AtlanticRhodo

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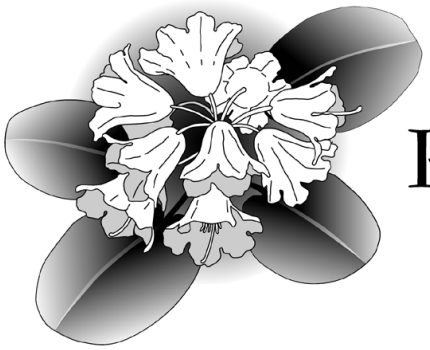

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

Our Mission

ARHS supports and promotes the development and exchange of expertise and material relating to the practice of creating and maintaining year-round garden landscapes featuring rhododendrons and other plants.

Inside this Issue

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

Membership

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

The current membership period is September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. The membership fee is $20.00 if paid between September 1, 2018 and November 30, 2018, and $30.00 after Nov. 30, 2018. For benefits see ARHS website **www.atlanticrhodo.org**

American Rhododendron Society: ARHS is a chapter in District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined ARHS and ARS membership cost is $57.00 Canadian. For benefits see **www.rhododendron.org**

Cheques, made payable to Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society should be sent to **Gloria Hardy, 47 Melwood Ave. Halifax, NS B3N 1E4**

AtlanticRhodo is the Newsletter of the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society. We welcome your comments, suggestions, articles, photos and other material for publication. Send all material to the editor.

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Cover Photo: Rhododendron Calophytum in the Dick Steele Garden, April 29, 2018 . [Photo Mern O'Brien]

Calendar of Events

ARHS meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, at 7:30 p.m. usually in the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History Auditorium, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, unless otherwise noted. Paid parking is available in the Museum lot. We welcome anyone sharing our interest in plants and gardens.

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May 20 – 27	**ARS Annual Spring Conference,** to be held in Bremen, Germany, with pre- and post-tours to Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland (May 6 – 31)
June 9	**ARHS Annual Garden Tour**. A tour of five gardens in the Halifax region. Annual potluck to be held at the Jim and Ann Drysdale garden. For more information and directions please see article in this issue of the newsletter.
September 4	**September meeting and Annual Steele Lecture**. Worthy and New Hydrangeas for Cold Climate Gardens presented by Maurice Foster. Maurice is the recipient of the Victoria Medal of Honour, and a widely respected British gardener. He is a long standing member of the Woody Plants Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, and has travelled widely in search of woody plants, notably in western China and the Himalaya.
October 2	**October meeting and Annual General Meeting**. Program TBA
November 6	**November meeting and program**, A Garden in the Woods of Maine**,** presented by Cassie Banfield. Cassie will dive deeply into the past, present and future of the extraordinary Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Walled Garden, at Seal Harbour, Maine. She manages the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden and the McAlpin Farm for the Land and Garden Preserve in Seal Harbor, Maine.
December 4	**Annual ARHS Christmas Party**. Please bring up to 5 of your images on topics horticultural – but no more that 5! – to share with your fellow members. All picture files should be in .jpg format.

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

A very warm welcome to our new members who have joined ARHS since February .

Don Bowen	**Hammonds Plains, NS**	**Linda MacDonald**	**Timberlea, NS**
James Henderson	**Hammonds Plains, NS**	**Heather Roth**	**Halifax, NS**
Nancy Lewis	**Halifax, NS**		

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Special Notices:

Volunteers Needed. The ARHS is looking for one or two members to take over as coordinators of the members' pre-ordered plant sale. If you're interested, please get in touch with our volunteer coordinator, Lynn Rotin, at 902 346 2018 or by email at lynnrotin@gmail.com.

Liz Naylor and Sandra Sperker are stepping down as coordinators of the Members' pre-ordered plant sale. A very big thank you to them for taking this on. All of our gardens owe them a large debt of gratitude.

Rebecca Lancaster has volunteered to take over from Gloria Hardy as membership coordinator as of this October, 2018. We will make it official at the upcoming AGM. Thank you Rebecca. And a very big thank you to Gloria for doing such a terrific job keeping everything organised and up to date. ¤

ARHS Garden Tour Saturday June 9, 2018

10 am to 5 pm with potluck to follow

Duff and Donna Evers
5 Sime Court, Hammonds Plains, B4B 1K1

Directions: Take the 102 to Hammonds Plains Rd. Turn left.
Then left onto Kingswood Dr.
Right on to Brenda Dr. to Sime Court.

It has been more than twenty years and we are still gardening, albeit more slowly, and still collecting plants, though not as many. The rhodies have grown from tissue culture size to, why-on-earth-did-I-plant-that-there! size. Many of you have visited our garden in the past but gardens are ever changing so hopefully you will see something new when you visit this time.

The lower woods or as we affectionately call it "The Swamp" has demanded our attention over the last couple of years. Trees fell down, and water run-off became a concern. We have made a dry stream-bed, built a boardwalk and searched out plants for this unique part of our gardens. You have all seen the infamous marsh marigolds in the bogs, but we are hoping that the hundreds of primula will be putting on a show for your visit.

Celeste and Dalton Darrah
15 Rockcliffe Crescent, Highland Park. Hammonds Plains B3Z1J8

Directions: From the Evers' garden go back out to Hammonds Plains Rd. Go left. About 10km you will pass IMP on the right. Go past that. Rockcliffe is the first left off Hammonds Plains Rd. Go straight for three houses. #15 is on the right. Sign at end of driveway.

When we started gardening we wanted lots of colour. So for our main flower bed we went with summer flowering perennials. As time went by we soon found out we had to have deer tolerant plants as well as low maintenance plants. This is when we started hybridizing day lilies. In the early 90's we saw a documentary on Captain Dick Steele. This took us to Bayport where we fell in love with rhododendrons.We have an open style landscape with about 140 rhododendrons and several other varieties of shrubs. There is also a vegetable garden, a few apple trees, some blueberries and grapevines. We have a good collection of tall bearded irises. For anyone who is interested in day lilies feel free to come back to see them the first week of August (peak bloom).

Gloria Hardy
47 Melwood Avenue, Halifax B3N 1E4

Directions: From the Darrah garden head back to Hammonds Plains Rd. Turn left on to 103 E in Tantallon. Follow to St.Margaret's Bay Rd. Turn right onto Fenwood. Continue onto Lynn Rd. Lynn Rd. becomes Melwood. Gloria Hardy's home on the left opposite the entry to Elizabeth Drive. Total driving time about 20 minutes.

Alternate directions for those coming from Halifax: At the Armdale Rotary proceed up Herring Cove Road, past the turn off for Purcell's Cove Road. Melwood Avenue is the next right. #47 is opposite Elizabeth Drive.

Alternate directions from Northwest Arm Drive: Take the Osborne Street exit, proceed almost to the bottom. Turn left onto Elizabeth Street and follow to the end where it meets Melwood Avenue.

There are both old and new beds on this 1/2 acre property sloping down to Chocolate Lake in Halifax. I have been collecting plants from the ARHS for about 20 years. There are many lepidotes, which I tend to prefer due to their size, earlier blooming, and attractive winter foliage. I also have elepidotes, conifers, evergreen azaleas, hellebores, ericas, and perennials. I love all my plants but especially the hellebores.

Sheila Stevenson and Stephen Archibald
17 Stanbrae Rd, Ferguson's Cove B3V1G4

Directions: From the Gloria Hardy garden, turn onto Elizabeth St (right across from Gloria's house). Turn left at the end of Elizabeth down to Herring Cove Road. Turn left onto Herring Cove Road. Turn right onto Purcell's Cove Rd. Drive approx. 7.5 km. Turn left onto Stanbrae Rd. Park at top of road unless you have issues walking. There is some parking in the driveway.

Rockbum is a 3/4-acre piece of a red maple swamp, close by the west side of Halifax harbor, where Sheila Stevenson and Stephen Archibald have gardened for 25 years. Native swamp plants- red maples, birches, white spruce, holly, viburnum, mountain ash, elder, mountain maple - share the somewhat dramatic terrain with rhododendrons and other ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials, sourced in large measure through the ARHS and selected for year-round interest as viewed from inside the house as well as outdoors. Stone from the site turns up in walls, seats, and paths. What was a woodland until 2016 is now a new garden, thanks to septic-field construction.

James and Ann Drysdale
5 Little Point Lane. Herring Cove B3V 1J7

Directions to the final garden and potluck: Leaving the Stevenson-Archibald garden turn left onto Purcell's Cove and follow to the end. Turn left onto Ketch Harbour Rd. at Pavia Cafe and Gallery. Turn left onto Little Point Drive. The Drysdale property is on the left. Total distance approx 6.8 km.

****Parking Note**: There is no parking on Little Point Drive as it is a one lane private road with 4 houses. Our driveway is quite large and can accommodate about 8 cars, if carefully parked. Bike lanes have recently been installed on the Ketch Harbour Rd. but there should be enough room on the west side to park safely. You will have to cross the road to get to Little Point Drive, a 2 minute walk to house & garden. Carpooling might be a good idea.

