 500 visitors from across Atlantic Canada", says Jill Colvill of Bunchberry Nurseries, one of the co-founders of the event.

The Atlantic Canada Rare and Unusual Plant Sale has become the largest gathering of specialty growers and nurseries in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. For the sixth annual this year, fifteen plus vendors will bring thousands of plants to market, plants they think are their best and most suitable for our Maritime region. The Plant Sale will take place on Sunday, May 17, 1 - 4pm at the Farmer's Market, downtown Annapolis Royal across from the wharf. Entry is free; plenty of parking.

A new and exciting feature this year is the Saturday Seminars, slated for May 16 from 12:30pm – 5:00pm. The featured speaker is Harvey Wrightman of Wrightman Alpines who recently moved his nursery business to St. Andrews, NB. He will offer a choice selection of alpine plants at the Sale. His nursery website is: www.wrightmanalpines.com

John Brett will bring a selection of large balled & burlaped rhododendrons for the Sunday Plant Sale. On Saturday he will give a talk about rhododendrons. Jill Colvill of Bunchberry Nurseries will be the third seminar leader. Each talk will be about an hour. They all take place at the King's Theatre across from the Farmer's Market in downtown Annapolis Royal. Tickets which include all three presentations are \$35 if purchased before April 16. From April 16 they are \$45. Reserve tickets via email: jill@bunchberrynurseries.ca

The whole weekend is filled with fun things for gardeners. The town of Annapolis Royal has for many years been planting magnolias. Twenty-eight varieties are on show throughout the town. For a downloadable plant list and map, click here: https://celebratingmagnolias.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/magnolia_tour_2013.pdf



'Nancy Steele' rhododendron at the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens



Gentiana sino-ornata



Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'

On top of that, the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens opens on May 15. The Historic Gardens is full of spring-blooming plants and springtime is one of the best times to stroll through the Gardens. Rhododendron "Nancy Steele", bred in Nova Scotia, will be in bloom

Last but not least is the excitement of a crowd of plant enthusiasts eagerly browsing the tables and hoping to get that special plant first. I've bought several plants at the Rare and Unusual Plant sale that I don't think I could get anywhere else. From Bunchberry Nurseries I chose a purple beech, *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea'. It has grown from a small whip into a full, well-branched plant (Picture of purple beech)

For the rock garden I found *Gentiana sino-ornata*. This plant likes full sun and moist feet. It grows in wet meadows in its native Western China and Tibet. It has grown and flowered well in my humusy scree. I water this garden in dry periods.

Asked about the origins of the Plant Sale, Jill said, "I feel like the Annapolis area is such a great place to garden and see gardens. We'd like for people to think of it as the gardening capital of the Maritimes".

Further updates, and lots of plant pictures from previous Rare and Unusual Plant Sales can be found on the Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/acraups

Inquiries about Seminar tickets and/or more information should be sent to jill@bunchberrynurseries.ca or call 902-532-7777 ☐

Steve Krebs and the 2014 Steele Lecture: “Rhododendron Improvement at David G Leach Research Station”

By Sheila Stevenson



‘Santa Fe’ in Fergusons Cove. [Photo Stephen Archibald]

Steve Krebs, geneticist, plant breeder, and Director of the David G Leach Research Station, covered a lot of interesting ground in his well-illustrated power point presentation. He has generously agreed that we can put his presentation on our website. [<http://atlanticrhodo.org/archives/articles/steve-krebs-moving-forward-leach-hybrids/>]

These are some additional notes that reference his Powerpoint.

The Station, outside of Cleveland, Ohio, is a 30-acre property developed by the late horticulturist, David G Leach, as a rhododendron breeding and evaluation garden. A rhodo authority and hybridizer in the mid 1900s, Leach was breeding for cold hardy and colourful hybrids for the gardening public in USDA zone 5b, -26 C/-15 F.

And he was scrupulous about zone 5 hardiness, says Krebs.

The Station maintains the commitment to developing superior rhododendrons for continental climates, i.e. cold winters AND hot summers, by continuing to improve on the Leach hybrids. Says Krebs, *This is not just about pretty plants but how to create plants that can grow under challenging conditions.* He adds, *“I’m paid to breed reliable, bread-and-butter plants for a national sales presence. Sales to us rhodo enthusiasts are a mere drop in that big bucket!*

The research component focuses on adaptations of rhodies to biotic and abiotic stresses. Krebs is looking specifically for 1. tolerance to heat and 2. resistance to root rot disease caused by the fungal pathogen, *Phytophthora*, while asking if these two are functionally related, since warmer and wetter weather favours these pathogens. *“The working hypothesis”, says Krebs, “is that resistance is a key component of heat tolerance, because disease pressure is greater in warm climates”.*

In his search for a parent species with tolerance to both heat and root rot, Krebs hit on *Rhododendron hyperythrum*. A floriferous, well-branched native of Taiwan with dense glossy foliage, it is bud hardy in zone 6, heat tolerant in zone 8, and very root-rot resistant. For those of us who have lost numbers of the lovely yellow Leach hybrid, R. ‘Capistrano’, it was some consolation to learn that it is root-rot susceptible and that crossing it with *hyperythrum* has increased resistance. Also of note is Krebs’ observation that the Leach yellow, Holden’s Solar Flare, is a better plant, and that mulching with pine bark seems to aid root-rot resistance. (btw, Solar Flare is on offer in the 2015 tissue culture sale.)

