

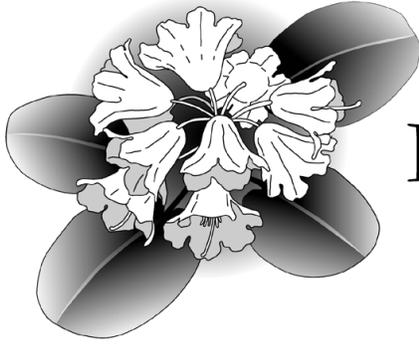
# AtlanticRhodo

[www.AtlanticRhodo.org](http://www.AtlanticRhodo.org)

Volume 40: Number 2

May 2016





# 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

- Sophie Bieger 2016 ARHS Garden Tour Update  
Sandy Brown Memories of Plant Hunting with Captain Steele  
Sandy Brown New Trail Links Liverpool to Milton  
Dennis Crouse Shearing *Erica* and *Calluna*  
Ray Fielding 'Pictorial Guide' to naming the parts of a plant  
Harold Popma Rhododendron Growing in New Brunswick  
Jenny Sandison Kiwi Gardens and Gardeners  
R. Power 1876 To the Editor of the *Morning Herald*

Photos by authors unless otherwise credited.

## Membership

### Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016, due September 2015. For benefits see ARHS website [www.atlanticrhodo.org](http://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](http://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

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

Cover Photo: The Popma Garden, Sackville NB. [Photo Harold Popma]



## 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'.

**Sat April 30**

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

Volunteers needed from 9 am-1:30 pm! Contact [liz.anne.naylor@gmail.co](mailto:liz.anne.naylor@gmail.co) or 902-809-844

**Tues. 7:30 May 3**

**Members to Members Plant Sale** 6141 Watt Street, Halifax. LeMarchant-St. Thomas School  
**NO SALE TRANSACTIONS til 7:30**

In addition to 'unusual and choice' plants, we encourage members to bring divisions of their 'good –doers' and favourites. Photos of your plants, if available, will be much appreciated by potential buyers. If you are bringing just a few plants for the general table, remember that 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.

Tables are available at the School, but sellers should arrive early to set-up, and be prepared to assist with clean-up at the end.

**Sunday June 12**

**The Annual Garden Tour.** See details elsewhere in this issue.

**Tues Sept 20.**

**Small Rhododendrons and Other Ericaceous Plants for the Rock Garden.** Todd Boland, author and research horticulturist at Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden

**Tues Oct 4.**

**Great Plants at the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens** Karen Achenbach, horticulturist, and Annie Javilian, 2011 Passionate Plants Person award-recipient at Kingstec, will co-present.

**Tues Nov 1.**

**The 2016 Steele Lecture: Legendary Plant Collectors, Hybridizers, and Their Legacy**  
Mike Stewart, past president of ARS and owner of Dover Nursery in Sandy, Oregon, will make his first visit to Nova Scotia to give this talk presented at the 2016 ARS April convention in Williamsburg, VA.

**Tues Dec 6.**

**Christmas Party and Members' Photo Night**

### Other Events of Interest

#### **Annapolis Royal RARE & UNUSUAL PLANT SEMINAR and SALE**

**May 21 12:30 - 5 pm**

**Seminar Annapolis Royal Fire Hall Registration \$40**

-Bob Osborne of Cornhill Nurseries "Exploring" The Family Rosaceae

-Iain Jack of Fernwood Nursery - Lost Treasures of the Fern World

-Nina Newington - A Year at Tangled Garden

**May 22nd, 1-4pm**

**Sale**

Farmers' Market across from the wharf, downtown Annapolis Royal

Seventeen Specialty Plant Vendors From Across the Region

Free Entry / Plenty of Parking / Rain or Shine

For more information about "Atlantic Canada's Premier Horticultural Event" and to register contact [jill@bunchberrynurseries.c](mailto:jill@bunchberrynurseries.c) or 902-532-7777

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

# ARHS 2016 Garden Tour Update

Sophie Bieger, Halifax

Our bus is now full and all is set for our trip to Antigonish on Sunday, June 12!

If you want to come in your own vehicle, the two private gardens in Antigonish (addresses below) will be open for viewing from 11 to 2, and you can still join us for lunch at "The Prissy Pig" at 2:15.

Please be sure to inform me by email (and pay Rachel in advance) if you intend to join us for the buffet.

**Cost: \$35 for the bus, \$30 for lunch. \$120 per couple for bus + lunch**

**If you have not yet paid, please send a cheque to our treasurer, Rachel Martin, 3859 Mont Blanc Terrace, Halifax, NS B3K 6R3.**

Most people seem to agree that the Mumford Road shopping centre parking lot would be a good place to start the trip. Our bus driver reminds us that we should not occupy the prime parking area in front of Walmart. I will certainly give details on our departure in advance of the trip.

