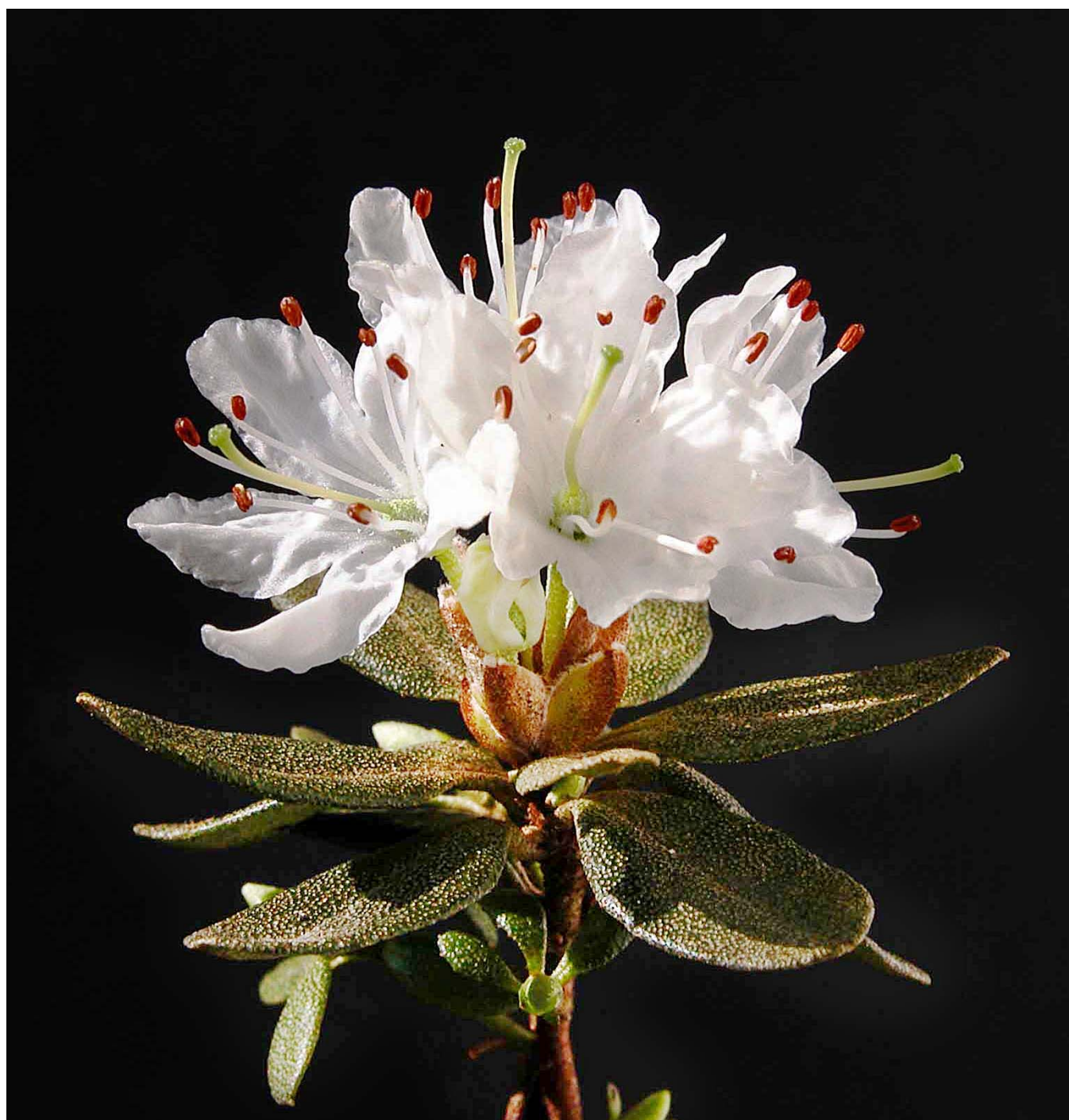


# AtlanticRhodo

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

Volume 31: Number 3

October 2007





# Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

## Positions of Responsibility 2006 - 2007

<b>President</b>	Sheila Stevenson	479-3740	<b>Director - Social</b>	Shirley McIntyre	835-3673
<b>Vice-President</b>	Ruth Jackson	454-4681	<b>Director - Horticulture</b>	Audrey Fralic	683-2711
<b>R.S.C. (National) Rep.</b>	Sheila Stevenson	479-3740	<b>Director</b>	Cora Swinamer	826-7705
<b>Secretary</b>	Lyla MacLean	466-4490	<b>Newsletter</b>	Mary Helleiner	429-0213
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris Hopgood	479-0811	<b>Website</b>	King Butler	542-5805
<b>Membership</b>	Betty MacDonald	852-2779	<b>Library</b>	Elizabeth Naylor	429-0557
<b>Past President</b>	Penny Gael	826-2440	<b>Seed Exchange</b>	Sharon Bryson	863-6307
<b>Director - Education</b>	Jenny Sandison	624-9013	<b>May - Advance Plant Sale</b>	Ken Shannik	422-2413
<b>Director - Communications</b>	Mary Helleiner	429-0213	<b>May- Public Plant Sale</b>	Duff & Donna Evers	835-2586

## Membership (Please Note Changes)

### Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008, due September 2007. Make cheques payable to Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society. ARHS is a chapter in District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. For benefits see ARHS website [www.atlanticrhodo.org](http://www.atlanticrhodo.org)

### American Rhododendron Society

Fees are \$50.00 Canadian per year and include ARHS membership. Make cheques payable to American Rhododendron Society District 12. For benefits see [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

Cheques should be sent to ARHS Membership Secretary **Betty MacDonald, 534 Prospect Road, Prospect Bay NS B3T1Z8.**

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 and Horticultural Society. We welcome your comments, suggestions, articles, photos and other material for publication. Send all material to the editor.