As you will see in the power point, the new *hyperythrum* hybrids are being subjected now to rigorous and long-term off-site trialing in the wet and heat of Independence, Louisiana, by Buddy Lee, director of innovation for ‘the Southern Living Plant Collection’. At this point Steve offered a quote by J C Raulston, “If you are not killing plants, you are not really stretching yourself as a gardener”, provoking some laughter from the crowd.

You will also see what Krebs considers the best of the Leach hybrids in each of the colour groups. Whites: ‘Mist Maiden’ and ‘Summer Snow’. Pinks: ‘Bravo’ and ‘Bali’. Reds: ‘Red Sea’ and ‘Singapore’. Yellows: ‘Capistrano’ and ‘Holden’s Solar Flare’. Big-leafed: ‘Spellbinder’ and ‘Holden’s Spring Herald’.

In addition to being cold hardy, the saturated flower colour of Leach hybrids makes them desirable despite the general negative that they have poor leaf retention and quality. During a quick visit to our Rockburn garden, Steve observed that our Leach hybrid R. ‘Santa Fe’ looked like a different plant than what he sees in Ohio, that he hadn’t seen ‘Santa Fe’ keep so many leaves. Maybe it’s an easier life in zone 6 than zone 5? Whatever the reason, here in Ferguson’s Cove we think ‘Santa Fe’ is also one of Leach’s best. And we hope that Steve Krebs returns some day to Nova Scotia. ☐

Designing with Conifers: Choices for Year-round Interest in Your Gardens

This is the text part of a visual presentation with music made by Dr. Richard L. Bitner to the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society in Halifax Nova Scotia on Nov 4, 2014. He is the author of these illustrated books

- o *Conifers for Gardens An Illustrated Encyclopedia (2007)*
- o *Timber Press Pocket Guide to Conifers (2010)*
- o *Designing with Conifers The Best Choices for Year-round Interest in Your Garden (2011)*

Conifers carry our gardens through the seasons; provide balance; framework, contrast. The presence of recurrent shapes or repeated lines to form a backbone that carries the display through all the seasons is often missing in gardens. A strong architectural framework must be laid out first as a background for the display of seasonal color.

Additional pluses: Unfinicky nature. Longevity. Some change through the year. Only a few relished by deer

Minuses: Many landscape architects/garden designers have limited knowledge or palette. Limited availability of slow-growing (dwarf) selections at corner nurseries. Cost compared to herbaceous plants

Why the widespread *uninspired* use of conifers? Why are they so often poorly chosen and sited (particularly in the east)? In some neighborhoods foundation plantings continue to be mandatory dress code for houses, mostly a response to the expectations of others. The same plants are used over and over again.

Make the most of their qualities!

Structure is the most important component in a successful planting; colour is important too, but it is a secondary consideration.

Oudolf & Kingsbury: Designing with Plants, 1999

Foliage Texture Color Cones Gold: focal point, contrast to adjacent combinations Gray, gray-blue, silver: unites the border and harmonizes the colors of flowers Green: trick is to find those that stay green all year. Ornamental Bark Deciduous conifers provide fall color

Habit Spikes Mounding and globe-shaped Weeping and cascading

Using conifers in designs Collectors Accents Hedges and Screens define space and create rooms within a large garden. Barriers. Cover for wildlife.

Frontside gardens: the ideal place to utilize dwarf conifers.

Cookie-cutter suburban subdivisions. Building contractors typically “install” the “landscaping”, which is usually designed to be viewed from the street. Rarely are plants chosen with a thought to the height and breadth they will have at maturity, nor are plants selected for the grace of their natural un-pruned shapes.

Why is the front of the house the only place we think of putting a shrub border, even though a site on the edge of the lawn, with plenty of room for the shrubs to spread out naturally, might be better? Today we are more interested in blending the house with the setting so that it looks natural.

And how about a “welcoming” garden? Why not have guests arrive walking among plants and even pause on the way to the door? With some imagination the front area of a home can become a dynamic garden space to be enjoyed rather than merely a static view to be observed. The world of dwarf conifers is large, rather specialized, and little explored by the average homeowner. This is unfortunate, because while dwarf conifers are often regarded as exotic, they are extremely useful plants, especially in frontside plantings and integrated into mixed borders where slow growth is one of their most important assets. They mix easily with bulbs, annuals, and herbaceous plants to give pleasure to the homeowner and guests.

Containers/Troughs/Dwarfs They look just like their cousins in the landscape but their small scale allows them to be planted in containers or used in borders. The availability of these conifers has grown dramatically in recent years and their popularity is surging. The ways these slow-growing conifers can be used in design is only limited by the imagination of the designer/gardener.

Shade There are even a few conifers that can be used in north-facing borders or under mature deciduous trees. Moreover, several of these are choice plants

Topiary Gardeners tend to either love or loathe it.

Asian-style gardens Restraint and simplicity. Conifers are trained to look like they have been present and weathered for centuries by nature.

Bonsai Living art form that involves a lifetime of study. The art of growing dwarf trees in shallow pots.

Railway gardens There are over a hundred garden RR clubs throughout the country. Many public arboretums and botanic gardens have installed permanent garden railways to attract families. Dwarf conifers are ideally in scale for these displays.

German Grave plantings A cultural endeavor. Brilliant use of conifers.

Leisure, slowness, contemplation; in an age of presumed efficiency and professionalism, these amateur virtues are perhaps despised, but they may underlie the greatest joys of gardening, and of life. It is not enough to grow the most beautiful things. It is even better to explore them, to identify with them, and to grow into a rather new consciousness of them.