If you have questions or suggestions, you can reach me by mail at [biegersophie@gmail.com](mailto:biegersophie@gmail.com), or by phone at 902 422-3817.

8:30 Depart from Halifax

10:00 Coffee break in New Glasgow at Tim Horton's

11:30 Garden #1: **Mary MacLellan**, #4430 Rte 245, Malignant Cove

12:30 Garden #2: **The Willow Garden**, #407 Old Maryvale Road. Sharon Bryson and Bill Wilgenhof. Select Magnolias and other plants will be for sale on a prearranged basis plus light refreshments will be available

2:15 Buffet Lunch at The **Prissy Pig**, St. Andrews St., Antigonish

3:45 Visit to **Pleasant Valley Nurseries**, Church St. Ext., Antigonish ([website](#) for plant information)

4:15 Depart from Antigonish

5:30 Dalhousie Agricultural Campus **Rock Garden**, Bible Hill (rock garden plants may be for sale)

7:30 Arrive in Halifax



© Can Stock Photo - csp16291363

## Opportunity knocks!

**We have these openings for the 2016-17 year:**

- Our Education Program Director, Bob Howard, is looking for an Assistant
- Our Meetings Tech Support Team is looking to grow and will offer training to anyone who expresses interest in becoming part of the team. Contact Bob Howard.
- Our Communications Director needs a photo manager for the website. Contact Sheila Stevenson
- Our Plant Sales Team needs
  - ◆ 1. an entry level volunteer to work with outgoing Tissue Culture sale coordinator, Jon Porter
  - ◆ 2. a coordinator for the May meeting Members to Members plant sale
  - ◆ 3. members who want to see our plant sales program evolve and thrive.
- Director positions, for nomination at our Oct. 2016 AGM including
  - Vice-President
  - President
  - Newsletter Editor

# New Trail Links Liverpool to Milton

**Sandy Brown, Western Head.**

The Region of Queens has created a spectacular ½ km nature trail, the Anniversary Trail, connecting the Trestle Trail in Liverpool to Pine Grove Park in Milton via the ‘Azalea Walk’. New graveled trails were built over the winter, linking the two by way of a lovely path through a beautiful section of woodland and along the Mersey River. The Park, created in 1987 by Bowater Mersey, is a home for hundreds of now-mature rhododendrons, azaleas, and companions, planted by the late Captain Richard M. Steele in the late 1980s among the lady’s slippers, partridgeberry, and fly honeysuckle in the woods and along the path upriver.

The Park, with its various trail loops, has been my favorite place to walk for decades, enjoyable any time of year. But for plant lovers, it is best enjoyed during the colourful

explosion of early-spring native plants and the succession of rhododendrons, azaleas, and magnolias that bloom in late April and May.

Find the Trestle Trail by the Irving Garage in Liverpool or start from the Pine Grove parking lot on route 8, 1 km north of exit 19. This is a walk not to be missed! ☺



At this junction of the new trail going under the Hwy 103 overpass, you are steps away from the Alleyne Cook Azalea Walk.



