AtlanticRhodo

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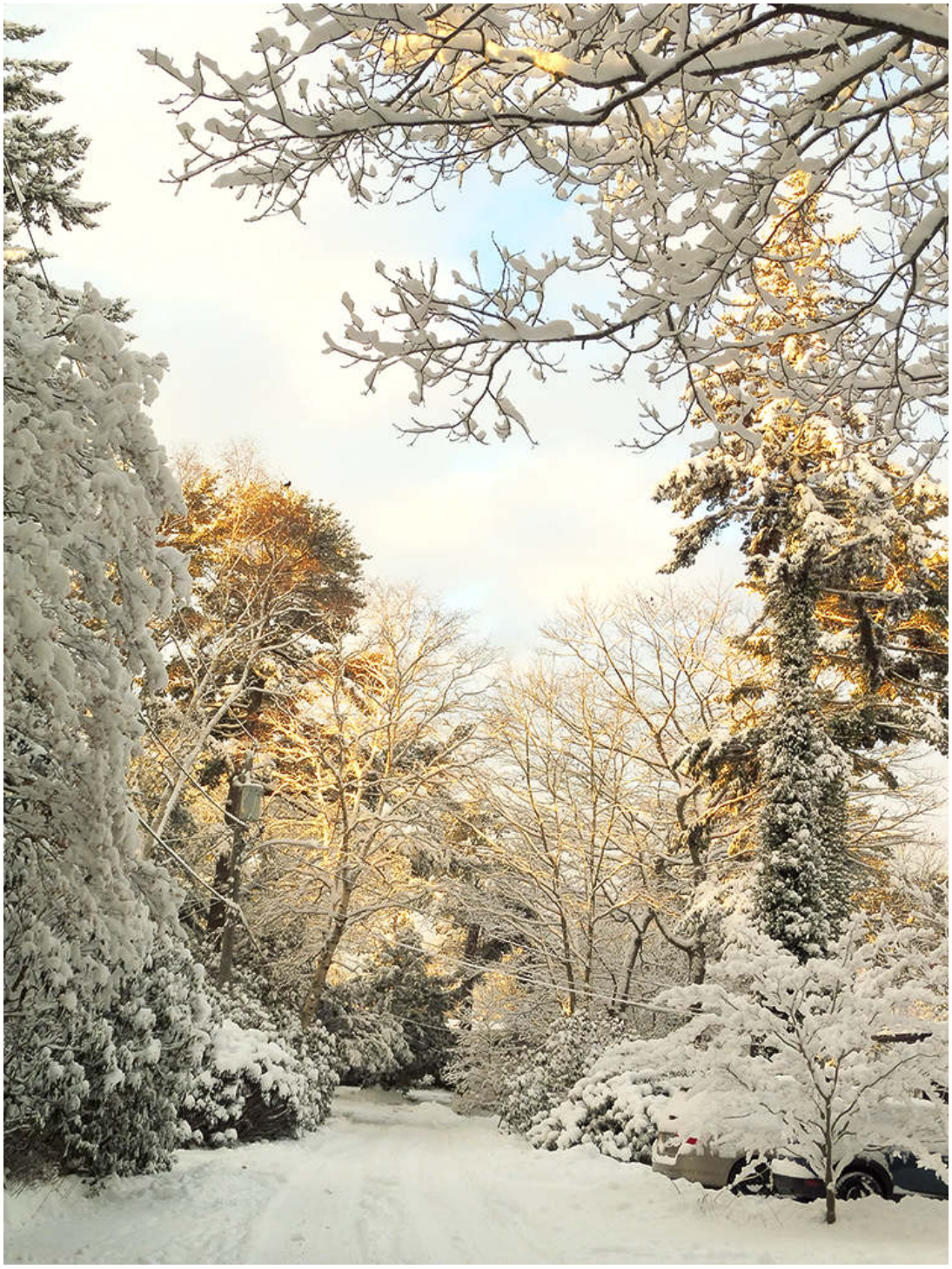

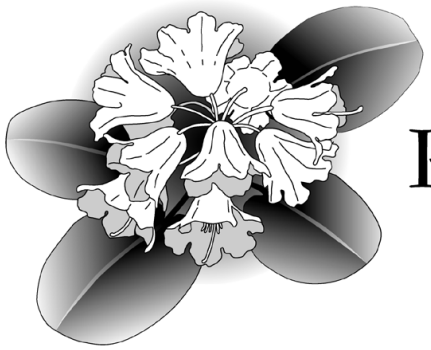

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

Our Mission

ARHS supports and promotes the development and exchange of expertise and material relating to the creation and maintenance of 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, 2020 to August 31, 2021. The membership fee is $20.00 if paid between September 1, 2020 and November 30, 2020, and $30.00 after Nov. 30, 2020. A membership form is included with this issue. For benefits and to download a membership form 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 $74.00 Canadian. A membership form is included in this issue. For benefits and to download a membership form see **www.atlanticrhodo.org**

Cheques, made payable to Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society, should be sent to **Rebecca Lancaster, 22 Walton Dr. 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: Rhododendrons, oaks and pines highlighted by fresh snow soon after sunrise, Halls Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia. [Photo John Brett.]

Calendar of Events

The Nova Scotia Museum auditorium is not open this fall/winter season due to Covid 19 restrictions. We plan to hold meetings and deliver our programs via the Zoom platform until we are again able to meet in person.

Jan. 5 — Zoom meeting: **The Dunedin Botanical Garden of New Zealand** by Todd Boland.
We'll take a break from winter and join Todd for a visit to this very impressive collection, featuring a vast range of Rhododendrons, a spectacular rock garden, South African and native New Zealand gardens, and more. There will be stunning photographs at the peak time for Rhododendron bloom. Todd Boland is Chief Horticulturalist at the MUN Botanical Garden. He is also a founding member of the Newfoundland Wildflower Society and current chair of the Newfoundland Rock Garden Society.

Feb. 2 — Feb 2 Zoom meeting Clematis to Know and Grow with Jeff Jabco.

March 2 — Zoom meeting. **2017 Expedition to North Vietnam** Steve Hootman, Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, will present an illustrated talk about a two-week plant hunting trip to North Vietnam. Several plants new to science were identified.

April 6 — **A New Garden in Pereau** by Jamie Ellison, teacher, photographer, hybridizer, long-time member of our club, will present photographs and planting ideas from his new garden in Pereau. Not to be missed!

May 4 — A preview presentation by Zoom of what will be available for sale at the ARS 2021 convention plant sale. Join us and you'll get the inside track on choice rhodos, azaleas and companion plants on offer from Insigne Gardens, Rhodo-land Gardens, the Holden Forests and Gardens Research Station, and perhaps other growers. The members' plant sale, normally held in May, will be part of the ARS 2021 convention plant sale, coming this June (see below for more info).

June 3-6 — **The American Rhododendron Society 2021 Spring Convention** at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Please see the announcement in this issue for more information.
Also see https://ars2021.org for information and online registration.