This is a 15-year-old garden. It is an ocean front property that was heavily treed prior to Hurricane Juan and is built upon granite. Soil had to be trucked in for any plantings and many stumps had to be removed following that storm. The property slopes to the outer Halifax harbour and has brooks running through it. There are approximately 140 rhododendrons & azaleas accompanied by various companion plants.

Another feature of the garden is a large outcropping of granite where we have been attempting to develop a rock garden in the various crevices. Heaths and heathers appear to do well here as do some succulents. This is accessed by a large, grassy way with plantings on either side of various grasses, cotoneaster and low junipers as well as some perennial flowers.

The rhododendrons and azaleas are situated on the north and west side of the property with pathways through these gardens. Most of these plants are labelled. These gardens also have bridges within the pathways.

Surrounding the greenhouse are flower and vegetable gardens. The path to the harbour shore is a work in progress and only accessible in the best of conditions. There is a small deck accessed from the back yard via a bridge that takes you to a look-off.

Potluck to follow… don't forget to bring something!
See you all there… ¤

The Van Veen ARHS Project

John Weagle

We have been having rhododendrons propagated by Van Veen Nurseries in Portland, Oregon for 15 years now. In fact our very first plant sale in the late 1970's was a pallet load of commercial hybrids from Van Veen, all sold in a hour or so despite Sterling Levy's trepidation and big Visa bill. Since 2003 I would send cuttings in the autumn and have them shipped back to ARHS the next spring.

As there were some complaints about the rhodos this year some explanation is in order. The owner and soul of the operation, Kathy Van Veen, died in May of 2017. Kathy was a master propagator and held much in her head. Upon her death there was some ensuing chaos at the nursery as there are about 20 hoop-houses in which the cuttings are rooted. Furthermore, cuttings sent at different times were not necessarily held in the same house. As Kathy died in 2017 we decided to have our November 2015 cuttings held an extra year, expecting bigger and sturdier plants. One summer day at 117F ended that hope.

Now to answer a few questions about the Project.

Why, members asked, send cuttings all the way to Oregon?

There are no rhodo propagators in Atlantic Canada or BC.

What about the eastern USA?

Yes there are a few in the eastern USA but the east has very hot & humid summers and nights. Such conditions are fatal to the many cool-summer species and hybrids that we grow or which have been produced in Atlantic Canada. Cuttings we sent to New Jersey and Mass. were dead before they rooted. Van Veen was our only choice.

Why not have the rooted cuttings sent to NS in the autumn?

The plants would not have time to firmly root and adapt before the arrival of winter.

Why not ship them here earlier, say in March?

Good idea but with air shipments landing in Louisville and Montreal the chances of these rooted cuttings freezing is too great. Also remember if they arrived earlier that means the Evers would have to tend them for a month before the sale, in and out according to the weather. They do quite enough as it is and with little credit I might add.

What about the poor looking rhodos received?

Seasoned rhododendron growers will know and observe that damage is shipping damage and the leaves affected are generally on new (2018) growth, this is unavoidable given the shipping date - there is a huge seasonal difference between here and Oregon. When we visited VV last March it was equivalent to early June here.

So what to do?

If you cut off the new growth and leave a stub of stem the plant - once established in the ground given a good root system - will send out a new flush of growth, perhaps 2-4 new shoots in June which will result in a bushier plant. If the plant is a lepidote species or hybrid it can defoliate given good roots and will send out many new shoots given some sun. If roots are not good or the mature leaves are poor that is quite another matter, contact the sale organizer.

American donors of cuttings were given first choice of the Atlantic cuttings at Van Veen, this was an extremely onerous ask tracking all the orders, changes and additions. Especially onerous when we only knew what was sufficiently rooted days before shipping. Then there were the member's orders which had to be prioritized based on the date ordered - Ken Shannik handled that efficiently and with precision. That process took many weeks throughout each winter. The horrors of shipping via UPS and Customs hassles were of nightmarish proportions especially so in 2016 when my cell bill said I had spent 38 hours on the phone with UPS and Customs in a week.

This was my last year, I will no longer be sending cuttings of locally produced hybrids and rare species to the West. Our thanks go out to American breeders for sending cuttings of their very best material or special plants to Van Veen for our Chapter - Dr. Steve Krebs of Ohio's Holden Arboretum, Joe Bruso in Mass., the late Hank Schannen in NJ, Geo. Woodard of Long Island, NY, Ron Rabideau in NJ, Bud Gehnrich and Werner Brack both on Long Island, NY, Betty Ann Addington in Minnesota, John & Sally Perkins in NH, Al Fitzburg in the USA, Alan & Shirley Anderson in NJ, and there are others

I'm sure that I have missed. As well thanks to Canadians, the late Don Craig of Centreville, NS, Dave Hinton in Ontario, Jack Looye (formerly in Ontario and now happily in NS) and the late Marta Breuckner in Missisauga for the same. To local members also who generously gave from their collections. Jack grew on the heat tolerant rhodos for ARHS for another year and then shipped them down to us in 2 gallon pots. Hearty thanks to Ken Shannik and Duff & Donna Evers; the Evers would often have to tend plants not picked up by members or excess plants - often hundreds of plants - and then try to sell them hither and yon. These kinds of volunteers are not easily replaced.

What follows is a list of what had been sent and returned to Atlantic Chapter, a total of some 4000 rare rhodos.. I feel it's been a valuable endeavor though it was an organizational nightmare.

2003

R. (*aureum* x Prelude) Bpt#80-5
R. (*yak* x Atroflo) Muntz best
R. Lionel's Red Shield
R. fastigiatum Blue Silver
R. fastigiatum Blue Silver
R. (Bosutch x aureum) Bpt#82-3
R. Sue Muntz [white/red blotch]
R. (Jock x fortunei) dwarfest
R. (yak x Red Rum)
R. Bosley 1016
R. Golden Gala
R. Dartmoor Rose
R. fastigiatum (pink)
R. iteophyllum
R. (*nakaharai* Orange Form x kaempferi)
R. nitidulum v. omeiense KR185
R. nivale ssp. Boreale F16450
R. poukhanense v. rosea
R. websterianum
R. (*yak x pachysanthum*) (Weagle best)
R. ? yak type
R. 0-10-01 (*keiskei x fletcherianum* Yellow Bunting) tall resembling flet.
R. unknown lepidote
R. IX-70
R. sister of IX-70
R. *moupinense* hybrid (probably *ferrugineum x moupinense)*)
R. sister of 0-10-01
R. [(brachycarpum x aureum) x caloxanthum]
R. (caloxanthum x williamsianum)
R. degronianum v. micranthum
R. lepdiote unkown with red flower buds
R. (maximum x aureum) F2 Barber
R. orthocladum Knightshaeys
R. orthocladum v. microleucum
R. (yak x fictolacteum) WO
R. rubiginosum Ostrom
R. scintillans Wisley
R. vellereum
R. yakushimanum Shady Lady
R. Little Miss Muffet (now named Woodland's Miss Muffet)

2004

QRS (Steele)
R. Dave's Delight
R. (Moonshot x Prelude) Bpt 91B
Craig #S71-11
R. yak x tsariense Weagle
R. yak x insigne best Weagle
R. Serendipity
R. Spellbinder
R. Evangeline
R. Todmorden
R. Nepal
ARS92-608 #9 - Yellow
ARS92-608 #7- Yellow
ARS95-899 - stripe & dble calyx
ARS92-765 #1 - "Sproeten"
ARS 92-608 #11 "Ivory Cloud" (not the registered Ivory Cloud!)
Orig Red Maximum ex Blwd.
R. (aureum x repens) F2
Unlabelled
R. Lionel's Red Shield x Sumatra
R. roxieanum oreonastes
R. degronianum Micranthum
lepidote yellow
R. roxieanum
R. Hardy Giant (may have been sent by DHinton)

2005

99-14
R. Acadia (a.k.a. Cornwallis)
R. aureum x lanigerum
R. aureum x repens F2
R. [(auruem x repens) F2 x (auruem x Prelude) Bpt 80-5]
R. Barbara Hall
R. Bellefontaine
R. Big Violet
R. brachycarpum Tigerstedtii x yakushimanum
R. Bravo
C-78-10 (Parson's Gloriosum x *williamsianum*)
R. Catawbiense Album x aureum
R. Double Dip
R. fortunei
R. Robinson
R. Francesca x *repens*
R. Gabriel
R. Grand Pré (40+30+36+50)
H-1-03 (*nikkomontanum x williamsianum*)
R. keiskei Fairy's Fairy
R. Kentville Catstreat
R. [Laura Morland x (*nakaharai x kiusianum* Mt Fiji) F2 white]
R. [Laura Morland x (*nakaharai x kiusianum* Mt Fiji) F2 white] best pink - looks like Laura Morland
R. Mary Flemming x *keiskei* Yaku Fairy
R. Minas Peace
R. Mist Maiden x *tsariense*
R. nikkomontaum x repens
R. Nova Sunrise
R. Peaches
R. poukhanense rosea
R. roxieanum J. Brett
R. Sandra Hinton
R. Sandra Hinton x Casanova
R. Scotian Breeze
R. Scotian Fire
R. Scotian Reef
R. SEL 95-19 (Scintillation x Marybelle)
R. smirnowii x campanulatum