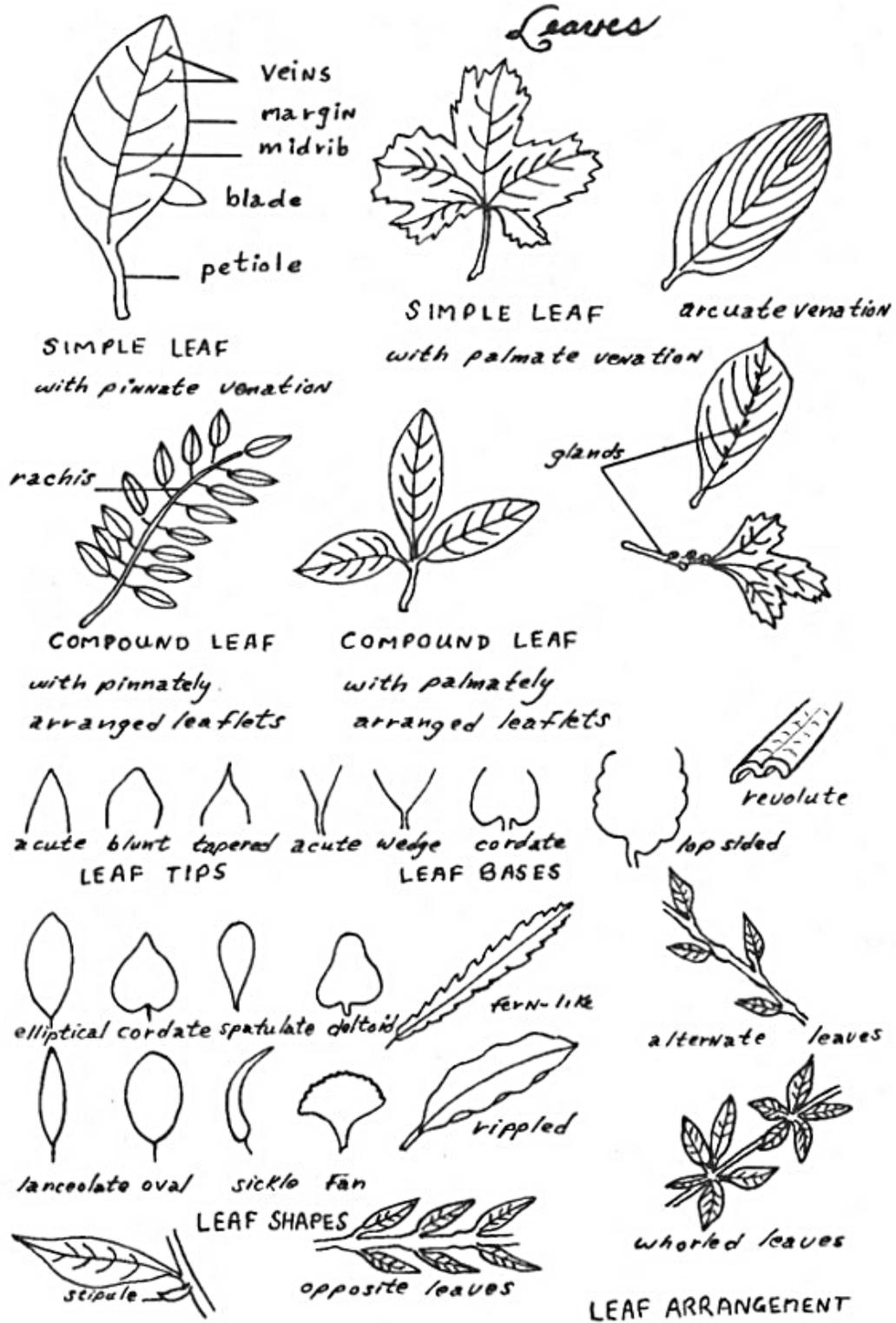
The azaleas along the Alleyne Cook Azalea Walk were donated by Alleyne Cook, then head gardener at the Greig Rhododendron Garden in Vancouver’s Stanley Park



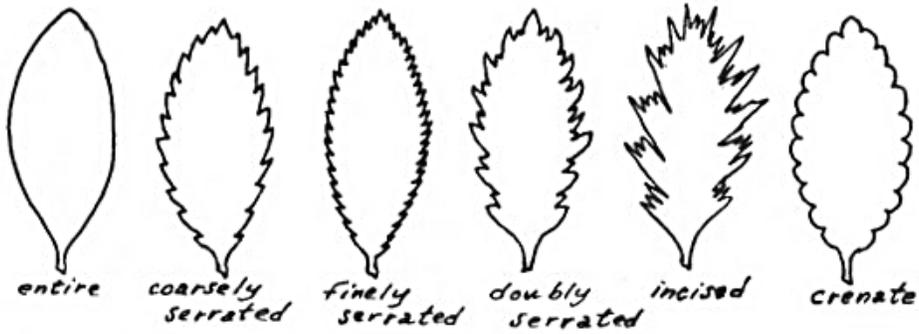
In June 2010, Bowater Mersey dedicated Pine Grove Park in Captain Steele’s memory amid the spring profusion of bloom and among many of his friends in the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticulture Society.

This 'Pictorial Guide' is reproduced with permission from the author of the 1998 Nimbus + Government of NS publication, *Shrubs of Nova Scotia*, written and illustrated by Raymond R Fielding of Lunenburg County. Ray just celebrated his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