Henry Mitchell *The Essential Earthman* 1981

First, foremost and for always, gardening is for pleasure. The pleasure of working and tending a plot of ground, the pleasure of dreaming of its future and remembering its past, the pleasure of sharing its delights with friend or stranger, that is why one makes a garden. Joanna Reed

Some Choice, Generally-Available Conifer Selections for use in Garden Designs

Dr. Richard L. Bitner

For zones, growth rates, ultimate heights, and additional suggestions, consult these books by Richard Bitner:

- *Conifers for Gardens An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (2007)
- *Timber Press Pocket Guide to Conifers* (2010)
- *Designing with Conifers The Best Choices for Year-round Interest in Your Garden* (2011)

Spiky Conifers

Calocedrus decurrens

Cephalotaxus harringtonia ‘Fastigiata’, ‘Korean Gold’

Chamaecyparis nootkatensis ‘Green Arrow’, ‘Van den Akker’

Juniperus communis ‘Compressa’, ‘Gold Cone’

Picea glauca ‘Conica’, ‘Jean’s Dilly’, ‘Pixie’

Picea omorika ‘Pendula Bruns’

Taxus baccata ‘Fastigiata’, ‘Standishii’

Taxus xmedia ‘Flushing’

Thuja occidentalis ‘Degroot’s Spire’, ‘Smaragd’

Mounding & Globe-shaped Conifers

Abies koreana 'Cis', 'Silberkugel'
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Schneeball'
Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Golden Mop'
Cryptomeria japonica 'Compacta', 'Globosa',
'Globosa Nana'
Picea omorika 'Nana', 'Pimoko'
Picea orientalis 'Nana'
Pinus leucodermis 'Mint Truffle'
Pinus mugo 'Mops', 'Slowmound'
Pinus strobus 'Blue Shag', 'Nana', 'Pygmaea', 'Radiata'
Thuja occidentalis 'Globosa', 'Golden Globe',
'Hetz Midget'

Weeping and Cascading Conifers

Abies alba 'Green Spiral'
Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca Pendula'
Cedrus deodara 'Devinely Blue', 'Feelin' Blue'
Chamaecyparis nootkatensis 'Pendula', 'Jubilee', 'Green Arrow', 'Van den Akker'
Larix decidua 'Puli', 'Varied Directions'
Microbiota decussata
Picea abies 'Pendula'
Picea omorika 'Pendula Bruns'
Pinus strobus 'Pendula'
Sequoiadendron giganteum 'Pendulum'
Taxodium distichum 'Cascade Falls'

Gold Conifers

Abies nordmanniana 'Golden Spreader'
Calocedrus decurrens 'Berrima Gold'
Cedrus deodara 'Aurea', 'Gold Cascade', 'Golden Horizon',
'Roman Gold'
Cephalotaxus harringtonia 'Korean Gold'
Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Crippsii', 'Fernspray Gold',
'Nana Aurea', 'N. Lutea', 'Confucius'
Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Filifera Aurea', 'Golden Mop',
'Gold Spangle', 'Lemon Thread'
Ginkgo biloba 'Chi-chi', 'Mariken', 'Troll'
Juniperus chinensis 'Gold Sovereign', 'Saybrook Gold'
Juniperus horizontalis 'Mother Lode'
Juniperus xpfitzeriana 'Gold Coast'
Metasequoia glyptostroboides 'Ogon'
Picea orientalis 'Skylands', 'Tom Thumb'
Pinus contorta var. *latifolia* 'Chief Joseph'
Pinus mugo 'Honeycomb'
Pinus strobus 'Louie'

Pinus thunbergii 'Oculus-draconis'
Sciadopitys verticillata 'Ossorio Gold'
Taxus baccata 'David', 'Standishii'
Thuja occidentalis 'Aurea', 'Golden Globe',
'Golden Tuffet', 'Rheingold'
Thuja plicata 'Stoneham Gold'

Gray, Gray-Blue, and Silver Conifers

Abies concolor 'Blue Cloak', 'Candicans'
Abies koreana 'Silberlocke'
Abies lasiocarpa var. *arizonica* 'Compacta'
Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca Pendula'
Cedrus deodara 'Karl Fuchs', 'Kashmir'
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Oregon Blue', 'Pelt's Blue',
'Pembury Blue'
Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Boulevard', 'Curly Tops'
xCupressocyparis leylandii 'Naylor's Blue'
Cupressus arizonica (*glabra*) 'Blue Ice', 'Blue Pyramid'
Juniperus conferta 'Blue Lagoon', 'Blue Pacific'
Juniperus horizontalis 'Blue Rug', 'Douglasii', 'Icee Blue'
Juniperus scopulorum 'Wichita Blue'
Juniperus squamata 'Blue Star'
Juniperus virginiana 'Grey Owl', 'Silver Spreader'
Picea pungens 'Baby Blueeyes', 'Egyptian Pyramid', 'Fat Albert', 'Hoopsii'
Pinus parviflora 'Glauca'
Pinus strobus 'Blue Shag'
Pinus sylvestris 'Watereii'

Gardening transcends everything that otherwise divides us. Differences of religion, politics, nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and age become irrelevant among people of the gardening persuasion. The differences between the novice and the gardener with long experience become unimportant, for novices have set foot on the road they will probably follow the rest of their days, and experienced gardeners never cease learning (and never finish their gardens so they can say, "now—it's *done*") Gardeners gladly teach and gladly learn, as Chaucer put it. We are a friendly tribe and a generous one. We are spirited, we are alive to each day's new possibilities in our gardens, and on the whole we are men and women of good humor, perseverance, and forbearance. - Allen Lacy, *The Inviting Garden* 1998

How are things?