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

Welcome

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

Emily Black and Matthew Stormes,	**Halifax NS**
Andria Davidge,	**Dartmouth NS**
Richard Dionne,	**Sutton Que.**
Annie Jivalian,	**Halifax NS**
Tim and Martha Leary,	**Halifax NS**
Louise MacGillivray,	**Dartmouth NS**
Pamela and Doug MacLean,	**Bedford NS**
Sean Rafferty,	**Shirley BC**
Richard Spencer,	**Cambridge NS**
Dr. Peter Taylor and Roger Saint-Laurent,	**Rose Bay NS**
Garth Wedemire and Sue Grant,	**Comox BC**

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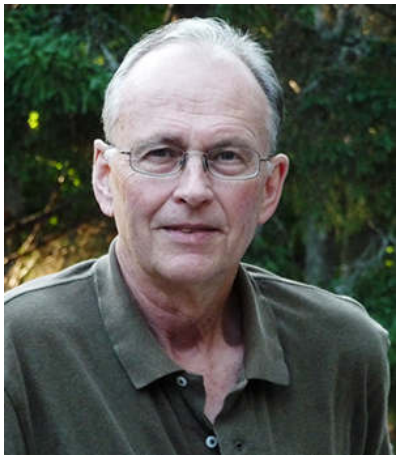
A Word from the Editor

by John Brett



A Word from the Editor replaces **The President's Column**, as I am no longer president, having resigned from the position at our November meeting. However, I am still carrying out some of the president's duties, as no one has stepped forward to take my place. Volunteers anyone? If you are interested, please get in touch with me or our volunteer coordinator, Lynn Rotin. Our contact telephone info can be found on the last page of the newsletter. Lynn's email is lynnrotin@gmail.com. My email is jbrett@eastlink.ca. We'd be happy to answer your questions and set your mind at ease. This crown is not a particularly heavy one to bear and we are a society that I feel is moving from strength to strength. We have an excellent board, excellent committee heads, a strong financial position, and an excellent reputation within gardening communities in Atlantic Canada and beyond.

This will be another full issue of the newsletter, with a range of excellent articles accompanied by a pageant of beautiful photos, many of them taken during the same period of time as the upcoming **ARS 2021 Convention**, being held this June 3-6 in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. These impressive photos of our gardens during peak rhodo season would certainly entice me to visit Nova Scotia this spring. We've had a mild winter so far, and wherever I look I am seeing an impressive bud set, so it may well be a year to remember for abundant bloom in a vivid range of colours.

Registration is now open for the ARS 2021 Convention. To view the full program and to register, see the announcement in this newsletter or go to the convention website: https://ars2021.org/. Though Covid 19 restrictions have forced us to scale back the size of the in-person event, those who do attend will be treated to a first-rate program of talks and tours. And for those that can't attend in-person, there is an opportunity to participate via the internet in virtual garden tours and, via Zoom, in a program of terrific speakers from all over Canada, the United States and Europe.

ATTENTION MEMBERS OF THE ARHS: WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THIS CONVENTION A SUCCESS! If you can help out, even if it's only for a day or part of a day, please get in touch with our volunteer coordinator, Lynn Rotin. Her telephone info is on the last page of this newsletter. Her email is lynnrotin@gmail.com. We need all kinds of volunteers. You don't have to be an expert gardener! Whatever your aptitudes and preferences, we may need them. So please step forward!

By the time our next newsletter reaches you in late May, the ARS 2021 Convention will be just about upon us. Thanks to the foresight and hard work of our convention co-chairs and their committee, we are Covid-ready, and I am confident we will deliver a great experience for all participants. It will be the first spring convention of its kind for the ARS, blending both the actual and the virtual, and will undoubtedly serve as a template for future conventions. Let's do what we can to assure its success. I look forward to seeing many of you there, at the splendid tours and presentations, as both participants and volunteers. It's going to be an event to remember, so get registered soon! ¤

Membership Dues:

Are your dues paid up to date? Our records show that some members are not. If you are a local ARHS member please consider renewing as a dual member of both the ARHS and ARS (American Rhododendron Society). This gives access to the ARS Journal, a full colour magazine published quarterly, as well as access to the ARS seed exchange, ARS conventions, and other benefits. Please see page 2 for information on payment methods. And our website: http://atlanticrhodo.org/about-us/membership-info/. A membership form is included in this Newsletter.

American Rhododendron Society 2021 Virtual and Live Convention

Rhodos Down East: Exploring the North Atlantic Region

June 3-6, 2021
Virtual Convention and onsite events at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, Nova Scotia

Take advantage of an exciting opportunity to learn more about growing, breeding and gardening with rhododendrons. Due to travel restrictions caused by COVID-19, **the 2021 American Rhododendron Society Convention** will be making all the presentations, garden tours, and networking opportunities available on line, to anyone who can access the internet! For those who can travel to **Nova Scotia** there will also be terrific in-person sessions and garden tours, as well as a plant sale featuring outstanding rhodos, azaleas and companion plants.

The convention begins with "Introduction to Mi'kma'ki", from Gerald Gloade, well known to Nova Scotians as a Mi'kmaw presenter, educator and naturalist. Gerald's unique first people's perspective into the early history and natural history of our region provides an entertaining and informative context for the convention tours and presentations that follow.

We are extremely fortunate to be able to bring some very celebrated speakers to the convention, who will be addressing different aspects of our theme: **Rhodos Down East: Exploring the North Atlantic Region**. These will include **Ken Cox,** rhodo breeder and seasoned plant explorer from Glendoick Nursery, Scotland; **Joe Bruso,** veteran rhodo breeder from Massachusetts; and **Todd Boland**, author, educator and all-around horticultural expert, from Newfoundland's Memorial University Botanical Garden. Well-known plant experts Philip McDougall, an ex-pat Nova Scotian now living in B.C., and Kristian Theqvist of Finland, will also be active participants. As well, there will be many knowledgeable, local plantspeople on hand for stimulating, informal discussions.

Some very special tours, both virtual and in-person, will include the Kentville Research Centre, Annapolis Valley Historic Gardens and Peggy's Cove barrens, as well as a number of remarkable private gardens that should be at the height of spring bloom for many rhododendrons and companion plants. The winter so far has been mild and the bud set excellent in many places, so we are hoping for a really good show!

Networking opportunities will include: the Breeder's Roundtable, where you'll hear about the latest in Rhodo hybridising from the experts; the ARS Next Generation Project, which explores ways of encouraging involvement of the younger generation in your local ARS club; and a variety of social events that feature seafood, cider and wine from our local producers.

Registration for the virtual convention is now open! Registration for the on-site convention will open on February 15, event dependent on Public Health restrictions.

See Convention website www.ars2021.org/ for registration information and link to EventBrite registration page. ¤

Recognizing An Inheritance: the Kentville Rhododendron Legacy

by Sheila Stevenson

A version of this article was published in the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* Vol 74 Number 4 Fall 2020.

> "*Much remains to be done to encourage interest in the planting and care of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants so necessary to the happiness and culture of all people*." William Saxby Blair, in the foreward to Roscoe Fillmore's *Green Thumbs The Canadian Garden Book*. Toronto, Ryerson, 1953.

The June 2021 ARS conference will take place 'down east', hosted by the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society. In his 2003 JARS article, "Fifty Years of Testing and Breeding Rhododendrons in Nova Scotia"[1], plant scientist Dr. Don Craig described this part of 'down east' as "a 544 km-long, 80 km-wide[2] peninsula between the 43rd and 47th degree north latitudes, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and barely joined to New Brunswick and the continent by a narrow isthmus."