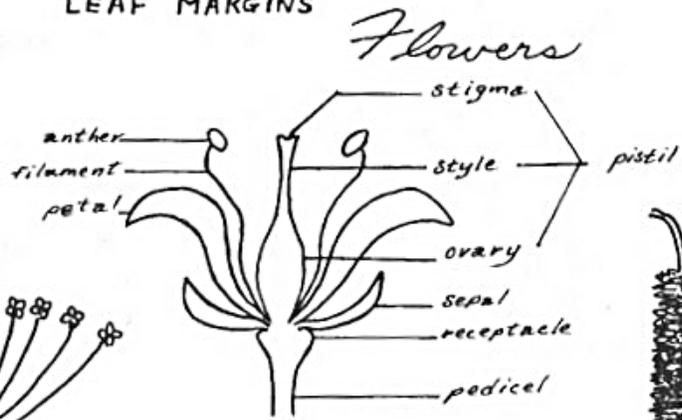
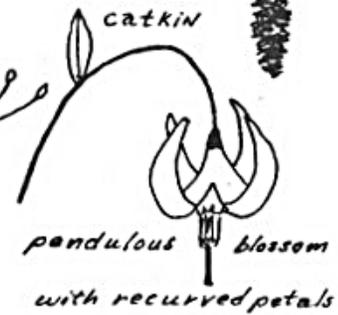
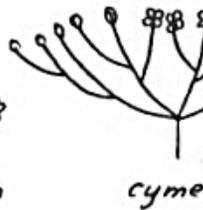
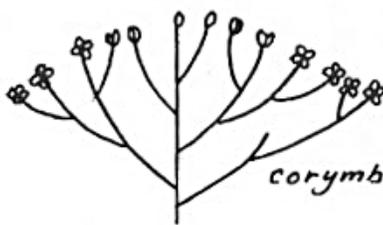
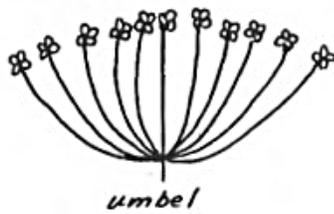
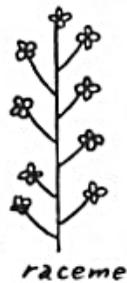
## PICTORIAL GUIDE TO TERMS



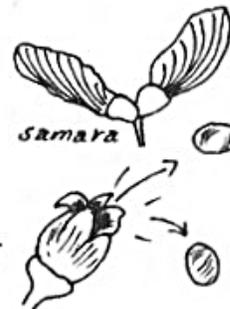
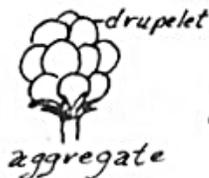
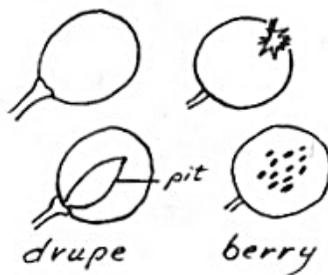
## PICTORIAL GUIDE TO TERMS (CONT'D)



### LEAF MARGINS



### Types of Fruit



## Kiwi Gardens and Gardeners

Jenny Sandison, Mahone Bay

I have recently returned from visiting the uniquely beautiful country of New Zealand where I did a tour that included a lot of gardens. Along with seeing all the great scenery and the historic buildings and enjoying their way of life, the gardens took us into out-of-the-way places and introduced us to some superlative gardeners. New Zealand was settled mostly by people from the UK and their gardens, far away on the other side of the world, reflect the English style. Among many ideas, I found that the classic herbaceous border appeared in various guises.

The herbaceous border was a Victorian device, developed in the great country estates where the rich and famous resorted in the summer months, designed to be a showcase of horticulture that would impress friends and family. The border consists of a long flower bed, stuffed with colourful perennials that bloom in July and August when the family was in residence, maybe 200 feet in length and at least 20 feet deep, and backed by a high evergreen hedge. Sometimes there are double borders that face each other.

This involved an enormous amount of work by a large gardening staff that would apply generous amounts of manure, divide plants and replace them regularly, add props and stakes early to support the taller plants, and deadhead and tidy up through the summer months. In the best borders the plants were positioned giving consideration to their



height and colouring in relation to each other, but the real idea was the WOW! factor. Money was no object and it was very labour intensive, but labour at that time was cheap. The result was magnificent!

This kind of planting can still be seen in large estates and botanical gardens. The Montreal Botanical Garden has a great herbaceous border, and in New York, in Central Park, there are famous ones. But because of the amount of labour involved, these days only the wealthy or large horticultural establishments with dedicated staff find it possible to create and maintain them.

In New Zealand the most traditional form was displayed at Trott's Garden (above), a large estate close to Christchurch in the South Island. Here, Alan Trott has spent years developing his garden. Part of the formal area includes a double herbaceous border, where the beds face each other across a wide swath of grass and are backed on both sides by a high evergreen hedge that acts as a backdrop and shelters the planting. His philosophy is simple. He doesn't like the native plants of New Zealand as they grow so fast, so he only grows European things.