This is how 94 members felt about the state of the atlantic rhodie & hort society at the beginning of 2015. Thanks to the 50% of the membership who responded.

Q2 What about ARHS is most important to you? What matters less?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 0

	not important	quite important	very important	most important	Total	Weighted Average
contributing to the operation of the society in some way or another	30.85% 29	47.87% 45	20.21% 19	1.06% 1	94	1.91
opportunities to get plants	5.32% 5	31.91% 30	41.49% 39	21.28% 20	94	2.79
the seed exchange	48.94% 46	32.98% 31	10.64% 10	7.45% 7	94	1.77
speakers	10.64% 10	20.21% 19	34.04% 32	35.11% 33	94	2.94
workshops	21.28% 20	42.55% 40	24.47% 23	11.70% 11	94	2.27
the Newsletter.	6.38% 6	34.04% 32	40.43% 38	19.15% 18	94	2.72
a lively website	19.15% 18	47.87% 45	26.60% 25	6.38% 6	94	2.20
connecting with plant and garden-interested people	3.19% 3	34.04% 32	39.36% 37	23.40% 22	94	2.83
the affiliation with the American Rhododendron Society	45.74% 43	31.91% 30	14.89% 14	7.45% 7	94	1.84
the ARHS Library	37.23% 35	39.36% 37	21.28% 20	2.13% 2	94	1.88
the 'passionate plants person' student awards	39.36% 37	41.49% 39	13.83% 13	5.32% 5	94	1.85
June garden tours and pot luck	23.40% 22	26.60% 25	29.79% 28	20.21% 19	94	2.47

Q3 Do you attend the monthly program?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	42.55% 40
No	13.83% 13
Sometimes	43.62% 41
Total	94

Q4 Are you happy receiving the full-colour electronic copy of the Newsletter?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	88.30% 83
No	11.70% 11
Total	94

Q5 Would you prefer to pay for printing and mailing costs in order to receive a printed copy of the newsletter? Current costs are about \$8.50/issue for black & white with a colour cover and back page and \$13.00/issue for full colour.

Answered: 94 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes for black & white	9.57% 9
Yes for full colour	5.32% 5
No to either. I'll go with electronic	85.11% 80
Total	94

Q6 How do you think you'll use these programs In the next few years?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 0

	Tissue Culture	Pre-order May sale	Members to members sale	Public sale	Seed Exchange
I'll Buy Less	35.1% 33	27.7% 26	14.9% 14	19.2% 18	22.4% 21
I'll Buy more	9.6% 9	11.7% 11	17.1% 16	6.4% 6	8.6% 8
I'll Buy the same as always	23.4% 22	41.5% 39	46.8% 44	27.7% 26	18.1% 17
I won't use	25.6% 24	11.7% 11	9.6% 9	33.0% 31	38.3% 36
I will have plants to sell	2.2% 2	0.00% 0	12.8% 12	8.6% 8	4.3% 4

Q7 Please rate your interest and knowledge levels for these subjects

Answered: 94 Skipped: 0

	No interest	Some interest	Lots of interest	No knowledge	Some knowledge	Considerable knowledge	Total Respondents
rhododendrons & ericaceae	2.13% 2	15.96% 15	63.83% 60	3.19% 3	67.02% 63	21.28% 20	94
rock garden / alpine plants	9.57% 9	39.36% 37	40.43% 38	15.96% 15	51.06% 48	11.70% 11	94
edible & food plants	24.47% 23	40.43% 38	23.40% 22	8.51% 8	59.57% 56	9.57% 9	94
permaculture	37.23% 35	36.17% 34	7.45% 7	58.51% 55	19.15% 18	0.00% 0	94
local native plants	4.26% 4	36.17% 34	44.68% 42	11.70% 11	61.70% 58	9.57% 9	94
trees and woodlanders	6.38% 6	27.66% 26	53.19% 50	11.70% 11	58.51% 55	12.77% 12	94
grasses	17.02% 16	50.00% 47	22.34% 21	26.60% 25	43.62% 41	5.32% 5	94
growing plants from seed	19.15% 18	39.36% 37	27.66% 26	11.70% 11	53.19% 50	14.89% 14	94
propagating	13.83% 13	40.43% 38	30.85% 29	18.09% 17	55.32% 52	8.51% 8	94
pruning	2.13% 2	30.85% 29	50.00% 47	8.51% 8	63.83% 60	11.70% 11	94
soil and plant health	2.13% 2	27.66% 26	57.45% 54	6.38% 6	67.02% 63	10.64% 10	94
pests & diseases	2.13% 2	38.30% 36	46.81% 44	14.89% 14	60.64% 57	8.51% 8	94
garden design	4.26% 4	24.47% 23	56.38% 53	13.83% 13	62.77% 59	8.51% 8	94
record keeping	20.21% 19	46.81% 44	19.15% 18	18.09% 17	56.38% 53	4.26% 4	94
public education	25.53% 24	43.62% 41	19.15% 18	24.47% 23	39.36% 37	6.38% 6	94
plant societies and connections	14.89% 14	52.13% 49	23.40% 22	23.40% 22	39.36% 37	9.57% 9	94
garden travel and tourism	19.15% 18	37.23% 35	35.11% 33	36.17% 34	28.72% 27	6.38% 6	94
photography	12.77% 12	41.49% 39	32.98% 31	23.40% 22	41.49% 39	10.64% 10	94

Q8 About when did you join the society?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Responses
in the last 3 years	31.18% 29
since 2000	32.26% 30
in the '90s,	29.03% 27
in the '80s	7.53% 7
Total	93

Q9 What changes would you like to see in any of the mission, name, program, or governance of ARHS? Currently the mission is to support and promote the development and exchange of expertise and material relating to the practice of creating and maintaining year-round garden landscapes featuring rhododendrons and other suitable plants.