Threatened now by rising sea levels and climate change, the peninsula known as Nova Scotia is in Mi'kma'ki, traditional and unceded territory of the indigenous Mi'kmaq, here for more than eleven thousand years since the last glacier retreated.[3] It was 'Acadie' to the French who -- having established trade and social relations with the Mi'kmaq on their arrival in 1604 -- moved in with them until the British physically evicted and dispersed the Acadians in 1755. In French this was la Grande Dérangement; in English, the Acadian Expulsion.[4]

The name of the conference base, "The Old Orchard Inn", bespeaks the horticultural history of its location in what Craig described as "the agriculturally rich Annapolis Valley, … approximately 100 km. long and 16 km. wide. The south and north mountains running west to east protect the Valley creating a pocket where tree fruits, berry crops, and ornamentals thrive. The Bay of Fundy, 16 km. to the north, modifies the climate. Halifax, the provincial capital, is 107 km. east of Kentville on the Atlantic coast and has quite a different climate."[5]

Craig described the variations across Nova Scotia: "The Valley is in Plant Hardiness Zone 5b, the extreme western end of Nova Scotia and much of the coast Zone 6a, southern coastal area 6b (with a few parts perhaps even 7a or better) and the interior 5a. .... The climate is strictly maritime - snow, rain, wind, frost and moderate temperatures which can shift rapidly in winter. The Valley is considerably hotter and drier than coastal areas but can boast good deep soil."[6]

Dr. Craig worked in the Valley at the Kentville Experimental Farm[7], primarily as a small fruit breeder[8] in the Crops division -- which included ornamentals in 1947 when he started. Why rhododendrons?[9] In 1952, Craig was back at Kentville after doing graduate work in plant breeding at University of New Hampshire. While there, he'd been 'enthused about rhododendrons' by down east plant scientist, Radcliffe Pike. [10]

"In the beginning", Craig wrote, "there were no plans to do anything more than make the vista more presentable when approaching the Kentville Research Station building complex. The approach to this view was over a pond and its large weeping willow. The banking behind the pond faces north forming a semi-amphitheater some 30 meters high and 120 meters long. The banking was a mess of brambles and weed trees which when removed brought order out of chaos. The only gem was an old but small planting of "iron-clad" rhododendrons (probably planted around 1920). They had grown well so the obvious thing was to plant more. Thus the search for plant material and knowledge had begun. We were starting from scratch."[11]

The slope, also known as the Farm Pond Bank, in 1911. This was a year before Agriculture Canada's Kentville Experimental Farm was created. About 1926, William Saxby Blair, the supervisor, planted rhododendrons on the slope that proved to be winter hardy. Donald Craig recalled, "Many times as a boy I stopped to admire a small group of rhododendrons in the overgrowth by the farm pond." (Photo: courtesy Debra Oxby, AAFC.)

In this 1964 photo, the young rhododendrons on the slope are already making a show.. Craig credited Swain: "It was Swain's gift of plant knowledge and landscaping that was mainly responsible for the numerous plantings which became the station's showpieces" The plantings eventually expanded into a collection of about 1000 rhododendrons and azaleas, proof that these plants thrive in Nova Scotia. (Photo: courtesy Debra Oxby, AAFC.)

R. fortunei seedlings in 1964 in the pre-fab aluminum greenhouse built in 1959 to replace a 1912 greenhouse. Over the years, the station grew an estimated 16,500 rhododendron seedlings. (Photo: Dick Steele.)

In this 1966 photo, George Swain examines hybrid crosses made eight years earlier. There were hectares of seedlings planted out during this period. Exposed year-round to sun, wind, rain, and snow, without mulch, fertilizer, or irrigation, only the hardiest survived. (Photo: Dick Steele.)

At the time, 'scratch' had a lot going for it. Those ironclads[12] were likely planted by the first Kentville superintendent, William Saxby Blair. According to Craig, Blair "had a love for ornamentals as well as superior skill in landscaping. … From the rough of hills, hollows, and stumps [he] fashioned a beautiful park-like setting for the Station."[13] In Ottawa and at federal Research Stations across the country there was an Ornamentals Group. The idea of beautifying the farmhouse site and the suburban home lot still had economic and aesthetic value. The institutional culture was auspicious.[14]

And seven kilometers away in Centreville, a local nurseryman, Roscoe Fillmore[15], was propagating and promoting rhododendrons and azaleas. He devoted three out of twenty-seven chapters to the genus in his 1953 book, *Green Thumbs The Canadian Garden Book*.[16] In the book's foreward, William Saxby Blair wrote, "Much remains to be done to encourage interest in the planting and care of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants so necessary to the happiness and culture of all people." From 1952 onwards, Craig would be doing much 'to encourage interest' in rhododendrons.

RHODODENDRONS FOR DOWN EAST CANADIAN GARDENS

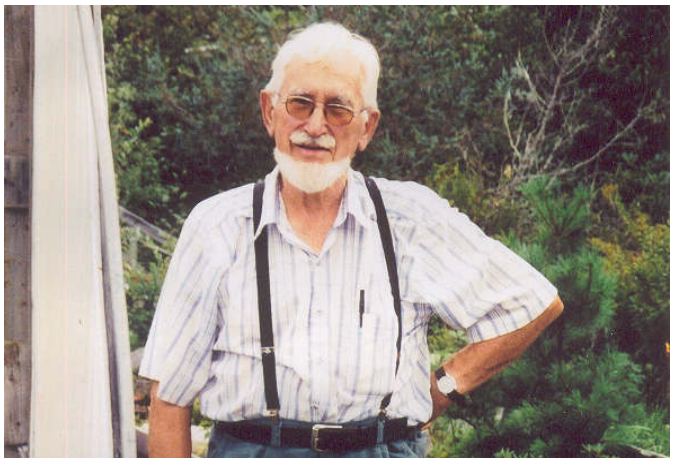
The purpose of 'the search' was to identify and develop species and varieties that would thrive in eastern Canadian gardens. Starting with cuttings from the ironclads on site and species plants[17] purchased from the Fillmore Nursery, over time Craig obtained cuttings, seeds, and plants through a network of European, U.S., and Canadian breeders and gardeners. From 1957-67, the driving force for the work was Agriculture Canada researcher, George Swain.

Craig said of his colleague Swain, "It was his gift of plant knowledge and landscaping that was mainly responsible for the numerous plantings which became the station's showpieces."[18] The Craig-Swain collaboration resulted in the selection of 14 new named cultivars as garden-worthy for the region.[19] Several of those names reference the tragic 'dérangement' of Acadian families being separated and shipped out from the village of Grand Pré on the Minas Basin of the Bay of Fundy. And whose story came to public attention in North America almost one hundred years later when Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's narrative poem about Evangeline and Gabriel was published in 1847 as *A Tale of Acadie*. [20]

Very much engaged in the work at Kentville was Richard Steele, known as Dick, Captain Steele, or The Captain. Steele was a well-known amateur plant breeder. recognized by Craig as "Canada's foremost rhododendron and azalea authority." He remarked, "[Steele] has given his talents and knowledge ... through the regional and national societies ... public speaking, radio, TV, the media ... [and] encouraged and assisted the breeding program with planting material, pollen, knowledge, and advice."[21] Dick Steele's file of 1968-92 correspondence from Craig illustrates how the two of them fed each other's enthusiasm.

And on the Farm Pond Bank, "the plantings", as Craig referred to them, became an annual attraction when the second Sunday in June became Rhododendron Sunday. The search at the Station stopped when Craig retired in 1983; Agriculture Canada closed the Ornamentals Group in the '90s. Craig wrote, "Surely from among the many cultivars from Delp, Leach, and others there are new rhododendrons to more than satisfy most gardeners." [22]

George Swain in the lath house. Today, a few of the original rhododendrons still grow within its footprint. Swain managed Blomidon Nursery as a commercial growing operation from 1967-80. (Photo: Dick Steele.)



Captain Dick Steele, of Bayport Plant Farm, Nova Scotia, was an internationally-known amateur plant breeder. Donald Craig considered Steele to be "Canada's foremost rhododendron and azalea authority." (Photo: Wendy LeBlanc, courtesy John Brett.)

Dr. D. L. Craig with trophies and ribbons awarded to the Research Station at different Rhododendron shows, 1976.

Don Craig with awards given to Kentville cultivars at various rhododendron shows. (Photographer unknown.)

But Craig couldn't stop; he continued to hybridize in his retirement. Introduced in 1983, r. 'Nova Sunrise' built on earlier attempts at Kentville to create a hardy yellow-flowering plant. And the plantings at Kentville have continued to grow and bloom. "Except now", says Greenhouse/Grounds Operation Manager Mike Pulsifer, "the peak bloom time is much more variable from one year to the next; in 2020, a week or so early for some and the blooms did not seem to hang on as long as usual."

OUT IN THE WORLD

Donald Craig wanted, he said, "to share the good news, and spread rhododendrons further into our northern climate."[23] Between 1969 and 1982, he sent Kentville rhododendron and azalea cultivars to 18 different recipients in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland, and Germany.[24] He also depended on Captain Steele to promote the Kentville work at every opportunity.