The beds are divided into bays, each about 30 feet long, and within each of these subdivisions he has thought carefully about the colour and shape of the perennials. Joe Pye Weed towers at the rear of one, punching colour between tall, still-green grasses, while at the front a New Zealand-bred dahlia echoes the pink. Further on, fiery Crocosmia is matched with Black-eyed Susan. We were visiting at the end of a very dry summer and the warm and vibrant colours dominated. Alan Trott spent some time showing us around and told us he manages his garden of 10 acres all by himself. His plantmanship is very apparent.



Nearer Christchurch are the Broadfields Landscape Gardens owned by David Hobbs, who showed us around. His idea for his garden was to use the European way of creating different enclosed areas within the large whole, but to use New Zealand native plants or New Zealand-raised exotic varieties as the plant material. Again, we were presented with twin herbaceous borders looking at each other over the grassy swath. (See back cover for photo.)

Many of the botanists we met were at pains to tell us how the remoteness of the New Zealand islands has given them flora that evolved very differently from that in other parts of the world. New Zealand plants are often pollinated by moths and so the plants haven't developed large, brightly-coloured flowers. David admitted to this drawback as he walked us down the beds, but his skillful use of shape and texture and foliage colour made for a delightful display. Phormiums (New Zealand flax), bred to display many wonderful colours in their foliage, brightened the greener areas.

The photograph also shows the native lancewood or Pseudopanax - the tall, thin trees - and the wire-netting plant or Corokia at the front. The use of the brightly painted seat also injects a shot of colour but to a visitor from far way the collection and display of such an array of native flora was engrossing. David also alluded to the rapid growth of plants in his country which he attributed to the volcanic nature of the soil. He told us how the three small variegated Pittosporum at the front of one planting would, even if pruned, become too tall in 5 years and he would replace them.



Larnach Castle

Finally, another garden I just loved was Larnach Castle, just outside of Dunedin. The situation is spectacular on a high hill overlooking the volcanic peaks and winding waterways of the harbour. Built by William Larnach, an Australian banker, the house and grounds had fallen into disrepair when they were bought and restored by Margaret and Barry

Barker. Margaret gave us a most interesting illustrated talk about how she started and developed the gardens, and then led us all around. Her take on the double herbaceous border was delightful: bursting with colour but the walkway between was serpentine. This allowed for that "What's around the corner?" feel and also allowed her to cram more into what was a relatively small space. Here you can see tall Scots thistles baking in the sun on the right, a large hydrangea at the back on the left, and small asters flowering at the front. Venus Fishing Rod dangles its purple blooms at the curve in the path, and the whole is an appealing blend of soft colours.



Ayrilies

Though I have only talked in detail about three places, the other gardens that impressed me were more naturalistic in style, and many focused only on New Zealand flora. In Wellington we had a great guided tour at the Otari Wilton's Bush Native Garden where the natural forest had been preserved. At Herewaka Garden Retreat, outside Dunedin, the tree aficionados were in heaven, while at Ayrilies, close to Auckland, I was so impressed with the way Beverley McConnell had used plants of the region in a most sophisticated but natural way around her swimming pool.

Whenever I travel I love to visit the local gardens. New Zealand has a great tourist industry and they value their gardens. The really good ones are listed as National (5 star) or even International Importance (6 star). There is a very good guide that can be found under the New Zealand Gardens Trust and their Garden Guide. Just go to [www.gardens.org.nz](http://www.gardens.org.nz). ☺

## Rhododendron Growing in New Brunswick

Harold Popma, Sackville NB



Sandy Burnett Garden. [Photo Sandy Burnett]



Peter Hicklin Garden. [Photo Carrie MacMillan]

It was about 30 years ago that Sandy Burnett, Paul Bogaard, and Harold Popma established an unofficial branch of the Atlantic Rhododendron Horticultural Society (ARHS) in Sackville, New Brunswick. With the enthusiasm of neophytes, we set out to fill our gardens with all the rhododendrons and azaleas we could get our hands on. (See back and front cover.)

At that time, there were only a few notable rhododendron specimens in Sackville – some on the campus of Mount Allison University, one in the garden of a Mount Allison physics professor, and a few others about town. The professor presented Paul in 1978 with a gift-plant – a layering from one of his ironclads. That got Paul started!

Sandy got the bug shortly after, during a visit to George Swain's Blomidon Nursery outside Wolfville NS, from which he returned with specimens of "PJM" and an unnamed ironclad cross that Mr. Swain thought might survive the Tantramar winters. Harold began his rhododendron adventure about the same time with the purchase of a plant from a nursery outside Truro.

However it wasn't 'til the mid-1980s that Harold discovered Captain Dick Steele's legendary Bayport Plant Farm while vacationing down the road at nearby Kingsburg. The following spring, the three of us made a visit to the Captain. He met us with enthusiastic encouragement. As a keen plant breeder, Capt. Steele had his own New Brunswick test plot at the Steele family ancestral home on the Kingston Peninsula and he was eager to see how his crosses would fare in another part of the province. Our efforts took off when he presented us with some tiny plants and four packages of seed with clear instructions for propagation.