Answered: 69 Skipped: 25

- The club is currently in transition with the loss of some old members and mentors and new leadership. Maybe the long time members can better advise the direction the club should take.
 - I am not sure how to encourage more participation or whether the problem is directly related to the average age of the club. Perhaps it is time for the membership drive we have talked about in the past
 - I think that our membership is suffering from growing pains. We are growing older. Our gardens are full. How do we attract younger members and get them involved? Vegetable gardening seems to their primary focus. Would meetings on a Saturday/Sunday in the afternoon be an option? Would meeting over the summer months and eliminating a couple of the winter meetings be a possibility? Could some of the executive positions be shared? Perhaps we all need to do a little recruiting and sell the ARHS. Could there be closer ties with the NSRGC? Would organized trips away appeal to the existing membership and be an enticement to new members?
 - Steady as she goes. Except for one thing. There appears to be a serious shortfall in the recruitment of new, younger members to augment and energize a core group that is increasingly populated by senior citizens (myself included).
 - But there is something wrong with our approach - we are not appealing to the younger crowd. Perhaps we need to meet with the local garden clubs (who have younger member than we do) to find out how they approach the younger crowd. It seems that there is something that we are not being successful with in encouraging others to join us. I have my thoughts about this & I think that somehow our approach is not being viewed as favourable
 - The society should be could be more inclusive of younger garden enthusiasts or young families.
 - Try to get more younger people involved in ARHS governance
 - There may be an impression that it is a Society only for very experienced people to be members and some may be intimidated by the level of knowledge and language but outreach to the community is a great way to draw people in and hopefully find new and young members. It is always a challenge to keep up with the cycles of interest and encourage new members to take on positions of responsibility.
 - Mission could be to encourage a younger generation of plant enthusiasts to learn and experience the exciting world Rhododendrons and companion plants. (Most novice gardeners don't know terms like Ericaceous). So, educating curious people about the ARHS and what we do as a society
 - I am in favour of putting some focus on younger gardeners, new homeowners, new retirees, people who buy gardening magazines, surveying or having a focus group with prominent regional participants in the horticultural world (e.g., Niki Jabbour, Jamie Ellison, a sales rep/someone from Halifax seed, Pam Woodman from LNS) to assess our mission statement.
 - We need to know why people are joining and what they would like to get out of their membership.
- I totally agree with the present mission
- None that I can think of at the moment~
- It is excellent as is.
- I am a very recent member and I find the current mission good and well done.
- I love it the way it is.

- They are all fine for me who is a member at a distance.
 - None
 - In compliance with Mother Nature....
 - Wordy. Simplify?
 - This mission statement sounds great to me. Accurate and succinct.
 - do not like the current direction - I have lost my confidence with the executive
 - The mission statement seems to me to be a comprehensive one.
 - no changes
 - No change.
 - Ok
 - No changes required.
 - it is fine with me
 - Sounds good to me. It is a good group of people, and pretty much the only game in the city.
 - I like what has been done
 - This is an amazing club and I feel the members are happy.
 - I think the mission & name are good.
 - Can't get interested in mission statements
 - I do not think that I would like to see any changes at this point.
 - I do not see need for changes, but my opinion does not have much value as I do not live in Nova Scotia.
 - Like it and seems comprehensive
 - The mission statement is inclusive, gives direction to the executive and outlines expected outcomes for members.
 - this is an excellent mandate
 - For me, I agree with your mission and I want to continue to support the Society.
 - Mission and name are fine with me.
 - I don't see any need for any major changes at present.
 - Generally fine with mission, name & program
 - I am happy with ARHS as it is.
 - I think the club is run efficiently so the members enjoy the benefits without the responsibilities.
 - I am unable to justify ANY change to the mission, name, program, and governance of ARHS.
 - I really appreciate ALL the hard work of the executive
-
- Would like to see more exchange of information between members. This would be especially helpful to new members that are just beginning their relationship with Rhodos. Often new members can feel intimidated by long time member/gardeners and will not speak up or ask questions.
 - I would like to see some beginner workshops to get people with a little knowledge to get together and learn about some of the things that go on in the meetings.
 - I respect and appreciate the programs, however, as I am a very amateur and recreational gardener, practical workshops and some mentoring opportunities might be beneficial to complement them. This could lead to more social settings making newer, less knowledgeable members get more involved in committees.
 - I am more interested in topics that provide gardening information and guidance and less on tours of exotic locations.
 - Less interested in the social aspect of the club and more interested in sharing information.
 - Could we schedule an introductory lecture with a bring a friend night, and organize lots of food afterward and encourage the members to seek out guests for conversations about gardening?
 - The only thing missing...and not necessarily lacking...would be more design related topics/applications
 - I am interested in sustainable gardening in Atlantic Canada, i.e. what do we need to consider for the various habitats here? At the same time I enjoy the programs that present gardens elsewhere.
 - perhaps less emphasis on rhododendrons, and more on other types of plants
 - I like the current mission statement. I'd like to see the club grow a larger "pie" so that the interest in rhododendrons would continue while the interest in other areas would grow. I like "development and exchange", "expertise and material", "practice of creating and maintaining", "year-round", "garden landscapes", "rhododendrons", and "other suitable plants". It's the implementation of the mission that I would focus on. The club needs more energy to pursue the current mission. Will changing the mission bring more energy? This survey may suggest responses to that question. If we could discover untapped energy elsewhere, say, for example, non-member active gardeners or other potential audiences, that might also suggest ways to adjust or refine the mission statement.