R. Strawberry Swirl
R. Sue Gunn
R. Tantramar
R. yak x adenogynum
R. yak x Moonstone
R. yak x insigne (#2)
R. yakushimanum Frosted Jade
Magnolia grandiflora '24 Below'
R. campanulatum Roland Cooper
R. Westport Point
R. (Jock x *fortunei*) #1 [white/red blotch] - "Sue Muntz"
R. Elizabeth (hardiest clone)
R. Nova Sunrise #94-4
R. (Bosutch x *aureum*) Bpt#82-3
R. Forcat
R. (*yak* x Red Rum)
R. (*aureum* x Prelude) Bpt#80-5
R. Bellefontaine
R. The Porcupine
R. [(*yak x rex) x rex*]
R. Sue Gunn
R. tsariense x vellereum
R. (Betty Hume x *proteoides*) #1
R. (Bosutch x *aureum*) Bpt#90-C
R. C-64-10 (Brueckner)
R. Boulderwood #72-2
R. (maximum x calophytum pink f.) Weagle-Fralic
R. Barbara Hall
R. metternichii 'Ultra Suede'
R. Wombat
R. (yak x lanigerum)
R. Jane Law
R. John T. Meagher
R. Armshore BTL#2, sister of R. 'John T. Meagher'
R. Bosutch
R. Hancock's Smirfort
R. pseudochrysanthum dwarf
R. Henry Dupont
R. Spellbinder
R. (Catalgla x *wardii*) F2
R. Green Pearl
R. (Road Red x Prelude) Q
R. Madfort F2 BBW
R. catwardii F3
R. Peaches
Pieris japonica 'Wm. Buchanan'
Pieris japonica 'Rokujo's Carpet'
R. QRS (Steele)
R. Dave's Delight
R. (Moonshot x Prelude) Bpt 91B
R. Craig #S71-11
R. yak x tsariense Weagle
R. yak x insigne best Weagle
R. Serendipity
R. Spellbinder
R. Evangeline
R. Todmorden
R. Nepal
ARS92-608 #9 - Yellow
ARS92-608 #7- Yellow
ARS95-899 - stripe & dble calyx
ARS92-765 #1 - "Sproeten"
ARS 92-608 #11 "Ivory Cloud" (not the registered Ivory Cloud!)
Orig Red Max
R. (aureum x repens) F2
Unlabelled
R. Lionel's Red Shield x Sumatra
R. roxieanum oreonastes
R. degronianum Micranthum
R. lepidote sp., v. dark yellow Brueckner
R. roxieanum
R. pronum
R. Hardy Giant

2006

1) SJP #001 Pressey's Peachy JW 16
2) SJP #002 Hayden #6 Hayden
3) SJP #003 Hayden #2
4) SJP #004 Apricot Calyx
5) SJP #005 New Marmalade
6) SJP #006 Peach Glow (thin indumentum)
7) SJP #007 Hayden #1
8) SJP #008 Touch of Pink
9) SJP #009 Hesperia x Pebble Beach 8 white with red blotchN-3
10) SJP #010 maximum x fortunei
11) SJP #011 x campylogynum? Lepidote
12) SJP #012 Stuart #18 (early purple w/blotch) H1
13) SJP #013 Better than Finlandia (red bud, foliage curved dark green
R. Boule de Neige x *williamsianum*
14) SJP #014 Ice Cube x *yak*
15) SJP #015 Serendipity x *yak*
16) SJP #016 Better than Pink Twins
17) SJP #017 Ice Cube x *degronianum*
18) SJP #018 Pressey's Hillside *fortunei*
19) SJP #019 Catalgla x *sutchuense* #2
20) SJP #020 Labar's white x Loderii King George
21) SJP #021 Mrs. C. S. Sargent x *yakushimanum*
22) SJP #022 x *brachycarpum* #4 (dwarf hybriD)
23) SJP #023 77-2 (fragrant NS hybrid)
24) SJP #024 Canobie Canary (Knights/Perkins)
25) SJP #025 Little Sarah (Brooks)
26) SJP #026 Canobie Cadet (Gilkey/Perkins)
27) SJP #027 Canobie Corsage (Donovan/Perkins)
28) SJP #028 *yak x recurvoides* (Patterson)
Best *R. brachycarpum* 'right' (Ostrom)
Best *R. brachycarpum* ' left' (Ostrom)
R. pronum
R. adenogynum hybrid
R. rex (Ostrom)
R. yak x tsariense (Ostrom)
R. degronianum Micranthum Group (Ostrom)
R. caloxanthum, EXBURY
R. roxieanum Globigerum Group
R. pachysanthum (best)
R. yak x rex (Ostrom)
R. Eider
R. recurvoides (Haatch)
R. proteoides
R. recurvoides (Select)
R. caloxanthum x williamsianum (Ostrom)
Ostrom's Yellow, *[(brachycarpum x aureum) x caloxanthum]*
R. ambiguum
R. fortunei 'W'
R. fortunei, 'Lu Shan'
R. caloxanthum, 'Royston'

2007

R. adenogynum or *R. insigne* hybrid
R. adenogynum x bureavii
R. Alexander

R. April Surprise
R. aureum X Bosutch - Bpt#90-C
R. aureum x Prelude Bpt#80-5
R. aureum x Prelude Bpt.#78-1
R. Azuray
R. Baby Dane
R. Bad Etta (Baden Baden x Etta Burrows)
R. Bellefontaine
R. Ben Foster
R. Blue Heaven (*yak* Exbury x *pachysanthum* RSF79-064) ARS2001-356
R. Boulderwood Blue (Sapphire F2)
R. brachycarpum x fictolacteum Q
R. Bridal Bouquet (*sargentianum x kotschyi*)
R. Brookhaven
Brueckner 99-18 (brachy x orb or Catalgla x orb) labelled orb hybrid
Brueckner B-3-08 (Ice Cube x *yak*)
Brueckner C-33-06 or G-33-06
Brueckner F-14-03 (yak x Bow Bells) x *brachycarpum* Tigerstedtii
Brueckner K-8-09 (*brachycarpum* Tigertsedtii x *smirnowii*)
Brueckner N-2-14 (this is wrong # (N-14-01 or N-15-02)
R. carolinianum v. album x chryseum (G-36-04) (labelled G-38-04)
R. carolinianum Barb Hall's Best (left)
R. carolinianum Levy darkest pink x *dendrocharis* Glendoick best rose-red
R. Cascade
R. Catalgla x *wardii* F3
R. Charme La
R. Crest x *aureum*
R. dauricum 'Ruth Wainwright'
R. degronianum 'Rae's Delight'
R. Deming Brook
R. Drumroll
R. Elviira x *forrestii* Repens Tower Court
R. ferrugineum x moupinense (Brueckner)
R. Flight of Butterflies
R. fortunei Robinson
R. Gotham Rheingold
R. Great Gatsby
R. Grand Pré x *williamsianum*
R. Halfdan Lem
R. Hancock's Blue (*russatum* x Blue Diamond)
(Hardgrove's Deepest Yellow x Phipp's #32) x sibling ARS92-656
R. Howard Kuhn
R. indicum x (nakaharai Orange *x kiusianum* Mt Fuji)
R. Intaligo
R. Jane Law (bag 1)
R. Jane Law (bag 2)
R. Janet Blair x Purple Splendour ARS97-157
R. Jolly Jim
R. kaempferi 'William Tritt'
R. Kehr's 'Southland'
R. keiskei 'Bayport Beauty'
R. keiskei 'Fairy's Fairy'
R. keleticum x PJM
R. Ken Janeck selfed
R. kiusianum 'Benisuzume'
Komo Kulshan
R. L'Abeille
latest - pink/compact (Azalea evergreen)
R. Lemon Cloud
R. Lionel's Red Shield (bag 1)
R. Lionel's Red Shield (bag 2)
R. Liz Ann
R. Madfort F2 - Boulderwood Bedroom Window
R. (maximum x aureum) F2 x *rex* - west end frame, row south
R. maximum Bpt Pink X *calophytum* Weejes
R. maximum 'Leachii'
R. Mélusine La Fée
R. metternichii 'Ultra Suede'
R.Michael Hill
R. Minas Snow
R. minus x ludlowii
R. Mrs. Jeremiah A. Withington III
R. mucronulatum 'Sagukis'
R. mucronulatum 'Waka Murasaki'
R. (mucronulatum v taguetii x dendrocharis Glendoick reddest)
R. Nahanni
R. (nakaharai Orange x *kaempferi v latisepalum*) Weagle
R. (nakaharai Orange x *kiusianum* Mt Fuji) #1-1
R. (nakaharai Orange x *kiusianum* Mt Fuji)
R. Basket
R. Nova Sunrise
R. Parker's Pink x *strigillosum* Copenhagen Hardy R33 R. Peach Blend
R. Peaches
R. Penheale Blue
Pieris floribunda 'Millstream'
R. poukhanense album from Donovan
R. poukhanense Shizanko
R. praevernum Brodick RSF82/008
R. pseudochrysanthum Starlings good do-er
R. Ramolet
R. Red River
R. Ruby Lemon (Barbara Cook x Janet Blair) ARS92-765
R. Sanguineum ssp. didymium x roxieanum oreonastes
R. Santa Fe
R. Scotian Breeze
R. Scotian Clouds
R. Scotian Fire
R. Scotian Mirage
R. Scotian Mist
R. Scotian Picotee
R. Scotian Reef
R. Scotian Rosebud
R. Serendipity
R. smirfort x fortunei
R. Spellbinder
R. Star Sapphire
R. Stony Brook
R. Sumatra x Lionels' Red Shield
Tall Verena-like (Azalea evergreen)
R. Tantramar (true) but was not true
R. Tantramar labelled as Tantramar but is sibling
R. The Porcupine
R. thomsonii L&S
R. Tickley
R. tsariense x yak
R. Vallya
R. vellereum x tsariense
R. Watchet
R. Weston's Crescendo
R. What A Dane
R. White Elegance
R. Wombat - cut up
R. yak x adenogynum - from 3 different clones
R. yak x chamaethomsonii
R. yak x gymnocarpum Reich
R. yak x lanigerum
R. yak x lanigerum Grimm - different than Fralic plant
R. yak x Moonstone (major)