Within a year we had over 100 seedlings to work with. They grew readily in the light, acid soil of the Chignecto Isthmus at the head of the Bay of Fundy. But we still had a lot to learn and Capt. Steele was a fine mentor. Our pilgrimage to the Plant Farm became an annual event. We would start with tea in the office with Dick and daughter Diana and soak up rhododendron information. The highlight of each visit was a hike up the wooded hillside to see the real thing — dozens of tree-sized plants in bloom! Needless to say we returned home each time with a carload of plants for trial.

Growing plants from seed and buying from the ARHS tissue culture and plant sale each year increased our plant collections exponentially over the next few years. We acquired species plants as well as hybrids. Whenever a label or reference suggested hardiness to zone 5, we were interested! Over the years, Paul's collection (see back cover) grew to 50 plants, Sandy's to about 200 and Harold's (see cover) to over 600.

We have some favourites among the plants that do well for us here: *R. schlippenbachii*, 'Scintillation', 'Calsap', 'R.A. Steele', 'Daupin X Mahogany Red' [*mucronulatum*], 'Orange Ruffles', *R. oreodoxa* var. *fargesii*, 'Big Boy' (from Bayport), 'Nancy Steele'.

Another Sackville resident who shares our enthusiasm for rhododendrons is Peter Hicklin. While a graduate student in biology at Acadia University in the '70s, Peter found room and board at Blomidon Nurseries. His landlord, George Swain, introduced him to Dr. Donald Craig in nearby Kentville who offered a summer job in the Horticultural Section of the Kentville Agricultural Research Station.

Working with Dr. Craig, Peter gained hands-on experience in the greenhouse where the rhododendron breeding was taking place. A few years later, by now working in Sackville with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Peter started his own rhododendron collection. He currently has a small garden plot with about 25 plants, each tended with the meticulous care that he learned from George Swain and Donald Craig.



Memorial Garden. [Photo H. Popma]

In 2010 we became aware of the rhododendron and azalea collection at Shamber's Bluff in southern New Brunswick, in the garden of renowned photographer, Freeman Patterson. Freeman's property is located about 3 kilometres from Dick Steele's Kingston Peninsula test garden. Freeman is an avid collector and has lots of space. His garden occupies a partially-cleared wooded area and his plants are planted above ground among remnant tree stumps. His enthusiasm for his garden and his collection of approximately 900 plants is inspiring. (See back cover) A visit to his garden can easily turn into an all-day-event, examining the beauty of each flower and discussing the fine points of rhododendron care. He has encouraged a few local nurseries to stock rhododendrons and make the general public more aware of the potential these plants have for gardens in the Saint John area.

We have launched two celebrations of rhododendrons in Sackville. The first event, in 2010, was our contribution to the national observance of the centennial of the Canadian Navy. With the approval of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, we planted a rhododendron garden in Sackville's Memorial Park. Boasting some 30 specimens, the plot is a fine example of how public space can be used to show off these exceptional plants.

The second event, a year later, was our personal effort to commemorate the impact of Capt. Steele on our gardening lives. In June we organized a fund-raising garden tour of our four rhododendron collections in Sackville. Friends and neighbors came out to share in our remembrance and to contribute to a generous donation to the Captain Steele Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro, NS.

The Sackville rhododendron gardens have stimulated others who thought these rich-looking plants belonged only to other climes to try them. Classes in rhodie-growing and general gardening have been offered by the local Tantramar Seniors' College. As well, these gardens have inspired various artistic, musical, and literary activities - all in a day's work for this most welcome of plants that are quite happily growing on the edge!

You too are welcome to come for a look whenever you're near Sackville, and especially during the blooming season. ☞

### **Editor's note about The Captain Steele Memorial Scholarship and Endowment Fund**

Following the passing of Captain Steele, Walter Ostrom worked with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, now the Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus, to establish the Captain Steele Endowment Fund and Scholarship. To celebrate Capt. Steele's work as one of the great horticulturists of his generation, this fellowship will be awarded to a graduating student for post graduate study and research. The emphasis of the fellowship will be placed on developing an advanced level of appreciation for horticulture.

To donate to this endowment,

1. Visit the Dalhousie donation page at <https://alumniapps.dal.ca/giving/giving.php> Find the "Area I'd like to support", click on "Specify", and type in "Capt Steele Memorial Scholarship"

Or

2. Contact a Donor Relations Officer, Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture, External Relations  
PO Box 550 Truro, NS B2N 5E3 902-893-6721.