- I think our name is still reflective of what we do - although there is a bit of a divide between the rhodo purists and the horticultural generalists.
- I think the mission statement is great. And I think we're stuck with the society's name, though it ain't easy to say. Rhodo club rolls off the tongue better
- Personally I have less of an interest in the Rhododendron side of the ARHS and have more interest in perennials (more 'native' things and not highly bred) and grasses. I also enjoy growing things from seed I cannot get locally. Also interested in woodland plants. Perhaps less focus on Rhododendrons and their companion plants.
- My interest in gardening isn't solely on rhodos and their friends but in edible plants, woodland, and soil management. If you're thinking of renaming the society to be more inclusive I think that is a good idea. I haven't joined until lately because it seemed too exclusive a focus. While I love rhodos and have several, they form a small part of my garden. I'm not aware of any other garden society based in Hfx...
- Mission sounds OK, but I have no great interest in learning more about rhododendrons. I would like to learn more about other plants that work well here (especially ones that deer don't like to eat)
- I'm keen on the mission but can see revisiting the "featuring rhododendrons and other suitable plants" piece.
- I do think having rhododendrons so prominently in the name may put off new members. I know my interest is not focused on Rhodos. The programs and garden tours of the society reflect a larger diversity of plants and interests. So, to me the society is much more diverse than the name suggests.
- The current mission is fine, and we should return to it by concentrating on the Rhodos, ericaceous and companion plants that are so well suited to our soils and climate (and keep on pushing the envelope, i.e. hardiness and other growing requirements).
- The Halifax area garden tours associated with last year's conference were wonderful, and I learned a lot from the generous folks who opened their gardens & shared their knowledge (and even plants!). They deserve a special thank you! It is a big commitment to put a garden on show - but I'd rate that tour as my top membership benefit last year.
- Max 3-4 guest speakers per year only if financially possible, be they brought in by the Chapter or in conjunction with NSRGC / NARGs.
- The newsletter, website, seed exchange and tissue culture sale make membership worthwhile for me.
- As living in Finland most important for me are the seed exchange, not so much getting but donating, and connections to friends in Nova Scotia.
- A lively website with elaborate information for the members
- I have been very happy with the quality of the newsletters and information provided by the RHS over the years.
- We enjoy the articles and always part-take of the tissue-culture sales. Our Botanical Garden has obtained many choice rhododendrons and relatives from the tissue culture sales over the years. I wish we could attend some of the talks!
- Maybe some short education articles in a newsletter from new or experienced members, or maybe a spectacular plant of the month with a brief write up.
- Since I'm not able to attend the regular monthly talks I have no idea how successful these are in meeting member needs, but the topics would have attracted me if I were free.
- I live a long distance away, so I benefit from the Newsletter and the Seed Exchange. I knew Capt. Steele and Walter Ostrom back in the 1980s and originally joined way back then. Re-joined several years ago. Lapse due to just losing track of paying renewal dues. I find the Newsletter valuable.
- I am an interested Gardener but not avid. I love learning about Rhodies etc at our meetings and seeing gardens.
- The ARHS meetings are a pleasure to attend. I learn something new every time
- I don't have the same interest at the present time.
- In my opinion I have found that over the past 10-12 years that I have been a member I have gained considerable knowledge with the patient support of so many knowledgeable members. I find that the information provided is excellent (although sometimes it is far beyond my scope of knowledge within the plant world) - but that is mainly because I don't have a science background. I still learn & have learned an amazing amount of information.
- When I moved here 20 years ago I had no knowledge of any type of gardening. A neighbour introduced me to rhododendrons and ARHS. I have learned SO much and count the days for each spring to come. With the expected 'learning curve' I have lost a few but have had many successes thanks to lectures, sharing of knowledge from other members, information and zone-appropriate plant acquisitions through ARHS.
- More outreach
- Any hands-on maintenance projects will depend on the availability of volunteers, which can sometimes be a problem, particularly as long term members age and younger members are reluctant to fill their shoes.
- We should continue the plant, tissue culture and seed sales to provide interesting plant material to our members - and attract new members.
- The plant sales programmes need a hard look. Sales have fallen off badly in recent years. Few new interesting varieties available, people's gardens are fully stocked....