In 1972, Craig was a founding director of the Rhododendron Society of Canada (RSC), with Ontario breeder Leslie Hancock as president. In 1976, Swain, Steele, and Craig were among the co-founders of the RSC Atlantic Region (RSCAR). Enthusiasts came together to share knowledge and plants, and to promote public interest in the genus Rhododendron through shows, sales, and seed exchanges. W. S. Blair surely would have been pleased with this mechanism 'to encourage interest' and its subsequent success in being the glue for a community of gardeners and plant lovers.

In the early '90s, my husband, Stephen Archibald, and I knew very little about the plants or the group when Walter Ostrom encouraged us to join RSCAR. We went to meetings and looked at colourful slides of plants, mostly rhododendrons. We heard botanical names with no idea how to spell them or what they meant. We listened in a darkened auditorium as the knowledgeable few questioned and commented about hardiness, habit, crosses. None of it made much sense to either of us, and we couldn't imagine having plants big enough to cut trusses for a show, but we were charmed.

PLUS we were able to buy rhododendrons and other small trees and shrubs at low cost, so we could buy two of each on hopes that a few would survive. We were among a growing number of younger-generation gardeners joining 'The Club', with a demand for knowledge and plants.

Kentville cultivars planted in 1975 make a colourful show 30 years later at the rear of the dairy building on the Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus in Truro, Nova Scotia. (Photo: courtesy Karen Smith.)

Plant scientist Donald Craig and George Swain (second and third from left) in 1983. Technician Avard Brydon, right, did much of the planting and maintaining of seedlings and selections. Plant physiologist Peter Hicklenton, left, joined the Ornamentals Section in 1978 to work on commercial greenhouse production problems. (Photo: courtesy Debra Oxby, AAFC.)

ARHS members on the Farm Pond Bank at the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research and Development Centre in Kentville Nova Scotia, June 9, 2017 with the plantings of *R.* 'Bellefontaine' and *R* 'Fundy' . On the cover of the fall 2020 issue of JARS, V. 74, No.4. (Drone Photo by Jamie Ellison.)

The unanticipated construction of a new septic field on our property in 2016 and the need to uproot 35 rhododendrons made it obvious that time had passed since the '90s. A number of the plants were 20 -30 years old and BIG, well beyond the estimated 10-year size given in the descriptions of plants being offered through the club's tissue culture fall order and May Sale. They would be replanted, but in changed conditions. The planting plan, as it turned out, required consideration not only of their physical attributes and requirements, but of their respective associations with people -- some, like Craig and Steele, now passed. I was very aware that I was no longer the younger generation.

Those plants embodied the social and educational benefits and pleasures we'd enjoyed because of RSCAR and its non-profit successor I worked to co-found in 2003, the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society (ARHS), such as -- being in the crew organized in 2006 by fellow member, Chris Hopgood, to do some clean-up among the rhododendrons at the Kentville Research Station. After dispatching seedling maples and thuggy leucothoes, the reward was a visit to Dr. Craig at nearby Sunnybrook Farm, where he continued to breed rhodos and take pleasure in the gardens he established in retirement. On that visit, and a subsequent one arranged for ARHS members, Dr. Craig took joy in showing us his plant records and the somewhat formal garden chock full of rhodies, azaleas, and evergreens.

Those trauma-fueled reflections led to the proposal in 2017, approved by my fellow ARHS members, to spend money on an outdoor interpretation project at Kentville. The rationale was something like this:

- There's nothing at the site to say how the rhododendrons got there. What's the story?
- ARHS has its roots at that site. We owe it to the co-founders of our origin group RSCAR to celebrate and honour their enthusiasm and work.
- The time to do it is now, while some of us are still cognizant!
- We would be creating an asset for garden tourism in Nova Scotia.
- We had the money and could afford the design and production costs.
- As a former Nova Scotia Museum educator and heritage interpreter, and with the back-up of my co-gardener, Stephen Archibald who was even more experienced in museum exhibitry and interpretation, I was willing and interested to take on, as a volunteer, the research, writing, and production.

With the go-ahead from the Research Centre at Kentville, we were underway. While the article, "Fifty Years of Testing and Breeding Rhododendrons in Nova Scotia" was a cornerstone reference, two separate caches of marvelous material surfaced to inform and support that story:

- A file of correspondence from Don Craig to Dick Steele, 1968-'92, with slides taken at Kentville by Steele when George Swain was still there.
- The Barbara Hall [25]papers, including black and white photos, posters, newspaper clippings, and correspondence from 1976 to '83 re RSCAR and RSC.

Kentville cultivars that have done well in this planting at the AAFC Potato Research Centre in Fredericton, New Brunswick. (Photo: courtesy Garth Nickerson.)

Two of the three panels at Kentville, with Mike Pulsifer, AAFC Greenhouse/Grounds Operation Manager, Sheila Stevenson, ARHS member and project developer, Debra Oxby, AAFC Research Technician and Grounds Committee member. (Photo Stephen Archibald.)

Expert plantsman John Weagle assesses cultivars at Sunny Brook Farm, where Donald Craig created a garden with his daughter Sue Gunn, and did plant breeding after his retirement. (Photo: Capt. Dick Steele.)

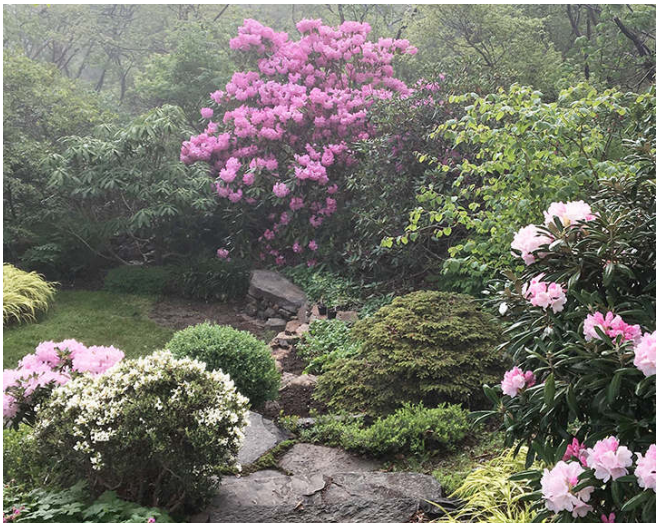
A third and invaluable source has been Halifax plantsman and hybridizer, John Weagle. Locally and internationally active on the rhododendron scene since the early '70s, he and Craig collaborated to produce digital master breeding records and a searchable database for the breeding programs at both Kentville and Sunny Brook Farm. Through his work for a wholesale horticultural company in Halifax and a nursery in British Columbia, Weagle was a major reason that the RSCAR and ARHS plant sales offered members and the public access to an array of rhodos and companion plants in the trade, like the Leach and Delp cultivars referred to by Craig.

The irony is that the Kentville selections have rarely been in the trade. George Swain opened and operated Blomidon Nursery in Greenwich, Kings Co, as a commercial growing operation from 1967-80; some were available from Captain Steele's Bayport Plant Farm, and some were produced by a short-lived nursery operation near Centreville, Kings Co. More recently, through the enterprise of Weagle and his partner Ken Shannik, rooted cuttings of Kentville cultivars like "Minas Grand Pré" and "Bellefontaine" occasionally have been available to ARHS members.

The first time I saw "Minas Grand Pré" was on a friend's Halifax property once owned by botanist and one-time RSCAR member, Joe Harvey of Victoria BC. I was enchanted and covetous. In our own garden now, every year in late May I am excited to see the breaking buds of Grand Pré in their taffeta-esque rich pink. And every day I am pleased to see Rad Pike's towering r. "Bellefontaine" in our garden, knowing it is the offspring of "the hardiest and best R. *fortunei* specimen" known by Pike who, according to Craig, crossed it "with a superior selection of R. *smirnowii*",[26] in the second generation of plants at Reef Point Gardens[27] from Edinburgh Botanic Gardens.