## Memories of Plant Hunting with Captain Steele

Sandy Brown, Western Head NS



Limestone Pavement, NL

In June of 2015, my cousin and I travelled to St. Anthony NL, pulling a travel trailer and camping along the way. Our purpose was to spend the 10 days of the Iceberg Festival driving all over the Northern Peninsula, attending events, going on iceberg and seabird boat tours, and photographing icebergs.



We were covering much of the same ground that I had travelled in the 1990s with Captain Richard M Steele on his yearly September plant-hunting trips. There were so many adventures on those trips and we met so many like-minded folk but the purpose was to gather seeds and cuttings from Arctic rhododendrons, azaleas, and whatever plants were suggested by others as worthy of adding to Capt Steele's plant list. He used these acquisitions for propagating and breeding and distributed them to others who shared his interest in rare alpine plants.

Beginning partway up the Northern Peninsula and ending at Cape Norman and Burnt Cape at the very windy tip of the Northern Peninsula are the limestone pavements. These long sweeps of calcareous rock look very much barren, but, in fact, they are the home of over 300 species of plants that grow in or near the Arctic Circle. These tiny alpine plants normally like an acidic soil of Ph 4.5 or so, but they have adapted to the sweeter Ph of limestone by growing in pockets of humusy detritus amidst the Karst topography of water-soluble, frost-shattered rock. The plants only survive in these brutally inadequate beds due to the lack of competition of other, larger plants and by staying low to the ground to avoid the strong and constant drying winds.

I was determined on this trip to find Burnt Cape, now an Ecological Reserve and understandably not well-advertised. In our day it was not a protected area and only achieved that designation in 2000. Imagine my incredible amazement to find dozens of plants, including the Rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron lapponicum*) and the Alpine azalea (*Loiseleuria procumbens*) in full, 3-inch tall bloom, alpine willows and many wee plants. (back cover) On all our fall trips we had not seen one single bloom, and I never imagined that I would see such a remarkable natural sight.

While recently preparing for a presentation to the Mahone Bay Garden Club, I was reliving those plant-hunting trips and all the spectacular natural locations we visited as a group: the Reford Gardens in the Gaspé, searching for seedlings in the gravel of the Cascapedia River in New Brunswick, the Gros Morne Tablelands and the Western Brook fjord on the island of Newfoundland, Red Bay and Battle Harbour in Labrador. There were so many adventures, so much pleasure, so many memories.

Here are 3 of them:

- ◆ Meeting the author, Annie Proulx, who has a home near Griquet NL. Capt Steele recommended we read her book, *The Shipping News*, followed by a discussion!
- ◆ Meeting and staying with Cecil and Rita Davis in L'Anse Amour, Labrador, population 5. Enjoying the wonderful friendship between the Davis family and Capt Steele, and all of us becoming part of that family.
- ◆ And the funniest of all: the group stopping at Plum Point enroute to Labrador for the next leg of the adventure and waiting for the ferry, "Northern Princess". We would stand every year by the sign, for a group photo. One of our group went into the nearby store, and heard the clerk say, "I think they are a religious group. They come every year, take their picture, and then get down on their hands and knees to pray." In fact, we were collecting seeds of gentianellas, which someone had noticed in the grass.

Those WERE incredible adventures. ☺

## Shearing *Erica* and *Calluna*

Dennis Crouse, Boutilier's Point, Nova Scotia



New growth in spring of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Martha Herman'

*Ericas* and *Callunas* have form, function, texture, and colour year-round! Without a doubt they add interest to a border or a slope, mixed with conifers or other plants in the ericaceous family. If you don't have a collection yet, you should! These plants provide excellent groundcover - suppressing weeds very well. They are great for areas with low fertility and good drainage. New growth on these four-season plants creates a delicious visual feast of bright lush greens, yellows, pinks, reds, and more. The flowers on *Ericas* are an added bonus, giving splashes of bright colourful carpets, while the flowery spikes on *Callunas* give a sense of airiness and movement.

To achieve these glorious effects, for our pleasure and for the bees, I recommend shearing to promote dense growth and produce more flowers.

### Benefits of shearing *Erica carnea*

- ◆ Promotes more intense bloom in winter-early spring.
- ◆ Creates dense, low-sweeping mats.
- ◆ Shear very lightly. Don't butcher!
- ◆ Flowers on new wood November to April.
- ◆ Ideally, shear April-May.



Sheared *Ericas* at NSCC Kingstec



The intensely floriferous result in April at NSCC Kingstec.