- I think the Public Sale should be scaled back. If membership amount is increased we wouldn't have to rely on the Sale for funds. Most of us don't have space for lots of new plants and many plants we offer are for sale at nurseries.
 - Fine to me though volunteerism as in many organizations seems to be an issue.
 - If I lived closer to Halifax I would be more involved, would attend meetings and workshops, would make use of the library and would participate in plant sales.
 - When I sell my house and move to town, I plan to attend meetings regularly. I respect the people who comprise the ARHS and have enjoyed my membership.
 - Our travel has limited our time to be more involved
 - I'm interested in supporting organizations such as the Historical Gardens in Annapolis Royal. I also like the student scholarships we hand out. They are good publicity and support our mission.
 - Instead of the large student awards, the money would be more appropriately spent to 'spread the word' by providing plants as door prizes at our public sales and whenever we are able to contact groups of people interested in gardens, such as when we present Rhodo 100. This would make our club better known and more friendly to potential new members. The college bursaries serve only to recall the 'upper crust' connotations of rhododendron growing.
 - We should not use our funds for scholarships (passionate plant person) and other donations should be limited to plants rather than cash.
- Regarding governance, I don't see the need to excessively detail and restrict our activities via the by-laws - keep them general. I think the Board should maintain the power for flexibility to adapt to changing events as each year proceeds without having to re-write or go the members for exceptions to the by-laws - for example on budget items for donations, programs, outreach etc. The members continue to have the ability to hear and vote on the budget and exceptions to the budget.
 - I know from local societies that finding people to take the role of president can be challenging. I personally have been the chair of our local rock garden society for 12 years now!
 - Good fiscal management and financial restraint and stability during this phase of re-shaping.
 - Dues need to rise immediately to ensure both present and long term stability.
 - We seem to have a real problem getting new people onto the Board. When I joined I saw it more as a privilege than a problem. Maybe we could do some of the Board work at the actual meetings. The meetings are well attended and maybe it would draw some others into the actual workings of the Board.
 - Governance: keep it simple. Few of us have a lot of time and many of us don't want to be tied down to commitments year round. Given the current problem with the vacancies maybe it would be worthwhile to look at what this position does. Things seem to be running without it. Maybe there is a role that is more focussed that could be substituted, or maybe this is a co-chair position.
 - Might as well abandon the vp position. We haven't had one for years. As for president, maybe one or two past presidents could be induced to educate the membership on what is involved in the position. Important to stress you don't need to be a rhodo/plant expert to do the job.
 - I don't feel able to fill your vacant positions as my Heath won't allow.
 - With respect to governance I believe, for a healthy organization, there should be a time limit on serving on the board in any capacity. The vitality of an organization is dependent on "new" blood. I think as a society we have been remiss in not being totally welcoming to new people and thus they feel intimidated on volunteering to help. There is the intimidation of the "OLD BOYS/GIRLS CLUB" at the monthly meetings which doesn't help.
 - A form of governance I recently experienced was via 'consensus' - not majority... I don't have much experience but it is a modern and interesting concept possible worth learning about??
 - I am pleased about the lack of emphasis on bureaucracy. The regulation of board matters (such as keeping minutes and approving budgets) are tedious things that can kill an otherwise enthusiastic society.
 - The ARS (American Rhodo Society) needs to broaden its base to be a truly international organization. The foreign affiliates can help revitalize it. It needs to use technology effectively to reduce cost and admin. Most of the plants are from Asia. I like the Species Foundation. We need to work more closely with them.
- ◆ I don't feel that I am knowledgeable enough with ARHS to recommend changes
 - ◆ Not sufficiently knowledgeable about workings of Society to give informed answer.
 - ◆ My husband and I are new to the Society, so we cannot comment on changes, but appreciate everyone's contributions.
 - ◆ I have not been a member long enough to feel that changes are necessary.
 - ◆ New Member
 - ◆ New member, and have not had enough time to form an opinion on above
 - ◆ Hard to make a comment as we have a membership from out of the province.
 - ◆ Question #1 asked me to complete to send survey, but I really do not have any idea on some of the questions because I only joined last fall.

Q10 What do you consider an ARHS membership to be worth?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 14

- ◆ Happy with current fee
- ◆ As a recent member, I have not taken advantage of all the benefits of the membership, i hope to start attending meetings and workshops this year. I think that for \$20.00 , the membership includes a lot of benefits. If required I would pay more to see these workshops, sales and exchanges continued .
- ◆ Invaluable.
- ◆ Our Club pays \$20 at present. I think that could certainly be increased to \$30 and perhaps even a bit more than that.
- ◆ 200 in lectures alone. Add to that the unusual quality plants and seeds made available to members...\$300.
- ◆ It is an impressive group of people with lots of knowledge and enthusiasm
- ◆ Monetary? Great Deal Other.... great source of information, shared passions and potential networking.
- ◆ I consider the current fees to be good value for the money. Annual fee increases to keep pace with inflation and cost increases are reasonable and to be expected.
- ◆ We would be willing to pay an increase in membership fees.
- ◆ More than I presently pay, \$50 would not be unreasonable.
- ◆ Definitely not inflated!! Well worth every dollar!! I would pay a higher membership fee.
- ◆ I feel that the membership fee is reasonable and comparable to other local garden clubs.
- ◆ I presently consider it good value for the money
- ◆ Not sure if you are looking for monetary sum? I think the ARHS is important but I find it difficult to personally connect with members who have similar interests within the Society.
- ◆ whatever it costs to give people what they want.
- ◆ 15.00---20.00\$
- ◆ If monetary \$20
- ◆ \$20.00
- ◆ \$20
- ◆ \$20 a year is very reasonable. Fundraisers should help with majority of costs. Perhaps if you are having a major speaker or topic, you can charge admission to non members to help defray the costs.
- ◆ \$20-\$30 per year
- ◆ \$25.00/year?
- ◆ 25 dollars... this is a complicated question. I liked attending the ARHS very much when I had no kids.
- ◆ \$20.to\$35.per year
- ◆ \$25.00 a year or more.
- ◆ Anything over \$25.00 starts to have an impact on if I can continue as a member. Or I have to consider dropping memberships I maintain in other groups. It would probably continue to be a priority membership. I wouldn't like to think that membership price prevents some people from becoming members.
- ◆ A lot! If you mean, 'worth in the way of membership dues', an increase from \$20 to \$30 per year would be reasonable.
- ◆ \$25.00 - \$35.00
- ◆ \$30.00
- ◆ \$30
- ◆ \$30.00
- ◆ would pay \$30
- ◆ In \$? I would say \$30 pa. Also, consider a small charge per meeting perhaps.
- ◆ \$40 per year
- ◆ Fees???? 30-40\$.
- ◆ \$50
- ◆ Well, I'd prefer for membership to remain less than \$50. I'd be willing to pitch in for the odd special event.
- ◆ A lot more. I think \$50.00 would be suitable for what the Society provides and looking around the room would be easily affordable.
- ◆ Priceless!
- ◆ I know the membership is only \$20.00 but it is worth a lot to me to be able to attend the meetings if I am able to and also the show and plant sales.
- ◆ More than our membership costs, but I would give it up rather than spend winter in Halifax. It has taught us a great deal and provided endless hours of pleasure. And we have met a number of interesting and lovely people, who's gardens we have shared, who have given a great deal of themselves to make the society work so well; I shout out my respect and appreciation.