So this is the Kentville story, presented on three 32" X 76" panels, installed in 2019 adjacent to plantings on the Kentville site. Designed by Grant Murray Design in Dartmouth and fabricated from 1/4" aluminum by Atlantex Creative Works of Musquodoboit Harbour, the panels recognize and celebrate in year-round colour this place, and the people who did so much to encourage interest in rhododendrons and to bring happiness to gardeners down east. ¤

R. 'Nova Sunrise' Parentage: ['Bellefontaine' x (*R. yakushimanum* x 'Goldsworth Yellow')] x 'Nancy Steele'. Breeder: Donald L. Craig. Introduced: 1988 A compact mounded habit, blooms in late May to early June. It grows to 60 cm high in 10 years. Flowers are openly funnel-shaped and leaves are elliptic. Flower buds start apricot-pink, turn pale yellow, and open to cream with a pale yellow centre. Craig developed this cultivar in his retirement, building on earlier attempts at Kentville to create a hardy yellow-flowering plant. Zone 5b. (Photo: John Weagle.)



R. Bellefontaine. Parentage – *R. fortunei* x *R. smirnowii* Breeder – R. Pike, Lubec, Maine Introduced – 1975, Registered – 1977, D.L. Craig Judged by many as the Research Station's outstanding introduction. A seedling from the same cross that produced Fundy. Very tall (14+ feet) in 40 years. Pleasantly scented rose-opal flowers are borne in large trusses above the foliage. Here in the Archibald/Stevenson garden in Fergusons Cove.

R. 'Minas Grand Pre". R. *catawbiense* var. compactum x R. *williamsianum*. Breeder: George Swain. Introduced: 1973. Registered: 1996. Donald L. Craig. A semi-dwarf plant with small, attractive roundish leaves that flush a copper colour. It blooms in late spring in loose clusters of bell-shaped, phlox-pink flowers. In full sun it forms a dense, mounded dome and grows to 0.9 m in 10 years. Hardy to zone 5b. Craig noted in 2003 that it seemed very happy in the Cox garden in Glencarse, Scotland. This specimen was a gift from the breeder to Sterling Levy. (Photo: Sterling Levy.)

Peter Hicklenton (l) and Avard Brydon (r.) flanked Craig and Swain in the 1983 photo on p. 8 Now they happen to live a five-minute drive from one another on the North Mountain. (Photo: Stephen Archibald)

Planted decades ago by Avard Brydon along the edge of his West Black Rock Road property in Kings County , these rhododendrons from the Kentville project make a show on June 28, 2019. (Photo: Stephen Archibald)

Footnotes.

[1] *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* JARS. v59n1 – "Fifty Years of Testing and Breeding Rhododendrons in Nova Scotia." Donald L. Craig https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v59n1/v59n1-craig.htm

[2] 338 miles long, 50 miles wide

[3] The Mi'kmaw oral history includes stories from the Old Ones who were experiencing first hand some post-glacial drama, when what was dry land became the Bay of Fundy only 5000 years ago. Gerald Gloade will be telling us all about it when he speaks to the ARS 2021 conference on June 2, 2021 https://www.mikmaweydebert.ca/

[4] You can read on the subject. https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199730414/obo-9780199730414-0086.xml

[5] Craig. Ibid.

[6] Craig. Ibid.

[7] Established by the federal government of Canada in 1912 as the Kentville Experimental Farm, the name has changed numerous times since. In 2020 it is the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research and Development Centre/Centre de recherches de l'Atlantique sur les aliments et I 'horticulture..

[8] Craig's 2011 obituary details his work with strawberries, a rust-resistant raspberry, and high bush blueberry, elderberry, currant, gooseberry, and blackberry varieties, as well as grapes. The obituary records that "His research, with the cooperation of several North American research centres plus field and laboratory testing at Kentville of 75 cultivars and seedling selections, identified several new cultivar and seedling grape selections suitable for commercial wine production. Cultivars such as L'Acadie (Vineland 53261), Marechal Foch, and Michurinets helped to establish Nova Scotia's wine industry." http://www.inmemoriam.ca/view-announcement-258584-dr-donald-laird-craig.html

[9] Three of the thousand+ species in the genus Rhododendron are native to Nova Scotia - *R. canadense*, *R. groenlandicum*, and *R. lapponicum* according to M. Zinck in *Roland's Flora of Nova Scotia*. Halifax, Nova Scotia Museum and Nimbus Publishing. 1998.

[10] See Radcliffe Pike's obituary http://qdy.stparchive.com/Archive/QDY/QDY09141979p18.php

[11] Craig. Ibid.

[12] Thanks to the editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society, Glen Jamieson, for adding this: "The term 'Ironclad' referred to the ability to withstand severe winter conditions. After many years of observing plants growing at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, and consulting with nurserymen also growing them, E.H. Wilson in 1917 published a list of "Ironclad Rhododendrons." Consisting originally of the term and fourteen cultivars, the list was shortened to twelve in 1927, and became known as "Wilson's Dozen" or "the ironclads."

[13] Craig. Ibid

[14] In a letter to Steele, Craig reports with some satisfaction that "Ottawa" is producing a brochure titled, "Guide to the

Rhododendron plantings, Research Station, Kentville" with 12 panels and 6 colour photos of Kentville cultivars

[15] Centerville Nurseryman Roscoe Fillmore was Head Gardener 1938-54 at the Dominion and Atlantic Railway's Memorial Park at Grand Pre commemorating the Acadians. http://dardpi.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Kentville_Greenhouse

[16] *Green Thumbs The Canadian Garden Book* Toronto Ryerson 1953

[17] *R. calendulaceum*, *vaseyi*, *schlippenbachi*. Craig in the *RSC Bulletin* 1981, vol. 10, no 1 p. 25 (Rhododendron Society of Canada)

[18] Craig." Fifty Years …" Ibid.

[19] The 14 cultivars are described in "Fifty Years …". The fifteenth and last to be released from Kentville was a cream flowered hybrid named "G.S. Swain ", introduced in 1988.

[20] The poem follows an Acadian girl named Evangeline and her search for her lost love Gabriel, following the Expulsion of the Acadians.

[21] Craig. Ibid.

[22] Craig. Ibid.

[23] Craig. Ibid.

[24] Craig. "Rhodos Sent Far and Wide" in *Atlantic Rhodo* Vol. 33, No. 2. 9-10.

[25] One-time RSCAR president Barbara Hall and husband, Dr. Kenneth Hall, were neighbours of Dick Steele on Hall's Rd Halifax, before Capt Steele relocated to Lunenburg Co.

[26] Craig. Ibid.

[27] Starting in 1935, Beatrix Farrand made Reef Point, in Bar Harbor, on Mount Desert Island, Maine, into a horticultural study center. One project was the creation of a bog garden, to illustrate how indigenous plants could be used creatively. Conversely, groupings of numerous types of azaleas demonstrated how seemingly exotic plants could survive the severe Maine climate. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reef_Point_Estate. ¤

Prizewinners in the elepidote (large-leaf) category. Awards were named for Donald Craig, George Swain, and Dick Steele. (Photo: John Weagle)

The azalea table at an RSC Atlantic Region flower truss competition. The June 26, 1980 Chronicle Herald reported: "RSCAR truss show draws more than 145 entries", "Kentville Research Station wins for 'best hardy rhodo produced in Atlantic Canada" and "best hybrid azalea". (Photo: John Weagle)

Maple Glen – A Spectacular Private Garden in southern New Zealand

by Todd Boland

The Davison home looking out over the planted grotto at Maple Glen.

A view showing a part of the extensive conifer collection.