R. (yak x rex) x rex
R. (yak x wardii) F2 x Madfort F2
R. yakushimanum Bpt.#90-0
R. yakushimanum Frosted Jade
R. yak Frosted Jade x Bud's Yellow
R. (yak Frosted Jade x *pachysanthum)* #1

2008

R. augustinii Chasmanthum RSF 69/092
R. augustinii Nadine (ex Cook at some point)
R. Blue Song #5 - (Epoch x Barto Blue) x Kehr *augustinii*
R. Sugar Blues - sent as Blue Song #11 - (Epoch x Barto Blue) x Kehr *augustinii*
R. Clyde McCoy - sent as Blue Song #14 - (Epoch x Barto Blue) x Kehr *augustinii*
R. carolinianum Levy darkest pink x *dendrocharis* Glendoick best rose-red (held 2009 for Weagle)
R. Cascade
R. (Catalgla x *wardii*) F2
R. (Catalgla x *wardii*) F3
R. degronianum 'Rae's Delight'
R. diaprepes x sutchenese
R. diaprepes x sutchenese F2 (selfed)
R. Drumroll (Foster)
R. Elviira x *forrestii* Repens Tower Court
R. fargesii
R. fastigiatum Ester Berry
R. fauriei (Meagher)
R. Komo Kulshan
R. Little Red - [Red Velvet x (Nestucca x Crimson Pippin)]
R. Madfort Henry Dupont
R. Madfort F2 BBW (Boulderwood, not 'Henry Dupont', R. Mighty Mite (Delp)
R. Grand Pré x *williamsianum*
R. moupinense ARS91-314
R. mucronulatum 'Uso Gumo' (double violet)
R. mucronulatum v. taguetii x leucaspis
R. Oban
Pieris japonica seedlings
Pieris japonicum "Bonsai"
R. roxieanum Oreonastes
R. russatum x Blue Diamond
R. sanguineum ssp. didymium x roxieanum oreonastes
R. Scotian Rosebud
R. Silk Road - [(*brachycarpum* x Phipps Yellow) x Nelda Peach]
R. Star Sapphire
R. Sun Dust - Nancy Evans x Janet Blair (Registered hyrid)
R. Tantramar (east plant, not true, a sibling)
R. thomsonii RSF67/717 L&S#2847
R. tsariense x vellereum
R. Volker x Phipp's Yellow
R. Wagtail
R. yak x chamaethomsonii
R. yak x gymnocarpum Reich
R. yak x Moonstone Minor
R. [(yak x rex x rex] Schaarup-Brett

2009

R. Betty Hume x proteoides
R. Boulderwood Blue (Sapphire F2)
R. Bud's Yellow - [('Inca Gold' x *yak* FCC) x (*wardii* KW r. 4170)] x 'Dexter's Orange'
R. Cascade
R. (Catalgla x *wardii*) F3
R. Frosty x Springtime #1
R. Frosty x Springtime #2
R. Frosty x Springtime #3
R. Golden Star
R. Gotham Rheingold
R. maximum x proteoides
R. Microtones (Delp)
R. Nahanni
R. Peaches
R. Phipp's Yellow
R. ponticum
R. Tickley
Pogonantha sp. white by lath house
R. Twinkle Toes (Delp)
R. Wading River
R. yak x Moonstone Major
R. John (Catalgla x *wardii*) F2 x Golden Star
R. Abe Arnot x Calsap
R. Rhein's Luna (mid season blue lepidote) (*carolinianum* white x Russatinii)
R. Montafon

2011

R. Baby Dane
R. Barbara Hall
R. Bellefontaine
R. Bellefontaine
R. BPT#2000-EH (Moon Shot x Prelude)
BPT#95-QER (*vernicosum* R#18139 x QE II)
R. brachycarpum (compact form) x *proteioides*
R. Bridal Bouquet
Brueckner blue lepidote hybrid
R. Charmant (Reich hybrid)
R. degronianum ssp. heptamerum v. micranthum
R. fortunei A/S (Gable's Hardy selfed ex ARS seed)
R. impeditum x moupinense
R. Isola Bella
JKW V.late hot pink {(Lady Louise) x [Lady Louise x (*nakaharai* orange form x *kiusianum* Mt Fuji)]}
R. John T Meagher
R. Kermesina Rosea
R. kiusianum Benizume
R. maximum x calophytum JW
R. metternichii 'Bayport'
R. Michael Hill
R. Minas Grand Pré
R. moupinense x campylogynum
R. mucronulatum v. taguetii (Cheju) x *dendrocharis* (rose red Glendoick)
R. Nancy Steele
R. nikkomontanum x forrestii repens
R. Nova Sunrise
R. pachysanthum x rothschildii???? (Harvey), turned out to be not x rothschildii
R. Parker's Pink
PH#83-M (Lady Eleanor Cathcart hybrid)
R. palustre v. decumbens
R. (pseudochrysanthum x proteioides) southernmost
R. RAS
R. Rie
R. Sandra Hinton
R. Santa Fe
R. Scotian Bells
R. Spellbinder
R. The Porcupine
R. Vinecrest
R. Wagtail (*keiskei* Yaku Fairy x *lowndesii*)

xPhyllothamnus erectus #1 'Crinolines'
R. yakushimanum (BPT#90-O)
R. yakushimanum Shady Lady
R. '*yak* x Moonstone' Minor
R. Yellow Dane

2014

R. Arthur J. Ivens x Hardy Red
R. augustinii selections Meagher
R. aureum x Prelude (YELLOWEST)
R. Axel Olsen
R. Babylon - rotted upon arrival, replaced
R. Bellefontaine
R. Bud's Yellow - ex Werner Brack
R. Bureavii Award of Merit
R. calophytum x repens
R. catawbiense v. compactum x Treasure
R. Charme La
xPhylliopsis
R. Cream Crest
R. Elizabeth Hobbie
R. oreodoxa v. fargesii Rockwood
R. fortunei (Gable selfed)
R. (fortune x catawbiense)
R. Frosthexe
R. Golden Bee
R. Golden Star
R. Golpher
R. Gotham Rhiengold
R. Grand Pre
R. Harold Amateis
R. hippophaeoides (White)
R. hippophaeoides 'HABA SHAN'
R. Lionel's Redshield
R. Limoncello
R. [(russatum x pemakoense) x keiskei 'Yaku Fairy'] Starling
R. Maricee
R. maximum x aureum F2
R. maximum x proteoides
R. Mist Maiden x *tsariense* - (Weagle x)
R. Nahanni
R. Nova Sunrise
Pieris 'MOUSEHOLE'
R. praevernum BRODICK
R. pseudochrysanthum x proteoides - (Weagle x)
R. roxieanum #2
R. roxieanum Globerigum Grp.
R. Sarled
R. Scarlet Wonder
R. Schneeflockchen
R. Sister Of Tantramar - (one of the C-64)
R. Sundust
R. trichostomum
R. Widgeon - rotted upon arrival in Oregon
R. Woodland's Miss Muffet
R. *yak* x Moonstone
R. brachycarpum dwarf x didymum mix - (Weagle x)
R. brachycarpum x proteoides - (Weagle x)
R. *brachycarpum* x rex - (Weagle x)
R. *brachycarpum x rex ssp. fictolacteum* - (Weagle x)
R. Janet's Flair
R. Phip's Yellow - ex Werner Brack
R. Russell Harmon
R. Santa Fe
R. Solidarity
R. Spellbinder
R. White Elegance
R. roxieanum oreonastes
Secies c.w. Jens Nielsen
R. tricostomum (Birck) - rotted upon arrival in Portland

The 2015 list was emailed as 2018 Sale Plants. ¤

R. fargesii: - One of the many rhododendrons sent for propagation as part of the Van Veen Project. [Photo Jens Birck]

Ikebana: Delight in Beauty

(Summary by Bob Howard)

Miyako Ballesteros at work on variation #6.