- ◆ A wealth of knowledge.
- ◆ Monetarily? or...?
- ◆ An annual RHS membership which includes monthly magazines costs \$91.93. Given that \$100 per year in financial terms would be considered a bargain for ARHS. That aside ARHS's role in the development of horticultural in Atlantic Canada is both invaluable and immeasurable.
- ◆ I belong to the ARS, so I'm now paying \$10 dues. It would probably be worth \$20 if the Newsletter continues to be excellent and the Seed Exchange continues.

AFTER THE SURVEY

By Sheila Stevenson

HAVING GIVEN ourselves THE GIFT OF ORGANIZATIONAL COMPOST, we now have to spread this organic matter for a some-what depleted organization around! ... Here's a start.

- *I would like to see more exchange of information between members. This would be especially helpful to new members that are just beginning their relationship with Rhodos. Often new members can feel intimidated by long time member/gardeners and will not speak up or ask questions.*

So, how to encourage more conversation and exchange? When we talked about this at the Feb. 8 directors' meeting at Rachel's house, we decided to make a start at the March meeting by switching the order of service at our monthly meeting: by doing a meet and mingle in the other half of the space BEFORE, NOT AFTER the presentation. ALSO you can sign up for the interest areas named in the survey, as many as you like. AND we also want to hear from you about what we can do to be more welcoming and inclusive.

- *I respect and appreciate the programs, however, as I am a very amateur and recreational gardener, practical workshops and some mentoring opportunities might be beneficial to complement them. This could lead to more social settings making newer, less knowledgeable members get more involved in committees.*

Some of you have volunteered in past years to be mentors while some have asked to be mentored, however this idea has never been activated. So let's see what we can do in this area to connect the people who have 'some' or 'considerable' knowledge in a particular area with those who have 'some' or 'considerable' interest but 'no' or 'some' knowledge in the same area.

At the same time, our Education director, Bob Howard, is longing for members to talk with him about your workshop and program wishes and hopes.

- *Our gardens are full. How do we attract younger members and get them involved? Vegetable gardening seems to their primary focus*

For the number of you who wondered "Where are the young people?" Carson Arthurs echoes the question in this piece at <http://www.torontosun.com/2015/01/20/where-have-all-the-gardeners-gone>.

- *Anything over \$25.00 starts to have an impact on if I can continue as a member. Or I have to consider dropping memberships I maintain in other groups. It would probably continue to be a priority membership. I wouldn't like to think that membership price prevents some people from becoming members.*
- *A lot more. I think \$50.00 would be suitable for what the Society provides and looking around the room would be easily affordable*

Can you imagine 2 membership options: a regular level, and for those who can and want to pay more, a supporting level? The amount supporting level could be fixed or not. ☐

A conifer post script from Bob Howard

At the Richard Bitner talk, Jenny asked about fastigate conifers that deer do not eat. Here are a couple of examples in Halifax in gardens that I made. They are both Norway spruce and listed as being deer-resistant on many lists (e.g. Blomidon nurseries)



Picea abies 'Christina', five or six years from transplanting.



This is *Picea abies cupressina* right after being transplanted I'm sure the high fence and being in downtown Halifax help with deer resistance



Here's another picture of 'Christina' without a fence in the South End. Fastigate trees are not as readily sited in the countryside.

Positions of Responsibility

Officers and Directors of the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticulture Society for 2014 -15

President:	Sheila Stevenson	902-479-3740
Vice-President:	this position available!	
Secretary:	Jean Henshall	902-477-2933
Treasurer:	Rachel Martin	902-425-3779
Past President:	Cora Swinamar	902-826-7705
Director, Communication:	Sheila Stevenson	902 479-3740
Director, Education:	Bob Howard	902-532-0834
Director, Plant Material/ Horticulture:	Wendy Cornwall	902-477-6121
Director, Social:	Ralph Pineau	902-454- 9056
Director at Large and Membership Coordinator:	Gloria Hardy	902-477-4411
Director at Large:	Roslyn Duffus	902-861-3831

Other Positions of Responsibility

Newsletter Editor:	Sheila Stevenson	902 479-3740
Newsletter Layout:	Sterling Levy	902-861-1176
Website:	Cora Swinamar	902-826-7705
Library:	We need a successor to Jean Henshall, who has taken on the secretary's job.	
Coordinator, Seed Exchange:	Sharon Bryson	902-863-6307
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