I was very fortunate to be invited to speak to eleven different gardening groups in New Zealand, from late October to late November, 2019. The dates coincided with high spring in New Zealand, especially in the southwestern region of the South Island, between Dunedin and Invercargill, the area where I spent much of my time. I was provided a car so between speaking engagements, I was free to explore. I visited typical tourist destinations: Stewart Island, Milford Sound, Arthur's Pass and the Otago Peninsula. I am a birder when not gardening, so these previous four locations are very important from an avifauna perspective to see New Zealand specialties such as yellow-eyed penguin, little blue penguin, royal albatross, kea and kiwi. The timing was also ideal for the rhododendron season and, I might say, New Zealand gardeners love their rhododendrons! Hardly a single garden did not house at least one. And with their USDA zone 8, they can grow far more varieties, especially the more tender species, than we can grow in Atlantic Canada.

Last January I presented a talk to the ARHS via Zoom, on the Dunedin Botanical Garden, a must-see for any visitor. However, this part of New Zealand is also home to another garden called Maple Glen. Unlike the Dunedin Botanical Garden which is run by the city of Dunedin, Maple Glen is a private garden attached to a nursery. Despite being a private garden, it is open to the public. They only ask for a "gold coin" donation….essentially their $2 coin, which is not unlike our 'toonie'. The donation is simply dropped into a coffee can located on a small table next to their parking lot!

Several members from the garden groups where I spoke, mentioned that this garden was a must-see. As it was located less than an hour's drive from Invercargill , where I was going to speak, I decided to pay Maple Glen a visit. It is located about halfway between the small towns of Mataura Island and Glenham, along the Wyndham-Letterbox Road. I arrived at about 10 am and spent 3 hours touring the garden. Amazingly, I was the only person there so I had the place to myself. From the parking lot, I literally walked down the side yard of the owner's residence. When I turned the corner at the back of the house, I just about lost my mind! The vista before me was of a deep grotto festooned with rhododendrons, a vast assortment of colourful conifers, numerous Japanese maples and a variety of typical late-spring /early-summer perennials. Essentially, it was a slightly smaller version of the planted rock quarry at Butchart Gardens, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Maple Glen contains 32 ponds that provide habitat for waterfowl and many varieties of iris and bog plants.

Maple Glen was started in the early 1970's by the landowners, Bob and Muriel Davison. They run an adjacent nursery so the garden became a display area and propagation source for the plants they sell. It has continued to grow and now occupies around 26 hectares of their 80 hectare property. The Garden and nursery are open Wednesday to Sunday, something to keep in mind should you ever get the opportunity to visit. What is most amazing is that this garden is maintained by only four people – Bob, Muriel and their son and daughter-in-law. I should add that Bob just turned 91 years old!

Rhododendrons create an impressive show, amplified by their pond reflections.

A lush hillside planting, just one of many arresting views to be discovered at Maple Glen.

Water features are a major part of this garden. The owners have taken advantage of the natural slope of the land to create ponds (a total of 32!), some quite large. Streams flow from one to the other with elaborate metal arching bridges allowing passage. Water is supplied by a natural spring on the premises. With all this water, the garden attracts a variety of waterfowl. And with such a vast assortment of plants and created habitats, it is a birder's paradise (and added bonus for when I visited the garden).

Maple Glen is a garden for all seasons. With their large assortment of specimen conifers and multitudes of broad-leafed evergreens, the garden is impressive all year long. Apparently they have a significant snowdrop (*Galanthus*), *Narcissus* and *Scilla* collection to provide winter (June-August) blossoms. By late August, the magnolia collection comes into its own. In late summer-early fall (March-April) the Colchicum lawn is a sloped sea of pink. April and May bring on the spectacular fall colours of the many deciduous trees such as maples, *Stewartia*, sourgum, *Sassafras* and *Franklinia*, to name a few.

I expect I visited the garden at its peak of colour. At least it was hard to fathom how it could have been more colourful! The mid-spring garden (early November) featured mass plantings of hardy perennials such as Siberian and bearded iris, lupine, *Geranium* hybrids, *Kniphofia*, *Euphorbia* 'Fireglow' and *Trillium*. The streams and ponds were all lined with various moisture-loving perennials such as astilbe, candelabra primroses, variegated yellow flag iris, ferns and, with their mild climate, *Gunnera*. *Clematis montana* and *Wisteria* rambled through many of the trees. Shrubs and trees in full bloom included *Deutzia*, early-flowering varieties of *Spiraea* and *Viburnum*, *Laburnum* and *Cornus kousa*. The fresh spring growth of the conifers made them even more outstanding than they would be later in the season.

However, the most outstanding feature of all was the multitude of rhododendrons and azaleas – many hundreds of them, in every imaginable colour. In some areas, the shrub plantings were entirely devoted to rhododendrons while in other places, they were strategically placed among different kinds of shrubs and perennials to act as spring accents. I recognized a few of the rhododendrons; 'Nancy Evans', 'Blue Peter', 'Vulcan', 'Percy Wiseman', 'Sappho', 'Crest', 'Tapestry' and 'Spellbinder'. Among the rhododendron species I saw were *loderi*, *macabeanum*, *orbiculare*, *bureavii* and the ever-popular *yakushimanum*. However, the vast majority were species or hybrids I did not recognize. Same thing goes for the numerous azaleas. From the size of the trusses, I expect most were Exbury or Knap Hill hybrids. Strangely, I saw very few lepidote rhododendrons. Come to think of it, I saw few of these anywhere in the country. Go figure.

Elegant garden bridges straddle the waterways. They were fabricated locally and designed by co-owner, Rob Davison.

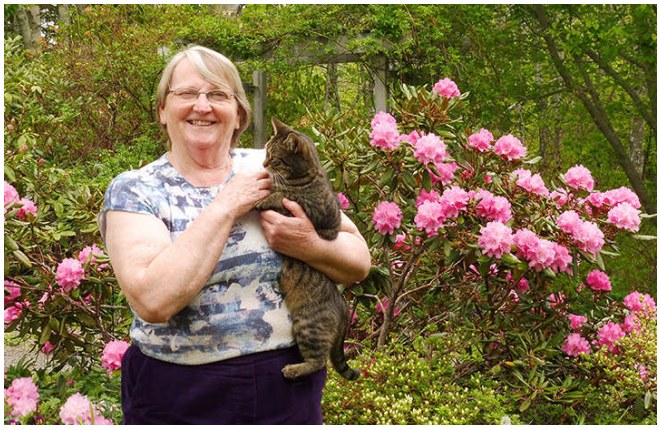
I only had one complaint about this garden – nothing was labelled. Of course it is a private garden, not a botanical garden (even if it outshines many botanical gardens I have visited over the years). So the lack of labels was purely a personal complaint as I simply wanted to identify what I was photographing, especially the rhododendrons.

Not many Atlantic Canadians get the opportunity to visit New Zealand. It was always on my bucket list and I feel fortunate to have had the chance to get there. As a gardener, a visit to New Zealand is a must. It really is a country of gardens. ¤

Getting There is Half the Fun (or Maybe More)
A Conversation with Sharon Bryson at the Willow Garden, Antigonish.

by John Brett Photos by Sharon Bryson unless otherwise noted.

(Editor's note: Sharon Bryson and her late husband, Bill Wilgenhof, are familiar names to long time members of the ARHS because of their many contributions to our society over the years, and their creation of "the Willow Garden", at Maryvale, near Antigonish, Nova Scotia. It has become a must-see destination for all garden-lovers traveling to the area and you can find out more by visiting the colourful and extensive website: www.willowgarden.net. On June 5, 2020, I visited Sharon at the garden and we talked about its creation and development over a period of nearly forty years.)



Sharon with Mookie the cat and the Kentville Agricultural Station hybrid *R.* 'Minas Maid' in full bloom. (Photo John Brett.)