Variation #6 slanting style moribana.

For our April meeting, Miyako Ballesteros demonstrated how to make Japanese flower arrangements, known as Ikebana. When she and her husband, Ferdinand, moved to Halifax in 2007, some enthusiastic people asked them how to get Ikebana equipment, like kenzans*, flower scissors and vases. In response, they soon opened the Ikebana Shop on Quinpool Road in Halifax. It's a lovely store where you can find many Japanese items ranging from tea service and books to incense and origami as well as the stylish flower containers she uses in her arrangements.

During her presentation, Miyako made four stunning arrangements in the Sogetsu school of Ikebana. First, she first showed us the basic upright style called moribana. Second was an example of Variation No. 6 slanting style moribana, and then two free-form arrangements. With a ready sense of humor, she demonstrated how to have fun while being seriously artistic. I felt especially engaged because she was making something from beginning to end on the spot. Watching her hold, turn and consider a branch, then measure it against the container, make several quick snip, snip, snip cuts with the branch under water, and finally physically press the stem firmly into the kenzan—all this artist-at-work experience immersed the audience in the experience of making an arrangement.

There are three main design elements in an Ikebana composition: heaven, earth, and human. For the basic upright style, she first placed the heaven element, the tallest of the three, by pressing a thin, evergreen branch into the kenzan. The kenzan was set to the left-of-centre in a low, flat container. She pressed the branch into the kenzan so that it was leaning slightly forward and slightly to the left. All directions given are from the audience point of view.

Second, she placed another branch to represent the human element, the next tallest of the three elements, at about a 45º angle forward and to the left. Third, she positioned the earth element, the shortest element, in this case a chrysanthemum flower. She set it at about a 60º angle forward and to the right. She explained that this arrangement is viewed by the audience and so the flower is positioned to be well-seen from where we were sitting. Finally, she inserted several more mums as "helpers". Helpers fill in especially at the base and give the composition some fullness to visually support the main three lines. Helpers are always shorter that the three main elements, whether heaven, earth or human, that they support.

The second arrangement Miyako showed us is called the Variation No. 6 slanting style moribana. She made this as an arrangement that could be used on a dining table, viewed from all sides. For the heaven line, she chose two stems of Bells of Ireland which she set slanting to the right in an oval bowl-like container. The human element was another stem of Bells of Ireland slanting to the left, on the opposite side of the container. The final element, earth, was a lily in the centre and the helpers were pink snapdragons filling in at the base of the arrangement.

The Ikebana aesthetic likes young flowers in bud and appreciates viewing them open little-by-little every day.

The last two arrangements were free-style. Although she said she was not following any rules for these, she did emphasize that her free-style arose from the ground of much practice and repetition of making arrangements modeled on the basic styles and their variations.

Here are a few observations and guidelines Miyako mentioned during her demonstrations:

- Place the kenzan off-centre in the container.
- Appreciate asymmetric beauty.
- Enjoy the water in the vase and its reflections.
- Allow spaces in the arrangement and have a sense of movement.
- Remove clutter: what you don't need, take away.
- Show contrast and emphasize difference of straight and curved lines.
- Celebrate impermanence.

*A "kenzan" is a small, heavy metal disc with many pins sticking up. The flower arranger presses branches or flower stems into the pins to hold them in place. ¤

Free form with palm.

Basic upright style moribana.

A Curious Sweetness in the Air

Nina Newington

"How many witch hazels?" I asked.
"Nine," said my wife, then paused. "At least."


'Arnold Promise'

I should explain. When I left the place I'd been gardening for thirteen years to come to Canada, I sold a lot of plants. My New Garden Fund was begging to be spent. Fruit trees, hornbeams, witch hazels and stewartia were at the top of the list so who was I to dampen this eruption of hamamelis enthusiasm? And why, really, doesn't anyone with any room at all have at least one? They bloom in February and March; most have a lovely fragrance; many have fabulous fall colour and all make an excellent host for a summer clematis or two.

I haven't regretted our largesse, even when it came to moving them all down the road to our new place. They like the North Mountain. In fact, the fall-blooming *H. virginiana* grew wild in the woods at our first place, at the edge of a swamp but always up on a hump of soil or rock. It grew in the company of a rare (for Nova Scotia) swathe of poison ivy, as it did in the first place I met it in the wild, in a patch of remnant woodland in south-western Massachusetts. There *H. viginiana* grew with *Carpinus carolinianum*, the American hornbeam, as an understory to tulip trees and red maples. The poison ivy was so happy it grew up the tree trunks, blooming and berrying far overhead. The gardener was less happy. Back to more pleasant topics.

Hamamelis virginiana is native to most of Nova Scotia and a few spots in New Brunswick, in moist woodlands. With enough sun it will flower vigorously in late October or early November. Classic witch hazel flowers, each one comprises four strappy yellow petals growing out of a reddish-brown calyx. The whole flower is ½ - ¾" long and ½" wide with a variable amount of fragrance. Luminous yellow fall leaf colour precedes the flowers and sometimes hides them. An astringent lotion is made from the stems and roots of this species. *H. virginiana* is nice but not fabulous for the garden.

Another species, *H. vernalis*, is native further south in the US. I planted three little seedlings among alders along our stream. They survive periodic flooding. In March little rusty flowers unfurl with, according to Helen Van Pelt Wilson and Léonie Bell in *The Fragrant Year* (NY, 1967), "a sweet yeasty aroma like that of risen bread dough." Their book, incidentally, is the best I know on fragrant plants. It augured well, I thought, when I discovered Alexa had brought a copy of her own to the merging of our households. But, of course, scent is remarkably subjective. To my nose, two out of our three plants don't smell like bread at all, they smell exactly like bubblegum. The other smells of nothing.


'Feurezauber'


'Diane'

'Pallida'

'Pallida' flower structure & stem

The species I'd love to grow is *Hamamelis mollis*, the Chinese witch hazel. "Their fragrance is unbelievable, the pure delicious perfume of jonquil, and it carries many yards." So say Wilson and Bell. Louise Beebe Wilder, in *The Fragrant Path*, calls it merely "a dusty sweet scent" but agrees that it is "perceptible at quite a distance." On a warm day, I would add. Or you have to cup your hand around a blossom, breathe into it then inhale. People go to greater lengths to get high. It's worth it. Or you can cut a sprig and bring it indoors. My *H. mollis* 'Pallida' is finally big enough that I cut a couple of largish twigs when it began to bloom in the middle of February. The whole dining corner of our house smelt of lemon sweeties for three weeks.

'Pallida', like 'Brevipetala' (which I don't grow but would like to), is almost certainly not pure *H. mollis*. Crossing the latter with *H. japonica* has given rise to *H. x intermedia*. There are many named forms. All prefer a moist but not sodden soil and part-shade to sun. They are hardy through zone 5, sucking back their petals when the temperature drops, only to unfurl them again as soon as it gets above freezing. With time they become multi-stemmed, dense shrubs 10-15' tall. Thoughtful harvesting of branches for the house can maintain a more open, vase shape. They are a little slow to establish and, being grafted, may sometimes revert to the rootstock, usually *H. virginiana*. Last fall I noticed how well my newly planted 'Ruby Glow' was doing. Then I noticed the nice yellow flowers. Closer examination suggested the graft hadn't failed and sure enough, this spring, one gnarly little branch low down produced some rust red blooms. I should cut off the healthy *virginiana* sprout that came from below the graft but it did produce unusually large and fragrant blooms so perhaps, by pruning, I'll try to have my cake and eat it too.

The forms of *H. x intermedia* range in flower color from pure lemon yellow to deep rusty red. Following that gradient, here are the ones I grow:

'Pallida', lemon yellow with dark red calyxes, very fragrant and early, rich fall colour.

'Arnold Promise', stronger forsythia yellow, calyxes not very red. A handsome very floriferous shrub, always later to bloom. Mine opened at the very end of March this year.

'Westerstede', strong yellow, not different enough from the above to get excited.

'Orange Queen' should be called 'Lemon Queen' said a friend, recently. Very slightly darker yellow petals, red calyxes, fragrant.

'Jelena', overall effect is a lovely coppery buff, especially in front of evergreens. Close up each petal shades from red to orange to buff. Well scented with excellent fall colour.

'Feuerzauber' or 'Magic Fire' is a rich rusty red with some fragrance. Slower to establish, in my experience, but lovely.

'Ruby Glow' I only planted last year so it's too soon to tell. Flowers are a good coppery red.

'Diane' is the best of the red ones for flower and fall colour but she has little to no scent. I planted her as a one-gallon pot in the old household dump part of my garden, retrieving a perfume bottle, a child's shoe and a fan belt from the hole. She took a couple of years to consider her position but is now growing lustily so I'd say she's a good doer.