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Cover Photo: *R. lapponicum* white form. [Photo Jens Birck]



## Calendar of Events

All ARHS meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nova Scotia Museum Auditorium, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, unless otherwise noted. Paid parking is available in the Museum lot. Friends, guests and anyone interested in rhododendrons, azaleas or companion plants are always welcome at meetings or events.

**Tuesday September 4** 7:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of ARHS

**Tuesday September 4** 7:30 p.m. Cora Swinamer: Introduction to Growing Rhododendrons. This is a talk, illustrated with slides, that Cora has been working on for over a year. It is designed so that any member of the ARHS can present it to a gardening club. It discusses how to grow, soil, and choosing varieties that members have found easy to grow. You will be interested to see how this educational tool has worked out.

**Tuesday October 2** **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Steele Lecture. Sally and John Perkins: Thriving or Surviving? Rhododendron Gardens in New Hampshire.**  
See special Notices

**Cutting exchange with demonstration.** See Special Notices.

**Tuesday November 6** **Bernard Jackson: Rockbound in Truro.** Bernard is the well-known retired Director of the Botanical Gardens at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland. He will tell us about his push to create a large rock garden at Truro Agricultural College. This project, maybe five years in the making, presented difficulties but also registered triumphs in satisfying the needs of alpine, lessons we can all benefit from.

**Tuesday December 4** **Christmas Party** with members' slides and digital images. This is our **annual wine and cheese party**. There will not be a speaker. Come and enjoy an evening of food, wine and conversation. Please bring five to ten pictures of your garden, other gardens or plants of interest, and also finger food or sweets. Wine will be provided by the Society.

**Friday, January 4, 2008** Speaker to be announced. **Note change of day!**

**Please Note:** Some members, who have environmental sensitivities, are asking their fellow members please to use no perfumes, scented soaps, etc., on the days or evenings of ARHS events, in order to minimize the risk of allergic reactions.



A very warm welcome to our new and returning ARHS members who have joined since the May 2007 Newsletter.

# Special Notices

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Steele Lecture

**Tuesday October 2, 2007**

**Sally and John Perkins** of Salem, New Hampshire, have been active members of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society since 1989. Both have received the Bronze Medal for their continuing work. Their combined efforts have turned the chapter website [www.rosebay.org](http://www.rosebay.org) into a wealth of images and information about rhododendrons in New England, where there are large climatic variations. This talk with emphasis on the gardens of New Hampshire will explore old and new hybrids and hybridizers that keep expanding the list of “Good Doers”. In addition, they will show that exciting “species look” foliage to beautify the garden year round. Tips on culture, companion plants and images of native rhododendrons will round out the talk by this dynamic duo.

## Cutting Exchange

There will be a rhododendron and azalea cutting exchange at the **Tuesday, October 2** meeting. Many of the members have now acquired rare and unusual plants from ARHS tissue culture sales, May sales and other sources and have them growing successfully in their gardens. Some of these plants are no longer readily available so this would be a good chance to share them by taking a few cuttings and bringing them to the meeting for others to try. Even if you don't have any rare plants please share whatever cuttings you can provide.

Cuttings should be taken from this year's growth wood and be at least 3 – 4 inches long with a good set of leaves. We're looking for both elepidote and lepidote rhodos and azaleas. So if you can find some new shoots on your plants, snip them off using a clean pair of pruning shears, label them accurately and bring them to the meeting.

## In Memoriam

**Robert (Bob) Dickhout** March 1941 – May 2007

Bob was raised in Dunnville, Ontario, and graduated in entomology from the Ontario Agricultural College (now Guelph University) in 1963. He joined Agriculture Canada on graduation and served forty-two years in Victoria, British Columbia and Niagara Falls, Ontario, retiring in 2005. He studied golden nematodes on Vancouver Island, preparing him for his role as a pre-shipment Canadian Agriculture inspector of bulbs in Holland over many years. He also managed many agricultural surveys in support of the large plant export business carried on by the Ontario agricultural industry.

Bob joined the Rhododendron Society of Canada (RSC) in 1977 when he returned from Victoria. Over the years he was a Director, Membership Secretary and Treasurer of the Society. When the RSC became District 12 of the ARS, Bob was instrumental in ensuring its affairs were kept up to date. He was the name most people in the three District chapters (including the Atlantic chapter) associated with their annual membership renewals. Bob was an enthusiastic promoter of rhododendrons, speaking to horticultural societies throughout Southern Ontario. A friend of the late Al Smith, he was a contributor to various projects carried out at the Vineland Ontario Research Station. Whether organizing flower shows, plant sales or chapter meetings Bob was a selfless contributor to their success. In 2004 at the ARS Annual Convention in Pennsylvania, Bob Dickhout was awarded the Society's Silver Medal as recognition of his support to the District. We are grateful that Bob lived one last spring to see his beloved rhododendrons in bloom.