John: I think that to most of our members, you're the "seed lady" who runs our seed exchange, and you've done that for many, many years. Your garden here at Maryvale, it seems to me it's living proof of the power of growing things from seed. So tell me about the beginnings of your garden.

Sharon: Well, the very beginning was when Bill came here in 1976/1977. And for the first couple of years, he was preoccupied with building the house and the whole property was basically treed. And so he just cleared enough to do the house and the surrounding areas. And I suspect the gardens didn't become much of a part of it until probably 1978/1979. I didn't meet him until 1988, so I had no knowledge of what went on in those first years except how the garden appeared when I first met him.

John: And what was the garden like when you first met?

Sharon: It was wonderfully perennial. It was before he had embarked upon growing rhododendrons and azaleas. So there were wonderful beds of bulbs and lilies and all kinds of herbaceous perennials and some shrubbery as well. I didn't come here as a permanent fixture until 1999. I was a semi-permanent fixture in the years preceding that. Bill lost his first wife in 1990.

John: When he originally located this property, did he buy it with a garden in mind?

Sharon: Yes. When he was looking at retiring, he was shopping for land. So in Nova Scotia, he found this property that he thought had enough potential for gardening. In Ontario, he gardened, but he was also working full time. So here he knew that ultimately he'd be able to do whatever he wanted, though I don't imagine he ever foresaw the scope of the garden. I think it just happened year by year.

John: When you first saw the garden was he already growing things from seed?

Sharon: Oh, yes. He grew things from seed and cuttings, that was the way he did it. And I think that hinged back to his Dutch upbringing and being brought up in the thirties, when you needed to do things in a very economical way.

John: Starting from where you enter the picture, what did you have to do before you actually started planting?

Sharon: Bill started growing rhododendrons and azaleas about 1991, just to see how it was done. And from then on, every year, there was something new. There had to be a nursery bed for all those baby rhododendrons and azaleas. So almost every year there was another section of land brought into some sort of production. All the back-garden had to be cleared. There weren't a great many conifers that needed to be taken out, but there were a lot of deciduous trees and poplars which were of low value. The birches were left whenever possible.

There were no problems with drainage because this garden is built on a sand knoll. It's probably a residual glacier deposit. Now, parts of it were never going to be utilized because they go down over steep banks towards the brook at the back. But I'd say the three to five acre part that you could utilize easily, soil amendment was needed because sand is very lean - too much drainage - so over the years there were literally tons and tons and tons of aged horse manure added to every garden bed that was ever created.

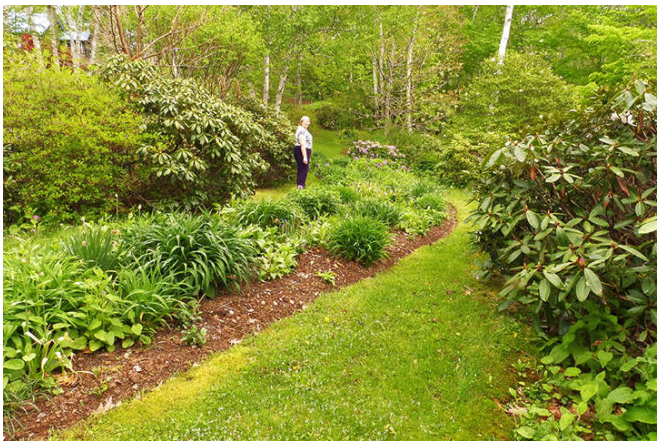
John: And where did you get it?

Sharon: Twenty or thirty years ago, Bill would have put a trailer behind his car and gone off to some farm or some ancient sawdust pile. He didn't do a lot of gleaning of seaweed. And then for many years, we were able to get a dump truck, loads of horse manure from a horse farm in New Glasgow. And that was the best. It would be the early 2000s that we were able to get that year after year. And so that meant you had a source of soil amendment fairly handy, to be incorporated or used as a top dressing.

All this happened until about 2012. You know, you have to stop somewhere! So that's the broad overview of forty years of developing the garden.

John: What about the soil pH?

Sharon: It varies. Of course, like all Nova Scotia soil, it's acidic. And we've had tests done over the years. And it came up a little. The more compost you add, it changes your pH. But it never would go up to absolutely neutral. No worry about planting a rhododendron in alkaline soil here.



Sharon standing in one of the large garden beds at the back of the property, showing the use of lawns as pathways to get you from point A to point B. (photo John Brett.)

John: I wanted to ask you about your gardening design philosophy.

Sharon: There was no grand and glorious design, though individual beds might have some modicum of design. You need to have a place to put all these plants, so there are certain beds that were meant to house rhododendrons. Others were a mixture of shrubs and rhododendrons and azaleas. For years and years, Bill had a big vegetable garden as well. But it became a rhododendron nursery. And that was partly because as the garden has matured, the problem of sun and shade has become very, very evident. To grow vegetables, you (need to have) quite sunny spots.

John: How has your garden philosophy changed over the years?

Sharon: When I gardened in my former property where I lived for 30 years, in the eastern part of Antigonish County, my garden philosophy was just developing. I was working full time. I was also a single parent for a good number of those years. So it was very different. But when I met Bill, there was a really good connection there. I had grown things from seed - some ornamental, some vegetable transplants from seed. So I think it's been forty seven years that I've been growing things.

John: My sense is that the garden is very much a team effort. How did you divide up the work?

Sharon: Well, I think Bill would have just said, “You plant however you want.” But he was the one in charge of the rhododendrons and azaleas for many years. I was the book-keeper, keeping track of what there was, and I helped him order and pick out seed lots that we thought would be interesting. But the actual hands-on growing of those little plants, he was much more involved than I was. As they grew, I became more interested in what was happening.

John: So my sense is that as the garden developed that there was an increased desire to at least have some record keeping.

Sharon: Yes, from the time I first moved here and had a computer. Bill would have had his record keeping, probably the (ARHS) newsletter seed lists with his orders circled, and that was probably his record keeping. Eventually I transcribed all of those to an Excel file. It is not perfect, but at least if you find a tag that has a number, you can go back and find out where it originated.

John: I'll speak for how good your record-keeping is. I remember a number of years ago getting in touch with you about a couple of ARS numbers. And you were able to tell me what they were.

Sharon: There are many plants in this garden that have no labels. You know they were planted in 2002, let’s say, but they never got individually labeled. They didn't even get separated and planted out with judicious spacing. I always thought that Bill was more interested in baby plants than grown-up plants. In other words, it was the process more than the destination. The process really delighted him. He liked working in the soil.

But he was also very interested when there was an end result. The very first time we saw Sproetten blooming (*editor's note: R. Sproetten is a Wilgenhof hybrid*), it was a very exciting time because that was one of the very first rhododendrons that bloomed from his seeds.

John: So this is one of the things people starting out with gardens need to know. What you're saying is that it's a long, slow process.

Sharon: It is. There has never been a state of perfection here and there never will be a state of perfection. So many groups of plants are still exactly where they were when they were put out as tiny little plants. That's why we have thickets scattered throughout the property. I'm just worried that we don't go to hell in a handbasket in the next while, simply because my aging does not enhance the garden. We always liked to think we were a little bit under control. Now, it takes a long time in the spring to get the garden under control. It's June 5th and I don't feel we're quite under control yet.

A view through the extensive rhododendron beds (prior to full bloom) from the bottom of the garden looking toward the back of the house, also on June 5, 2020. (photo John Brett.)

John: Roughly what acreage do you now have?

Sharon: I would say that the cultivated garden is perhaps a shade over three acres. And it's not all in the same state. There are parts that are really wild and unkempt. And then there are other parts that are under control. Bill was very adamant about trying to keep weeds under control, but the garden is a wild and wonderful place and I think that's probably part of its charm.