Including seedlings, I confess we're up to 16. I'd happily add 'Moonlight' (pale yellow) and 'Vesna' (orange-ish) if I could find them. I'm with Michael Dirr when he says of the *H. x intermedia* clan, "Why these plants are not in greater use is beyond me." I suspect that, like hellebores, they are hobbled in commerce by blooming before the nurseries open in the spring. Their fall colour comes after the nurseries close. Still, it's worth checking. In the Valley area of Nova Scotia, I've found several varieties at Baldwin's, Briar Patch and Bunchberry. ¤

'Jelena'

Rhododendrons For Beginners

Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Maddenias and Vireyas – their differences and latest systematics

Glen Jamieson

Editors note: We would like to thank Glen Jamieson and the Journal of the American Rhododednron Society for permission to reprint this article. All photos are by the author.

Fig 1.

Fig 2.

New members to the ARS are sometimes confused and perhaps even intimidated by the different plant names encountered when reading about the amazing genus *Rhododendron*. Here, I briefly explain what some of these terms mean and how they are related.

The genus Rhododendron is one of the largest of all the genera in the plant kingdom, with about 1000 species identified, and new species still regularly being discovered. It is one of a number of genera (the plural of genus) within the family, Ericaceae, which includes heathers, heaths, blueberries, cranberries, mountain laurels and a variety of other lesser-known plants that share some traits with the genus *Rhododendron.*

A genus is a grouping of plants with significant shared characteristics. The Azaleas, for example, are a group of plants within the genus *Rhododendron* because they meet this criteria. Their differences are not significant enough to merit a seperate genus. Thus, all azaleas are species of rhododendrons but not all species of rhododendrons are azaleas.

This wasn't always the case. Carl Linnaeus established the genus *Rhododendron* in 1753. He also established *"dendron-Rhodo Azalea"* as a separate genus for azaleas, but the majority of scientists begged to differ, so it wasn't long before azaleas were demoted to species status within the genus *Rhododendron*. Today, the word "azalea" has survived as the common name used by gardeners to identify a group of plants within the genus *Rhododendron*. So a label on a shrub at the plant nursery may refer to it as an azalea, a rhododendron, or both.

There are no clear-cut lines for distinguishing all azaleas from all other species of rhododendrons but here are a few characteristics to look for:

1. True rhododendrons (Fig. 1) have ten or more stamens, that is two per petal lobe. Azaleas (Fig. 2) usually have five stamens or one per petal lobe. All rhododendrons and azaleas have five petals in each flower.
2. Azaleas tend to have appressed hairs, i.e., hair parallel to the surface of the leaf. This is particularly true along the midrib on the underside of the leaf (Fig. 3) and is easily seen in "evergreen" azaleas. True rhododendrons, instead of hair, are often scaly or have small "dots" on the under side of the leaf (Fig. 4). Azalea leaves are never dotted with scales and are frequently pubescent (hairy).
3. Many azaleas are deciduous. True rhododendrons are usually evergreen with the exceptions of *R. mucronulatum* and most forms of *R. dauricum*, the exception being a dwarf form that is evergreen.
4. On average (but there are exceptions), rhododendrons are larger shrubs than azaleas, and they have larger leaves.
5. Rhododendron flowers are more bell-shaped and are borne in clusters of blooms called trusses that appear almost spherical, whereas individual azalea blooms are looser, more funnel-shaped or elongated and tubular, and most flower clusters are not in trusses.

In recent years, the word "rhododendron" has come to be used by gardeners as a common name for many different plants in the genus *Rhododendron* that have large, leathery, evergreen leaves. Within this group, leaf-size comparisons are used to make a further division, namely between large-leaf and small-leaf types.

Fig 3.

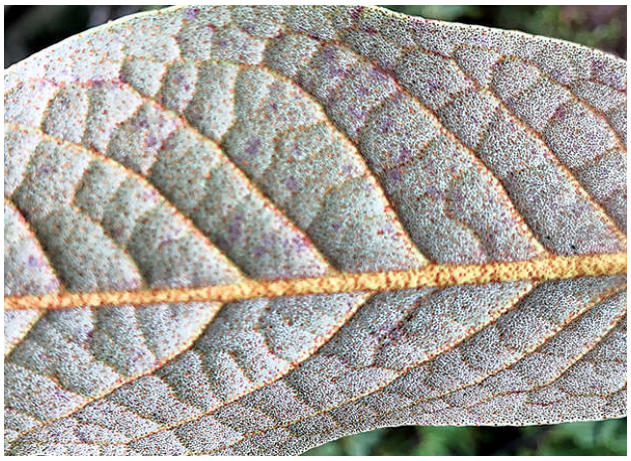


Fig 4.

Genus *Rhododendron* Systematics

Systematics is the science of naming and organising organisms based on their perceived common ancestry. With over a 1000 species in the genus *Rhododendron,* the challenge has been to develop an organizational structure that shows how all these different species are related to each other. Some early attempts at classification used similarities of plant physical structure (morphological features), especially flowers; other attempts were based on geographical and altitudinal distributions, or on habitat preference. But recent advances in genomics (DNA structure) have shown that many earlier classifications were not accurate. For example, there are cases of convergent evolution, where a similar characteristic has evolved independently in different species, either over time or in different geographical areas; whereas in other cases, some widely separated species are actually closely related because, historically, they had a common ancestor that was wide-ranging.

The relationships between groups of rhododendrons, and the nomenclature that I am presenting below, are based on the current understanding of how the species are related, but this may not be the final word, as research into the systematics of the genus is on-going.

At present, species with related characteristics are grouped into different "subgenera," which in turn may contain different "sections," and these may contain different "subsections"! To make it more confusing, within any one of these subgroupings, there may be subgroups referred to as "clades," which term indicates they are derived from a now lost common ancestor that the other subgroups may not have had. All this breaking down and grouping is done to identify and categorise those small groups of species that are most closely related. Here is the breakdown of the genus *Rhododendron* into its subgenera clades, as we currently recognise them:

Clade A

Subgenus *Rhododendron*: Small leaf or lepidotes (with scales on the underside of the leaves) (Fig. 5a,b) Five sections, about 400 species.

Subgenus *Choniastrum*: Eleven species.

Clade B

Subgenus *Hymenanthes:* Large leaf or elepidotes (Fig. 6b, without scales), including deciduous azaleas (Fig. 6a). Two sections, with about 157 species.

Clade C

Subgenus *Azaleastrum*: Evergreen azaleas (Fig. 7a & 7b). Three sections, about 120 species.

Sister taxon (This term denotes the closest relatives of another unit in an evolutionary tree.)

Subgenus *Therorhodion*: two species (*R. camtschaticum* and *R. redowskianun*).

Now that we have a broad, general view of the different clades, let's look in more detail at one of them: clade A, the subgenus *Rhododendron*. It is the largest of the five subgenera, comprising about 400 species. It includes nearly half of all the known species in the genus, and all of the lepidote species, the latter being identified by the tiny scales on the undersides of their leaves.

The subgenus *Rhododendron* includes three sections:

Rhododendron sect. *Pogonanthum*. Six species. Located in the Himalayas and adjacent mountains.

Fig 5a.

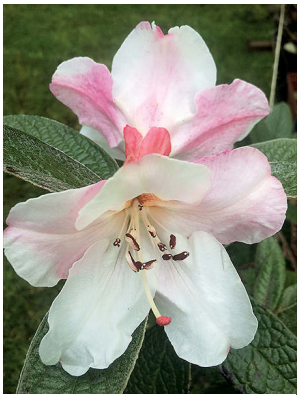


Fig 5b.

Fig 6a.

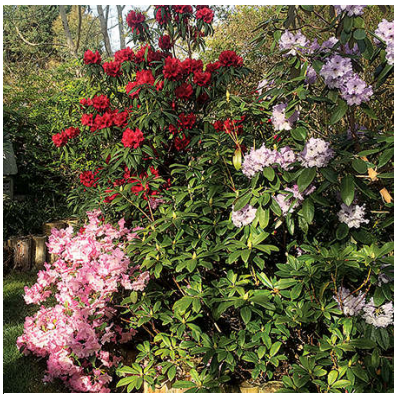


Fig 6b.

Rhododendron sect. *Rhododendron*. 120 - 149 species in 25 subsections. Located in the temperate to subarctic Northern Hemisphere (includes subsection *Maddenia*).

Rhododendron sect. *Schistanthe* (previously *Vireya*). About 300 species in four (previously seven) subsections. Located in tropical Southeast Asia and Australasia.

Maddenias and Vireyas

As a genus, rhododendrons are cool-growing plants, with those in the tropics being confined to higher elevations on mountains where temperatures are moderated. While most can tolerate freezing conditions, two groups of common garden rhododendrons, the Maddenias (Fig. 8) and Vireyas (Fig. 9), are more tender and generally do not tolerate freezing. The Maddenias (section *Rhododendron*), which naturally occur in mainland Southeast Asia (e.g., China, Myanmar, India) at mid-elevations on mountains, are:

Medium to large growing,
Grow in soil,
Many species have very fragrant flowers, which are mostly white or light-coloured,
Relatively few flower shapes and sizes,
Their leaves are lightly scaled, and
Many tolerate temperatures to -3° to -5° C (27° to 23° F).