To his wife Karen, his children and grandchildren we extend our deepest sympathy. ☐

## Plant Portraits

### *Rhododendron lapponicum*

Our earliest *lapponicum* came from seed collected on Mt. Washington, New Hampshire, in the early 1960's. Our selection BLWD 68-C has been with us for 42 years and is of good habit, blooms well and has been very durable. It was used as the pollen parent on a *dauricum* x *carolinianum* hybrid. The plants in that cross grew very tall with quite small leaves, surprisingly linear in aspect, suggesting that *carolinianum* had influenced the height very substantially, and that *lapponicum* had expressed strong influence in the leaf structure. This seemed odd in this primary cross.

The F2 generation is somewhat lower in stature, the leaves are a bit more variable and some clear light pinks have arisen. The stature in a number of cases is light in structure and because of the fineness of the branches it sometimes appears that the blooms are floating free of the plant.

The F3 generation are showing again the influence of *carolinianum*; they are thicker stemmed and although quite a number are coming very clear in colour, the majority are showing purples and magenta shades – they are all a fun group to play with.

We have since collected *R. lapponicum* from quite wide ranging areas in Newfoundland and Labrador where *lapponicum* has in all cases been found only on limestone sites. We have been very negligent in that although we are always intending to check the pH in the actual root area in which the plant is growing, we are always so enthralled with the magnificence of the area in which they grow that we forget our responsibilities and just rejoice in the luxuriant freedom of it all. We apologize for this but doubt if we will change.

It is anticipated that a number of these collections will be planted in a protected section of the Rhododendron & Native Plant Society's "Test and Evaluation Site" at Lake Centre in 2008.

– Dick Steele

### *Linnaea borealis*

Twinflower, so named because of the pair of white or pale pink bells that hang off of a two inch stalk, is a very low mat-forming evergreen shrub. The leaves are tiny ovals with scalloped edges, dark green in shadier locations and lighter where they get more sun. They require good moisture and an acidic, humus rich soil. They will flower better with an annual top dressing of compost. This year, mine flowered spring through July, I suspect because of the copious rain in June and fog in July.

This plant is easy to propagate by cuttings and will set seed which should be set out in the autumn. I haven't tried seed yet or even looked for it.

This little plant probably would be inclined to disappear if there is too much competition but would make a nice ground cover around the bases of rhododendrons and other woodland shrubs. Twinflower is one of those delightful little woodlanders that always catch my eye when in flower. I was very happy to get a couple of pots from Jamie Ellison a couple of years ago and thought that I might have to baby this delicate little thing along on the edge of my woods but I have found it to be very easy. It spreads itself along the ground with stems that root as they go and is listed as hardy in Zones 2 to 6. So if global warming becomes an issue, perhaps I will lose it then. It grows in woodlands, heaths and tundra in northern climates around the world.

– Roslyn Duffus

## Field Trip to Kentville

By Chris Hopgood

The Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society made its annual field trip to the Atlantic Food and Horticultural Research Centre on Friday, April 27. This was the fourth year for this field trip. Thirteen members of the society made their way to Kentville to assist in the up keep and maintenance of the rhododendron and azalea beds at the research station. Besides the usual clean up, weeding and etc, a new initiative was undertaken, pruning of the azaleas. Many of these plants needed some heavy pruning and much of the old wood was removed. It will be very interesting to note how the plants progress in the years ahead. A fair amount of pruning of the rhododendrons in the lower bowl area of the grounds was done as well.

As is quite the case in the Annapolis Valley, the weather was fine, and at the end of April this was very welcome. After lunch, which some enjoyed outside and some enjoyed in the cafeteria, we were off for a tour of Dr. Donald Craig's garden in Centreville. Dr. Craig had a long career with the Kentville Research Station, and through his generous offer the volunteers had an in depth tour of this fine garden, with full commentary by a very knowledgeable plantsman.

So mark it in your calendar, for the last Friday in April of 2008, look forward to seeing you there. ☺

## ARHS 2008 Tissue Culture – Advance Sale

Once again it's time to order your tissue culture plants for the spring of 2008. We will have some new varieties as well as some older ones that our newer members may not have. The cost to you for each of these plants will be \$5.00. We try to keep the price as low as possible.

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.)

These plants will be available for pickup in early April. The exact time and location will be announced at a later date. All members will be advised of the date and location once confirmation is received of the plants' arrival. In addition to your order there may be leftover plants available for sale on the day of pickup.

An order form is included with the Newsletter. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR PHONE NUMBER AND, IF POSSIBLE, YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS INCLUDED ON YOUR ORDER FORM. IF YOUR ORDER CANNOT BE PICKED UP THE DAY OF THE SALE IN HALIFAX, PLEASE INDICATE THIS ON THE ORDER FORM.