### Benefits of shearing *Calluna vulgaris*

- ◆ Promotes more intense bloom in summer-early autumn.
- ◆ Creates sweeping clouds.
- ◆ Shear the spent flowering spikes. They are more forgiving than *Ericas*.
- ◆ Flowers on new wood July-November, depending on the cultivar.
- ◆ Shear in late autumn-early spring, or after flowers have faded. To gain winter interest, wait until late winter-early spring to shear.

### Tools for the job

Before you get all Edward Scissorhands, keep your tools clean and sharp. Hedge shears are the quickest way to shear, but you will have to kneel or hunch. Lawn shears are not as quick, but there's no need to kneel. ✎

## To the Editor of the *Morning Herald*

R. POWER, Public Gardens [Halifax], 1876.

SIR, - in your correspondence by Spade, he asks the question: Can it (*R. maximum*) be cultivated? I have no doubt but it can. *Rhododendron maximum*, also *R. Catawbiense*, *Ilex opaca*, *Kalmia latifolia* (American laurel) will all stand our climate.

To grow these plants in our gardens and shrubberies, there should be a dry location and proper composts. As some people may think they can grow them because they are hardy, they may procure plants and plant them in their gardens, enriched by ordinary stable and cow manure. When these plants are planted under such conditions they make a miserable existence for a short time, and finally die.

The *Rhododendron* naturally delights in peat, having delicate wiry roots. It feeds on decomposed leaves and fibre accumulated for years, the under soil being generally a red sandy loam. To cultivate them, the beds, or (for single specimens) holes, should be dug from 15 to 18 inches, and removed, to be replaced by the following compost: Take peat, which can be procured beyond the NW Arm somewhere near the Pipe-house, or in Dartmouth; also some nice sandy loam. Mix an equal part of each with a part of sand, fill up the beds or holes some six or twelve inches above the garden soil, according to size, so as to throw off the spring and fall rains, and put in the plants, - slightly protect them the first winter.

As the above plants are North American, and some are found in our own Province, they are quite hardy. But as they are scarce here they cannot easily be obtained from the woods. For the information of our amateurs, I may be allowed to mention that good plants can be procured from Hovey & Co. of Cambridge near Boston, or from W.C. Strong of Nonatum Nurseries, Boston.

R. POWER, Public Gardens [Halifax] 1876.

p. 35 *The Halifax Public Gardens*. The Friends of the Public Gardens 2008. ☞



*Kalmia latifolia* 'Pink Charm' [Sterling Levy]

## Positions of Responsibility

### Officers and Directors of the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticulture Society for 2015 -16

<b>President:</b>	Sheila Stevenson	902-479-3740
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Roslyn Duffus	902-832-0204
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jean Henshall	902-477-2933
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Rachel Martin	902-425-3779
<b>Past President:</b>	Cora Swinamar	902-826-7705
<b>Director, Communication:</b>	Sheila Stevenson	902 479-3740
<b>Director, Education:</b>	Bob Howard	902-532-0834
<b>Director, Plant Material/ Horticulture:</b>	Wendy Cornwall	902-477-6121
<b>Director, Social:</b>	Sophie Bieger	902-422-3817
<b>Director at Large and Membership Coordinator:</b>	Gloria Hardy	902-477-4411
<b>Director at Large:</b>	John Brett	902-477-3687
<b>Director at Large:</b>	Ruth Jackson	902-454-4681

### Other Positions of Responsibility

<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Sheila Stevenson	902 479-3740
<b>Newsletter Layout:</b>	Sterling Levy	902-861-1176
<b>Website:</b>	Cora Swinamar	902-826-7705
<b>Library:</b>	Bonie Conrad	902-832-0204
<b>Coordinator, Seed Exchange:</b>	Sharon Bryson	902-863-6307
<b>Coordinator, Tissue Culture Plant Sale :</b>	Jon Porter	902-350-0010
<b>Coordinators, Members' Pre-ordered Sale:</b>	Wendy Cornwall & Antitra Laycock	902-477-6121
<b>Tech Support at Meetings:</b>	Rachel Martin	902-425-3779
<b>Gardens Care Outreach:</b>	Chris Hopgood	902-479-0811
<b>District 12 ARS Rep (American Rhodo Society):</b>	Lynne Melnyk, Toronto	705-835-0372

# Photo Album



*R. lapponicum* - [Sandy Brown]



Dwarf Willow (*Salix sp.*) - [Sandy Brown]



Bogaard Rock Garden - [Paul Bogaard]



Freeman Patterson Garden - [Freeman Patterson]



Calluna Planting - [Dennis Crouse]



Explosive top growth after shearing - [Dennis Crouse]



Broadfields Landscape Gardens - [Jenny Sandison]



*R. schlippenbachii* [Sterling Levy]