In contrast, Vireyas (section *Schistanthe*), which largely occur at elevation on mountains in south-east Asian tropical areas (e.g., New Guinea, Borneo, Sumatra, Malaysian Peninsula, etc.), are:

Small to large growing,
Grown in fast draining bark and peat/coir mixes, as many are epiphytic in nature,
Some species are fragrant, and their flowers occur in many colours,
Have many flower shapes and sizes,
Leaves are scaly, and are thus often quite attractive, and
Most only tolerate temperatures above freezing, but some tolerate to -2° C (28° F).

In North America, Maddenias are grown outside without some winter protection mostly in northern California, southern Oregon, and in some Hawaiian locations, while vireyas are only grown outside year round from central California to the Los Angeles area, in southern Florida, and at cooler, moister locations in Hawaii, primarily on the Big Island. With Vireyas, the most critical issue for success is the culture medium, with rain frequency and humidity next. On the mainland USA, Vireyas are thus primarily either grown in pots or in amended natural soil.

Fig 7a.

Fig 7b.

[Author's note: Like many keen gardeners, I like to push the envelope and so grow plants that I know are too tender to survive outside year round in all years on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Thus, I grow both Maddenias and Vireyas in pots to facilitate their movement into sheltered locations when freezing conditions occur. The 13-15 Maddenii (1-1.2 m (3.3 -4 ft) high) are in large containers outside year round, except when the temperature goes below -2 C (28 F), during which time the pots are moved into an enclosed garage where the temperature stays above just above freezing. In below freezing conditions, desiccation seems to be a main concern!

Because I have hundreds of Vireyas in relatively small pots, it is more time-consuming to move them, so they are all moved into greenhouses in early November and then back outside in late March, as even with our relatively mild climate, potential freezing conditions can occur during the winter months. The greenhouses are heated, with the thermostats set at about 3 C (37 F), so they never go below freezing. On sunny winter days, the temperatures in them can increase to 20^{+} C (70^{+} F).**]**

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Steve Hootman for his constructive comments.

Glen Jamieson, a member and current President of the Mount Arrowsmith Chapter, is the editor of the Journal American Rhododendron Society..¤

Fig 8..

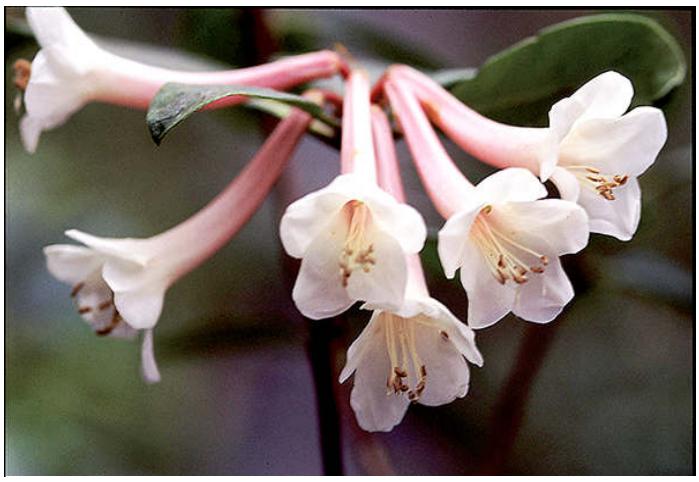
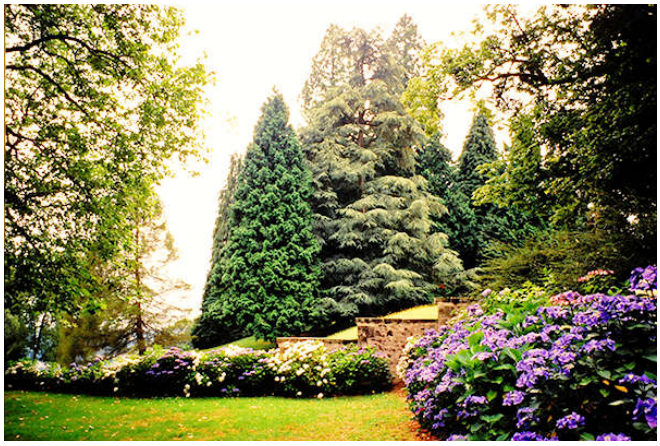


Fig 9.

Hydrangeas: What's Possible in the Maritimes?

Bob Howard



The garden at Château de Montméry.

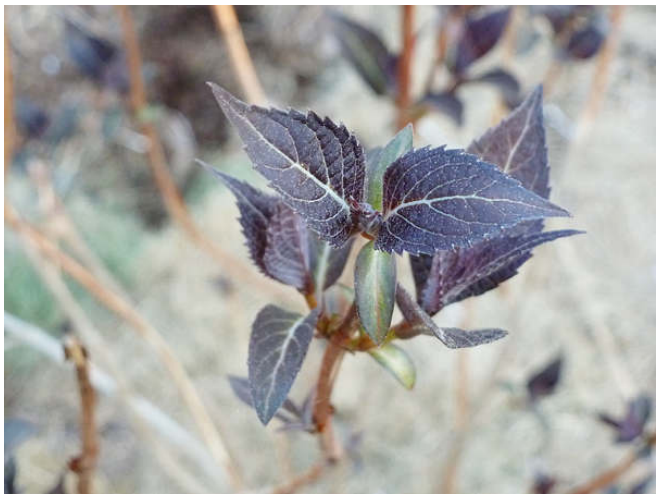
I spent my working life as a landscape gardener in Colorado, with its alkaline soil, low humidity, low precipitation, high winds, and brilliant, daily sun. The first time I really took notice of hydrangeas was around 2001 while visiting the Château de Montméry in central France. I had been told that Frederick Law Olmstead, the designer of Central Park in NYC, had worked on the plant layout there. The nearby photo shows the big North American trees and large-flowering hydrangeas that impressed me.

A couple of years later we moved to Nova Scotia and I discovered a whole new plant palette based on what David Patriquin calls "Ericaceous Nova Scotia"-- acid soil, high humidity and high precipitation, trees acting as windbreaks and soft, cloudy skies .The cold-hardy members of the signature genus of our club, rhododendrons, like the growing conditions in Nova Scotia and provide lots of color in our spring gardens. However, as a landscape gardener I was asking myself, what about flower color for mid-summer and into the fall? The large-flowering hydrangeas I had seen in France had an iffy reputation, flowering some years and failing in others.

But hydrangeas do like pretty much the same growing conditions as rhododendrons. Moreover, the plant similarities between eastern Asia-Japan and eastern North America were famously described by Asa Gray and Charles Sargent* in the late 1800's. Could it be that, although we have no native plants in the hydrangea family in Nova Scotia, they would nevertheless be happy growing here?

Certainly, several species in the genus *Hydrangea* are well-known and hardy enough for eastern Canada. First, 'Annabelle' is a popular variety in the species *arborescens.* This group, also called the smooth hydrangea, is native from Georgia north to NY State and has escaped from cultivation into nature around Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Second, the oakleaf hydrangea, though native to southeastern US is hardy to zone 5. Third, from Asia, *H. paniculata* is hardy to zone 3. The popular variety 'PeeGee" is a short word for *paniculata* 'Grandiflora'. There have been a lot of new introductions from this group, varieties such as 'Quick Fire', 'Pinky Winky', and even dwarfs like 'Little Lime'. A fourth species of proven hardiness is the climbing hydrangea, *H. anomala var. petiolaris.*

Among unusual sorts that are hardy, I have a three-year old, seed-raised plant of the rarely grown species *heteromalla* that flowered in its second year, and seems perfectly hardy. It's from the Himalaya and western and northern China. This will become a large shrub growing to 4 – 5 meters high.



Kiyosumi Foliage May.

Kiyosumi Flower September.

Blue Billow October 8.

Blue Billow July 31.

Today, March 21, I bought a flower pot of a beautiful brilliant blue hydrangea with soft cream centers in the grocery store. If I can buy this in a small rural town in Nova Scotia, can you imagine the millions and millions of these plants that are distributed through grocery chains, hardware stores and garden centres throughout North America and Europe? These are the plants that most people think of when they think of hydrangeas. They are called a "mophead" because of their large, round-headed blooms. The common name is the big-leaved hydrangea. The botanical name is *H. macrophylla*. This species originates and has limited distribution in coastal Japan.

There is another flower form, the "lacecap", which has a more natural look, and is the form I particularly like. This flower form is mostly represented by the mountain hydrangea whose botanical name is *H. serrata*. This species is widely distributed in nature in mountainous areas from northern to southern Japan and into Korea. It is by nature hardier than the big-leaved hydrangeas.

Actually the experts debate the appropriate names, and these two groups interbreed readily so things can get confusing. The main thing for gardeners in eastern Canada is hardiness, and that points us toward plants that grow in colder climates, in the mountains and inland areas of Asia.