Orders that are not picked up in Halifax on the pickup date will be sent collect by the method indicated on the order form. Where shipping options are limited, the parcel will be sent by Canada Post at your cost. PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE A COPY OF YOUR ORDER. The deadline for submitting orders is December 14, 2007.

Please send your orders to: ARHS,  
c/o Audrey Fralic  
RR#1  
Port Mouton, N.S. B0T1K0  
1-902-683-2711

### RHODODENDRONS (all rhododendrons are elepidotes unless otherwise stated)

VARIETY	HYBRIDIZER	DESCRIPTION
Anka Heinje	Heinje	Beige indumentum coats the undersides of this broad, compact plant. Splendid red buds open to rosy-pink flowers which are sprinkled with golden markings. Grows to 3 ft. Hardy to -15 F.
April Rose	Mehlquist	Lepidote. Foliage has burnished red tones during fall and winter. Double deep rose flowers are abundant and slightly fragrant. Blooms very early; grows to 3 ft and is hardy to -25 F.
Cherry Cheesecake	Briggs Nursery	Large pure white blooms with red edges and a red splotch make this plant a showstopper. Has large, lush, mounding foliage. 5 ft. x 5 ft. Hardy to -15F.
Francesca	Consolini	This hardy rhodie has large leaves on a wide open plant. Flowers are black-red in bud and open to carmine red in large trusses. 6 ft. Hardy to -10F.
Holden	Shammarello	Rose-red blooms in midseason on a compact growing shrub. Foliage is a glossy dark green. 4 ft. x 5 ft. Hardy to -15F.
Ingrid Mehlquist	Mehlquist	An exceptional Yak hybrid. It blooms later than most yaks and opens to large clusters of white flowers from pink buds. The foliage is just as attractive with deep green leaves and light indumentum on the undersides. Blooms at young age. 2 ft. x 3 ft. Hardy to -23F.
Kalinka	Hachmann	Ruby-pink flowers with nicely ruffled pale red edges. Dark foliage forms a mounded compact plant. Hardy to -15 F. 3 ft. x 3 ft.
Mardi Gras	Bovee	An outstanding selection with strong purplish pink flowers that fade to white. Deep green leaves covered beneath with reddish-brown indumentum showing off its <i>yakushmanum</i> parentage. Very hardy and also heat tolerant. 3 ft x 3 ft. Hardy to -15F and maybe lower.

VARIETY	HYBRIDIZER	DESCRIPTION
New Century	Weston	This <i>catawbiense</i> hybrid has creamy yellow flowers and is a compact grower. Should be a good plant for this area. Hardy to –15F.
Patty Bee	Berg	Lepidote. One of the very best of the dwarf yellow hybrids for both appearance and tolerance to heat and sun. Clear yellow flowers on a well-branched plant. AGM winner. Grows to about 1 ½ ft x 2 ft.
Roseum Pink	Waterer	This hardy hybrid is tolerant of extremes in heat, cold and humidity. It has smooth, glossy leaves and flowers of rose-lavender. Hardy to -25F. Grows to 5-6 ft.
Sugar Puff	Dexter	Lepidote. <i>Racemosum</i> x <i>carolinianum</i> . Pure white flowers cover this pretty plant. Has bright red stems in winter. Probably grows to about 3 ft. Hardy to –20 F. and maybe colder.

### DECIDUOUS AZALEAS

Arneson's Fairy Jewel	This dense shrub azalea flourishes moderate purplish pink funnel shaped flowers, which provide a lovely contrast with the olive-green leaves. 3 ft x 4 ft. Zone 5.
Weston's Parade	This azalea blooms in July. This attractive, fragrant and mildew resistant plant has flowers of deep pink with orange eyes. The dark green leaves turn bronze and orange in fall. 6 ft x 4 ft. Hardy to –25F.

### COMPANION PLANTS

Clethra alnifolia 'Sixteen Candles'	This selection of Summer Sweet is compact and heavy flowering with white, fragrant flowers. Like all Summer Sweets it tolerates shade and damp soil. Yellow fall foliage. 2 ½ by 4 ft. Zone 4.
Erica carnea 'Springwood Pink'	Has abundant pale pink flowers from winter to spring. Deep green foliage. Spreading habit. Grows approx. 10" x 24". Zone 5.
Ilex crenata 'Skypencil'	This Japanese holly has dark green foliage on a columnar plant. Excellent as a focal point in a mixed border or two would be fabulous at the front entrance of your home. Grows to about 8 ft tall x 2 ft wide. Zone 6.
Liriope spicata 'Silver Dragon'	Perennial Lily Turf. The new leaves display creamy-white variegation. Light blue flower spikes show well above the foliage. Best in filtered light. Zone 5.

□□□

## A Garden in a Clearing

By Sheila Stevenson

'Rockburn', as we call the garden and house at 17 Stanbrae Road, is a clearing of about three quarters of an acre in a red maple swamp near the shore of Halifax Harbour, across from MacNab's Island. One can see the west side of the garden as it emerges from the native (and deciduous) vegetation on your right as you approach along the one-lane dead-end dirt road. The dominant geographic feature is a hillside that rises 16 feet over 50 feet from a flattish strip that parallels the road. The small stream that runs into Halifax Harbour at Fergusons Cove is hidden by the stone wall between it and the road. There is flat ironstone rock in abundance, for building walls and steps.