One variety in particular has convinced me that we can succeed with lacecap hydrangeas, plants with "mountain hydrangea" genes, the variety called 'Blue Billow'. This variety was collected in the wild by Richard Lightly in 1967 on Cheju Island, South Korea at 610 metres elevation. I like the wildflower look. Though showy, it is not over-bred. It flowers reliably for me. As well, it has been flowering every year for several decades at the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens. Moreover, it flowers year-after-year for Darwin Carr at Old Barns, zone 5, near Truro. We planted some Blue Billow and a Bluebird at the Truro campus this year. That will be a good test.

Aspera villosa group

Blue Deckle.

My Garden July 21.

I hope that readers will also think about trying some of the following varieties, such as 'Bluebird". Michael Haworth-Booth (The Hydrangeas, 1984 revision, p. 26) suggests that 'Bluebird' is the English name for an old Japanese variety called 'Aigaku'. There is a vigorous, floriferous line of 'Bluebird' growing along the eastern side of the United Baptist Church on Main Street in Kentville. I purchased this variety and several of my other best plants at Briar Patch Nursery in Berwick.

I've bought three hydrangeas through our Advanced Sale for Members and they are all beautiful, floriferous plants in good health. First, 'Miranda', another Michael Haworth-Booth selection, is an exquisite blue, flowering from top to bottom of the 3' tall shrub. He says it is a selected seedling from what today we would call *H. serrata ssp. acuminata*. Second, I got 'Mikata Yae' in 2012. It is a Japanese variety with elegant double, small ray flowers. In The Explorer's Garden: Shrubs and Vines, Dan Hinkley describes this flower as like "intricate fireworks at precisely the moment of ignition." The first year or two it had pink flowers, but in my acid soil it has become more blue each year. I have three of this variety. From tiny cuttings six years ago they are now 3' tall and 4' wide, and flower with little winter die-back. Third, 'Shirofuji', I rank highly because it is so small, only about 18" high by 24" wide, and would fit comfortably into any small garden. It is extremely floriferous, starting out pure white, with small flowers like origami in mid-summer and gradually taking on reddish splashes until becoming dark red and then finally displaying reddish-brown dried flowers into the winter. I think all three of these would do well anywhere in coastal Nova Scotia, and are worth a test inland.

It's well-known that the macrophyllas and serratas turn blue in acid soil and go red or pink in more basic soil. However, there are many serratas that do not follow this rule. For example, 'Kiyosumi' grows near 'Arctic Blue' in my garden and yet does not turn blue at all. It also has excellent foliage which emerges purplish in the spring. It has delicate picotee flowers, white with a lipstick-red rim, that gradually turn the whole flower dark red, and then the foliage turns purple and red itself in the fall. 'Beni Gaku' is similar, growing right next to 'Bluebird', and yet opening white, developing pink and red dashes of color, and then the sepals turning around and becoming dark red.

'Veitchii' is another plant I recommend testing if it becomes available. It has only flowered sparingly for me so far. Although this hydrangea is labeled for half-shade, I think our cloudy skies already provide most of the shade it needs. I'm chopping down another tree this year. I think it needs more sunlight.

If you want to see some exciting new possibilities with hydrangeas, please mark your calendar for our Steele Lecture next Sept 4. Maurice Foster, VHM, a member of the Royal Horticultural Society Woody Plant Committee, will present a talk about hardy hydrangeas, newly introduced species and some of his own seedlings. Please visit our website to learn more about him and this upcoming presentation. atlanticrhodo.org 2.webloc

*http://flora.huh.harvard.edu/China/novon/eaena.htm ¤

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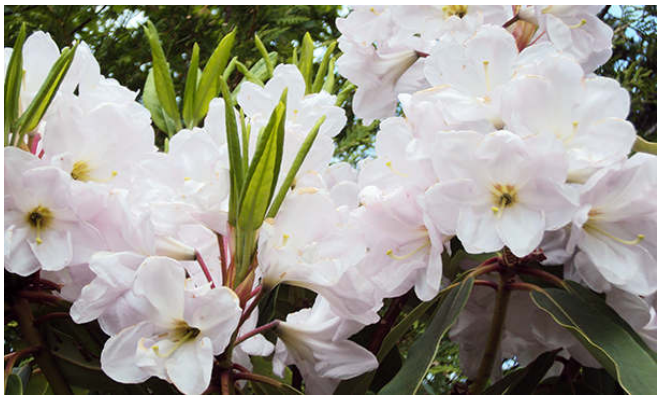
Photo Album **Some images from gardens on our June 9th tour.**



[Photo - Donna Evers]

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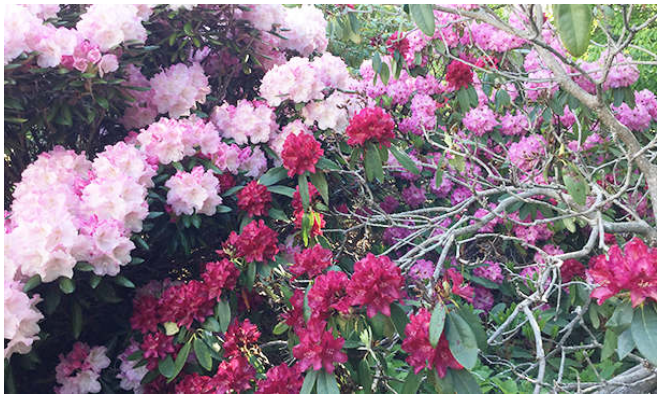

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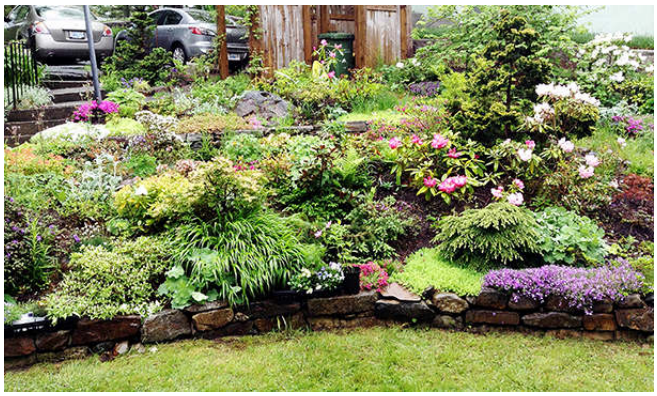

[Photo - Gloria Hardy]

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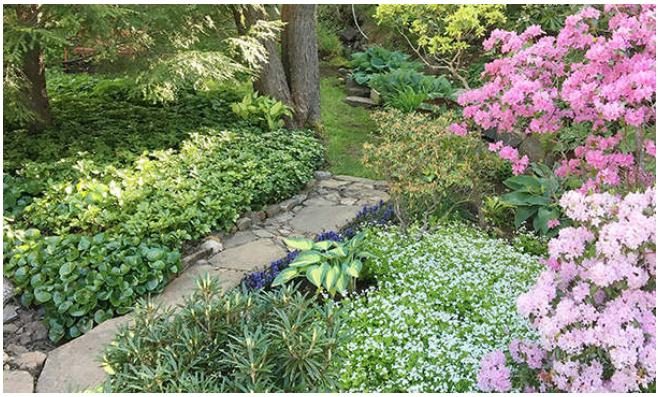
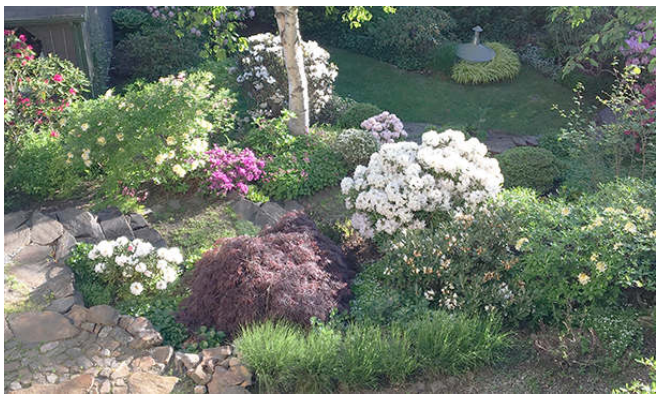


[Photo - Stephen Archibald]



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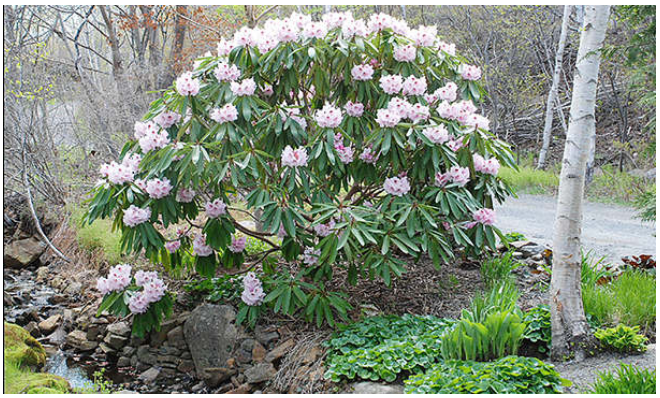

[Photo - Stephen Archibald]