### 1994 and Before

The house was built around 1986. By the time we bought it in 1994, someone had cleared and sodded the west side – not only the hillside, but also below it the flat area that extended among several clumps of *Acer rubrum* (red, or swamp, maple) left standing. This made for a very treed large lawn! The east side was still a raw scar, with a few *Sorbus* (mountain ash), *Amelanchier* (Indian pear), *Viburnum cassinoides* (wild raisin or witherod) and *Betula papyrifera* (white birch) left standing



'Rockburn'. [Photos Sheila Stevenson]

in shock. The north edge was largely covered in blackberry brambles. The septic field, at the top of the slope and at kitchen door level was also lawn. Beyond our property line the woods on our neighbours' lands were made up of small native trees and shrubs unknown to us. The previous owner had a small area for vegetables at the back of the garage and a compost pile at the kitchen door.

Before we moved in, we vowed never to mow the west slope and I ordered some Corn Hill roses for the west slope. Once here, we learned that getting on to the slope was truly difficult, so instead we planted the 'Dart's Dashes' at the entrance to the property, put the 'Blanc Double de Coubert' at the top of the slope, and took the rest to our garden in Bridgetown. That first year we watched the native show unfold and identified the plants. (We continue to revel in the array of native plants that surround our clearing and are thankful that our neighbours leave so much vegetation among us.) We mowed only the flat strip and enjoyed our expanse of lawn. And we picked and ate the blackberries. The previous owner left us two *Rhododendron* 'Isola Bella', three *R.* 'Olga's, a couple of azaleas, two potentillas, three *Clematis jackmanii*, two *Hydrangea petiolaris*, a cotoneaster, a forsythia, an Austrian pine, and a weigelia. The weigelia died, we gave away one potentilla, and the rest are with us still, and not any in their 1994 locations. But then, few plants have never been moved!

### The garden now in 2007

One brush pile and eight compost bins later, we have created and built a series of paths and routes throughout the clearing. We have had great pleasure and learned a lot, even if slowly. We have brought in many tens-of-yards of soil and bark mulch while building up our capacity to produce our own compost and mulch. We have introduced a whack of plants into the clearing. We've been able to spend endless hours outdoors, in this particular coastal environment. We share the space with a number of insects, birds, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, and deer that I'd like to eat. Drew Klassen designed the verandah and entrance that make the house sit so comfortably in its site. New windows in the house mean that some part of the garden is always in view from all six levels of the house.

### Paths and steps

We knew that routes were key structural elements, for strolling and maintenance. In the earliest days, beds and paths changed and co-evolved. But this year we are finally satisfied with path locations and surfaces. Gravel paths (developed in 2000) link the verandah landing with the garage and the vegetable garden. Grassed paths (from seed in 2006 and 2007) on both east and west sides of the flats, invite the stroller and are easy to mow. Stephen finished the latest and wondrous (and last?) version of stone steps on the east slope in the spring of '07. Since installing the 37 steps in 2003 (and removing a red maple too close to the house), we are doing more cultivating on the west slope. Designed and built by Ken Shannik, the stairs work beautifully in the scheme to get up and down and across the west slope while plant tending and sniffing. The two service paths across the west slope are covered with wood chips. Stephen built the two sturdy footbridges crossing the stream with 6x6s, left over from the stairs project.

### Soil and amendments

We didn't make it easy for the plants in the first ten years or so. The soil was so poor or nonexistent that anything we added disappeared instantly. But now we can dig in reasonable soil and without finding rock, having added some or all of purchased topsoils, bark mulch, mushroom compost, and chicken shit, along with our own and 'found' leaves to the beds.



Most perennials remain standing over the winter, giving us winter interest and a great early spring harvest of bio-mass for the composters. Spreadable by late July, (a good time to harvest more biomass), we are using that compost now instead of bark mulch.

### Why does our garden look the way it does?

We've got sun and shade, part sun, moist shade, dry shade, areas with good drainage, and the wet stream edges. The idea has been to plant for year-round visual interest and sensory pleasure, using bloom, foliage, fruit, fragrance, colour, texture, location, and succession. We've had easy access to thousands of interesting and reasonable plants through our membership in the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society. For many years we would pore over the pictures in *The Englishman's Garden*. Several times each year, from the early '80s til 2003, we strolled the various paths and observed the many plants in their perennial succession in Annapolis Royal's Historic Gardens. We loved seeing the mixed shrub borders in the display gardens at Rockdale Nursery in Vermont. Walter Ostrom got us enthused about the native dogwoods and their relatives, like *Cornus mas*. (It's but one of the many plants he appreciates by saying "it's a great plant", and he's right.) And I read every Perennial Gardens (Maple Ridge, BC) catalogue from cover to cover.

### How did our garden develop?

We worked on the ugly and tough places at first, in the front and on the east slope. We hired people to install drainage tubing to deal with stormwater on the flats. We used the plot plan for project planning. We spent time whenever we could outdoors, digging holes for planting, and finding rocks for excavating, mowing grass, but watching and feeling the moment, whatever is happening – buds, blooms, twigs, mist, bird chatter and song, clouds, fog. We have lots of conversations about what we're seeing and what we can imagine, so on it goes – ideas, action, rock walls, seats, roses and fragrance along Ken's stairs!

We have acquired many plants. Some day we'll do a calculation, when the records are in better shape! A large percentage has come from Atlantic Rhodo's sales program. We used to spend more time in the '90s in our favourite nurseries, where we bought shrubs and perennials and our *Metasequoia*. We got our first tissue culture plants in 1993. We now have about 160 rhodies : 15 deciduous azaleas, 20 evergreen azaleas, 30 species and the rest cultivars. Always the challenge has been where to put these plants once we got them, and how to space them, looking for the happy associations. 'Rockburn' is a windy place, so the phrase "needs protection from wind" is irrelevant!

Putting large rhodies "towards the back" of the property began when John Weagle and Ken Shannik showed up with irresistible specimens of *Rr. 'Bellefontaine'*, *adenogynum*, *oreodoxa*, *diaprepes*, and *fortuneii*. They're the plants that merge and intersect with the native viburnums and amelanchiers who still occupy the swamp. The only place on the site for vegetables is on the western flat, and once we decided we didn't want to risk losing the tomatoes to the deer, we had to fence that area. That has given us the chance to grow Dan MacPhail's scarlet runners, French filet beans, *Clematis tangutica*, and climbing roses.

A lot of the time in the garden we're crew, doing the work. And a lot of the time we're observers. Generally, it's a marvelous thing to be out with the plants. ☺



[Photo Sheila Stevenson]

## The Gospel According to J.C. (Birck) or The Devastating Effects of Hurricane Juan - Monday September 29, 2003



Catawbiense Album (top) and Nova Zembla showing the telltale signs of full sun - increased bushiness and incredible bud set. Note the stumps of pre-Juan trees. No wonder Jens Birck called it St. Juan! [Photos John Weagle]

# ARHS Library

By Liz Naylor, Librarian

We have all enjoyed borrowing books from our Rhododendron Library collection over the years and are only too happy to hear of new titles being added. Oh that one day we could have our own Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society facility, with a state of the art library, boasting one of the finest gardening book collections in North America...but until that day we meet in the Museum and have a Society locker, which the library shares with coffee supplies and other miscellaneous items of importance to the Society. Although we have purged a little, we do not have enough space for our small but growing collection of gardening books.

In order to make space for several new titles we introduced into the library this fall we created an "Annex" for titles that are necessary for our collection but not often borrowed. The Annex is not far away from the library locker. It is in my home on Vernon Street in Halifax.

If you wish to borrow titles from the Annex, simply call me at 429-0557 or e-mail me at liz.Naylor@ns.sympatico.ca and I will bring the title to the next meeting or you can pick it up at your convenience. Let's view the Annex as an experiment for this year, to be evaluated for accessibility and efficiency at the end of our 2007-2008 season.

## ARHS Library Holdings 2007

New titles for 2007 are in bold-faced type

*Books placed in the Annex are in italics*

500 Best Garden Plants

Alpine Plants of North America

*American Rhododendron Hybrids*

American Woodland Garden, The

**Art and Craft of Stonescaping : Setting and Stacking Stone, The**

Art of Perennial Gardening

Azaleas, Rhododendrons & Camellias

Azaleas: Classic Garden Plants

Azaleas: Revised & Enlarged Ed.

Beth Chatto's Woodland Garden

Campanulas: A Gardeners Guide

*Collectors Alpines*

Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses, The

Complete Shade Gardener, The

Conifers for your Garden

*Consider the Leaf*

Cox's Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons

**Creating And Planting Alpine Gardens**

Creating and Planting Garden Troughs

Cultivation of Rhododendrons, The

Curious Gardeners, The

Cyclamen: A Guide For Gardeners, Horticulturists, Botanists

**Damp Garden, The**

Daylilies for the Garden

Dirr's hardy trees & Shrubs: An Illustrated Encyclopedia

**Dry Garden, The**

*Encyclopaedia of Rhododendron Hybrids*

Encyclopaedia of Rhododendron Species

Evening Garden, The

**Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials, The**

Ferns to know and Grow

Garden Artistry: Secrets of Designing and Planting a Small Garden

Garden Perennials

Gardeners Guide to Growing Clematis, The

Gardeners Guide to Growing Daylilies, The

Taylor, Patrick

Nicholls, Graham

Kraxberger, Meldon

Darke, Rick

Reed, David

Lima, Patrick

Sunset Books

Fairweather, Christopher

Galle, Fred

Chatto, Beth

Lewis, Peter

Heath, Royton E.

Darke, Rick

Schenk, George

Bloom Adrian

Glattstein

Cox, Peter & Kenneth

Murfitt, Rex

Fingerhute, Joyce

Cox, Peter

Cooper, Guy & Gordon Taylor

Grey-Wilson, Christopher

Chatto, Beth

Grosvenor, Graeme

Dirr, Michael

Chatto, Beth

Cox, Peter & Kenneth

Cox, Peter & Kenneth

Loewer, Peter

Hinkley, Daniel J

Foster, F. Gordon

Dillon, Helen

Armitage, Allan M.

Evison, Ray

Grenfell, Diana

Gardeners Guide to Growing Hardy Geraniums, The  
 Gardeners Guide to Growing Hellebores, The  
 Gardeners Guide to Growing Irises, The  
 Gardeners Guide to Growing Peonies, The  
 Gardener's Guide to Growing Salvias, The

**Gardening on Pavement, Tables, and Hard Surfaces**

Gardening with Climbers

**Gardening with Conifers**

**Gardening with Friends**

Genus Epimedium, The

George Forest Plant Hunter

Green Tapestry, The

Greer's Guide to Available Rhododendrons, Species & Hybrids (2 c.)

Handbook of Wildflower Cultivation

Hardy Geraniums 2d ed.

Himalayan Garden, The

Hosta Book, The

Japanese Maples (2 c.)

*Larger Rhododendron Species, The*

Laurel Book, The

Lilies: A Guide for Growers & Collectors

Magnolias

Magnolias: A Care Manual

Manual of Alpine Plants, A

*Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, A*

Moss Gardening

Ornamental Conifers

**Pocket Gardening Revised ed.**

Poppies

Portraits of Himalayan Flowers

Primulas Old and New

Primulas: The Complete Guide

Pulmonaria and the Borage Family

Random House Book of Bulbs

Random House Book of Perennials Vol. 1: Early Perennials

Random House Book of Perennials Vol. 2: Late Perennials

Random House Book of Perfect Plants

Rhododendron Hybrids

Rhododendron Hybrids

Rhododendron Portraits

Rhododendron Species Vol. 1: Lepidotes

*Rhododendron Species Vol. 2: Elepidotes Part 1*

Rhododendron Species Vol 3: Elepidotes Part 2

Rhododendron Species Vol 4: Azaleas

*Rhododendrons & Azaleas*

Rhododendrons in the Landscape

*Rhododendrons of the World*

Rhododendrons: A Care Manual

Rock Garden Plants: A Color Encyclopedia

Rothschild Rhododendrons, The

*Riddle of the Tsang-Po Gorges, The*

*Rodale Herb Book*

Scent in Your Garden

Siberian Iris, The

Sichuan Rhododendrons of China, The

Smaller Rhododendrons, The

Trees For the Small Garden

*Vireyas: A Practical Gardening Guide*

Bath, Trevor & Troy Jones

Rice, Graham & E. Strangman

Stebbing, Geoff

Page, Martin

Sutton, John

Schenk, George

Grey-Wilson, Christopher

Bloom, Adrian

Schenk, George

Stearn, William T.

McLean, Brenda

Chatto, Beth

Greer, H. E.

Taylor, Kathryn & Stephen Hamblin

Yeo, Peter

Jermyn, Jim

Aden, Paul

Vertrees, J. D.

Cox, Peter

Jaynes, Richard A.

McRae, Edward A.

Barrett, Rosemary

Rankin, Graham

Ingwersen, Will

Dirr, Michael

Schenk, George

Harrison, Charles R.

Harris, Marjorie

Grey-Wilson, Christopher

Voshida, Toshio

Wemyss-Cooke, Jack

Robinson, Mary A.

Bonnet, Masha

Phillips, Roger & Martyn Rix

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Phillips, Roger & Martyn Rix

Cox, Peter

Salley, Homer & H. Greer

Geldern, D. van et al.

Davidian, H. H.

Davidian, H. H.

Davidian, H. H.

Davidian, H. H.

Kessel, Marvin

Nelson, Sonja

Leech, David E.

Cox, Kenneth

Mineo, Baldassare

Phillips, C. E. Lucas & Peter N.

Cox, Kenneth

Rodale Books

Lacy, Stephen

McEwan, Currier

Wenpei, Fang

Cox, Peter

Toomer, Simon

Kenyon, John

Well-Designed Mixed Garden, The  
**Well-Tempered Garden, The**  
 Well-Tended Perennial Garden, The  
*Wild Orchids Across North America*  
 Willows: The Genus Salix  
**Winter-Flowering Shrubs**  
**Witch Hazels**  
 Woody Landscape Plant Cold-Hardiness Ratings  
 World of Magnolias, The

#### Audiovisuals

Adventures of Captain Steele (VHS)  
 On the Road Again: Rhodo King (VHS)  
 Parks in Enköping (Talk to ARHS)  
 Mr. Rhododendron: Peter Gzowski Interview (AT)  
 The Rhododendron Leaf (VHS)  
 The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (VHS)

#### Missing Books

Azaleas, Rhododendrons & Camellias  
 Encyclopaedia of Rhododendron Species  
 Gardeners Guide to Growing Peonies, The  
 Rhododendron Hybrids  
 Rhododendron Hybrids

Di Sabato-Aust, Tracy  
 Lloyd, Christopher  
 Di Sabato-Aust, Tracy  
 Keenan, Philip E.  
 Newsholme, Christopher  
 Buffin, Michael W.  
 Lane, Christopher  
 Capiello, P. E.

CBC Land & Sea  
 CBC Land & Sea  
 Matssonn, Stephan  
 CBC Morningside  
 UBC Friends of the Garden

Sunset Books  
 Cox, Peter & Kenneth  
 Page, Martin  
 Cox, Peter  
 Calloway, Dorothy

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## 2007 Garden Tours

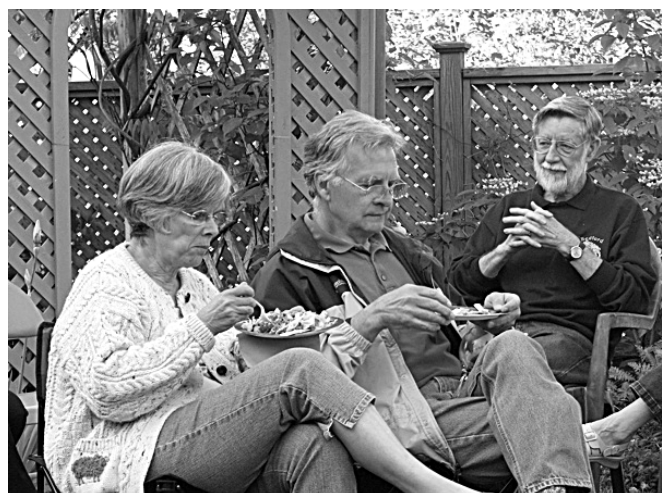


The Fountain Garden. [Photos Barbara McLean]



# 2007 Garden Tours & Pot Luck

Photos By Barbara McLean



# Book Review

**The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust. Timber Press, 1998, \$29.95, 289 pages.**

I picked up this book on one of my annual trawls through the Nicholas Hoare bookshop in Montreal, which always has a good gardening section. I was familiar with Tracy's name as it appears regularly in American magazines. The book intrigued me as there seemed to be a large section on manipulating perennials in the garden. I had been reading occasionally about shearing techniques that could prolong bloom and reduce the height of the rather unwieldy type of flower that one ends up growing and loving and cursing when it falls over in a thunderstorm. The book appeared to devote considerable space to these issues.

If you love all different kinds of perennials and grow them in close quarters and happen to have been born in England you will be familiar with the word "deadheading". I'm not being rude, but I do find the concept is rather lost on Canadians. I don't know why this is. I have done workshops on it for gardening club members who are taking care of public gardens but I never seem to get my point across. Tracy sets it out simply and effectively in this book. It isn't just a question of removing spent blooms, but recognizing that at some point, usually the beginning of August, many of the early flowers need a drastic cutting back. The old long stems are cut and composted and the plant produces a neat mass of clean fresh foliage and the eye moves to admire the cone flowers coming into bloom without visual distraction.

I guess if you are content to do the weeding in the spring and then want to put your feet up for the rest of the summer this book is not for you! However most gardeners enjoy getting out there and working with their plants all season. There is no better way to interact with your planting and to know how things are getting on than to be in the thick of it deadheading and cutting back.

Tracy has been working in the landscape business since 1978 and lives and works near Columbus, Ohio, which isn't too far off our own hardiness zone, so her information is pertinent. She gives a lot of space to preparation of the ground, a lesson us old folk have learnt the hard way, to proper planting techniques and weed suppression, and ways to clean up in the fall and warnings about how hard to cut back in the spring.

Finally the tips on shearing. She describes how if you cut the front half of a clump of phlox in early summer, those stalks will still bloom, but will bloom later than the ones left tall, and the clump will have a much longer blooming time. Is that fun or what? I have reduced the height of my *Rudbeckia* 'Herbstsonne', which is one of those really tall (eight foot) spectacular late blooming black eyed Susans, but which fall about in the wind and the rain. I cut 24 inches off the stems in early July and they have regrown and are about to flower but now are a much more manageable four to five feet tall. Next year I shall try this technique on the *Heleniums* and *Monardas* too.

This is an attractive book with lovely illustrations and beautiful photos of gardens and it's packed with excellent information.

**Jennifer Sandison**



## Photo Album



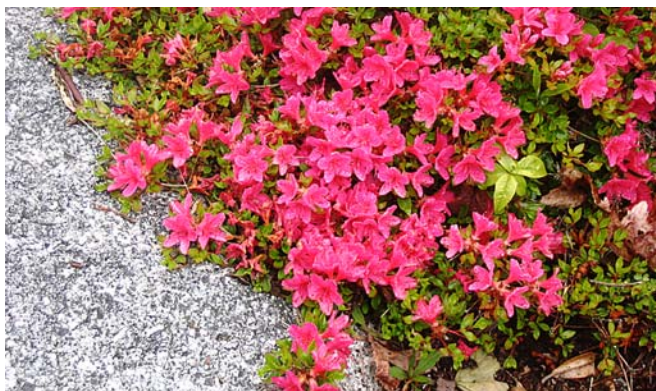
*R. lapponicum* growing wild in Western Newfoundland. [Photos John Weagle]



'Goldkrone'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Catawbiense Boursault'. [Photo Donna Silver]



'Pink Pancake Gee'. [Photo Donna Silver]



'Pink Treasure'. [Photo Donna Silver]



'Manitou'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Towhead'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]