I mean, we have tons and tons and tons of naturalised bulbs. Well, there are gardeners in this world who couldn't put up with that untidiness. And then there are others who admire that and say, how do you do that? And we didn't do it. The bulbs got planted at some stage, and they just adapted themselves; and the sandy soil here, I think, was very conducive to bulbs propagating themselves. Now, granted, you also have that bulb foliage that you have to be a little patient with for a time. So right now, the bulb foliage is in decline, so things look a little scruffy but in another two weeks, there will be almost no sign anywhere of bulb foliage.

John: Are there any particular bulbs stand out for you?

Sharon: The Glory-of-the-Snow (*Chionodoxa forbesii*), there are millions. We have a blue hillside over there. And the *Scilla sibirica* can do the same thing, *Puschkinia*, snowdrops (*Galanthus* sp.), they're even crocuses that move around. So those little bulbs are mostly what are there. There's a few Spanish bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*), but they're not quite as prolific. We even have *Alliums* that naturalize if you let them. But we don't have other rampant things like tulips or daffodils.

John: When did you get interested in gardening, in horticulture?

Sharon: Well, I think you could not call me a horticulturalist, per se. My dad was a gardener. He had lovely vegetable gardens. And he loved soil, too. And he grew the most beautiful begonias you've ever seen. I was never an avid gardener. I putzed around a little bit, helped pick vegetables. When I went away to university, I did not study plants. As a matter of fact, it was with great reluctance that I had to take two Botany courses! So once I was out in the real world and able to have a place to garden, about 1973, that was the first time I had a garden of my own.

John: What about Bill's horticultural background?

Sharon: Oh, he grew up on a farm and he always liked to say the first thing he ever did was graft a rose when he was about nine years old. He had an uncle who used to grow quite a lot of roses and he showed them how to do it. Back in that day, ornamental gardening was not an everyday occurrence for the so-called common man. It was done on estates. Richer people could do it. You had to farm to make your living and feed your family and do all of that.

John: Where did he grow up?

Sharon: He grew up in Laren, the Netherlands, came to Canada in 1948 and lived in the Ottawa area, two or three different places, until nineteen seventy six, when he came to Nova Scotia. Wherever he had a place to grow things, he grew things.

John: And what about you? Where did you grow up?

Sharon: Well, I grew up in New Brunswick, in Albert County, and I moved to Nova Scotia in 1972. And my first husband and I had a property, and that's where I lived from 1972 until 1999.

John: What are some of your favorite gardens to visit? And why?

Sharon: Annapolis Royal would be a top favorite garden in Nova Scotia. I don't travel a lot. And the Dalhousie agricultural campus garden in Truro is just a wonderful garden to visit. That's the rock garden, and it encompasses the alumni gardens across the street, and it works almost any season, from early in the spring until fall. I made a couple of trips with Bill, to Holland. We went to the Netherlands and we went to the Keukenhof Gardens, of course.

John: Are there any particular plants or groups of plants that you feel most passionate about?

Sharon: I just loved acquiring *Narcissus*. And the unfortunate thing is that the *Narcissus* plantings in our garden here have been decimated, we think by an insect infestation. Now, part of it, too, could be that there were some areas where it got shadier and they don't like shade. And I always loved lilies. And again, we have a nemesis, that scarlet lily beetle. So I've given up on lilies.

John: What about Bill - his favorites? Obviously, at some point he got enthusiastic about rhododendrons and azaleas.

Sharon: Rhododendrons and azaleas were always really expensive. So if you didn't have a big budget, you couldn't go out and acquire a lot of rhododendrons and azaleas. And also they were somewhat "unacquirable", if that's a word. Back around 1990, you might have been able to get "Catawbiense something", or whatever, but there weren't very many azaleas. So availability was quite limited.

So I think Bill figured, "Well, I've grown lots of other things from seed, why can't I do this?" So that's basically how he started. And he discovered the Rhododendron Society (the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society and the American Rhododendron Society). That meant he had a little bit of a support system and also a source of seeds and plants. Usually Bill ordered seeds from both the Atlantic region (ARHS) and the ARS exchanges. And we grew a lot of interesting things from Gardens North for quite a number of years, through the 90s. Gardens North was a seed order place in Gower, Ontario, run by Crystal Wallick. But she's no longer in business.

John: Any other seed sources that you are enthusiastic about?

Sharon: We were members of the Ontario Rock Garden Society for a while and got seeds from them. We were never rock garden people, but that society had a very broad range of plants.

John: At one point you were producing enough that you were selling rhodos and azaleas, because I myself bought some of my best plants from Bill, as little plants, that he would bring me…

Sharon: Extras! That's because there was no restraint! So in a given year, there could be 400 seedlings or there could be 800 seedlings. Well, that's maybe a bit too much! So we just made those extra babies available to members of the Rhododendron Society (ARHS). From about 1996, we had a plant sale every spring and sold surplus plants. So those little plants have landed in a lot of places.

John: What about growing things from seed and the quality of the plants that result, versus the various named hybrids that one can grow. Do you have any thoughts about this?

Sharon: Well, that's how those named hybrids developed. There are probably several plants here that could have been named or registered. I have my favorites that I expect to see every year. And some of those plants have been propagated from cuttings. So there are quite a few that should be growing in a good number of gardens.

John: Were there any particular crosses that Bill did that seemed to produce a lot of really good plants?

Where the magic happens! This simple basement set-up started the seedlings that have become the impressive, mature plantings at Willow Garden. No fancy greenhouses needed. (Photo John Brett.)

Sharon: You have to remember that Bill did not do most of the crosses that we grew. He would get seeds. Way back when, there was this urge to get hardy yellows. So a lot of seed lots that we got through the 90s were with that intention. And we have quite a lot of yellows. They're not all perfect and some of them are hardier than others, but there's one lot that we call the 608 yellows (ARS 92-608), and those were from 1992. And do not ask me what the cross was because it's about the length of your forearm. But it came from the Andersons in the eastern United States. I remember that when they started blooming, there were anywhere from ten to twelve siblings and of those siblings that we could identify, there was a range of half-decent yellows to ivory's, and then a pink one.

There's a beautiful little one in bloom right now that I call the Cat's Pajamas Cross, which was from 1997. It's a very early bloomer and it's peachy yellows and there's a couple of versions of it. And I wouldn't be surprised if some siblings of that got off into other people's gardens.

John: I have a row of plants on Morris Island that are now big plants. I call them the Wilgenhof bi-colours because I'm quite sure they were bought from Bill and you. And they're beautiful. Who knows, they might have come out of one of those lots.

Sharon: Well, you never know. It's quite possible that your lot turned out to be better than those we had here.

John: Well, one of the problems - it's a nice problem to have - is that I am growing those plants in coastal Yarmouth county where they have foggy, moist summers and zone 7A winters. So if something looks good down there, it's not really a recommendation for other parts of Nova Scotia.

Sharon: Now here, I don't know that we have - other than winter – real extremes. But our soil can be very dry. It's amazing Rhododendrons do as well as they do because we don't water, except initially the little baby ones. In recent years, all these big old rhododendrons haven't had one drop of water other than what came from the sky. I think they become their own community and they shade out their root zones. They were mulched early on in their younger life, but now they aren't.

That's one of the misconceptions you see, people who try to grow rhododendrons in the shade. Here they need sunshine. And if they don't have enough sunshine, they don't do well. I remember Donna Evers (ARHS member) saying that after Hurricane Juan, they had all these trees that got knocked down in their backyard, and how their rhododendrons did so much better because they had a lot more sun.

John: Working in this part of Nova Scotia, north eastern Nova Scotia, what are the greatest gardening challenges people face?

Sharon: Well, a lot of people in northeastern Nova Scotia have greater challenges in their gardens than I do because there's a lot of exposure to the various oceans and bays and winds. Right here in Maryvale, we're fairly sheltered. In the winters you have a lot of freeze-thaw, but that can happen anywhere in Nova Scotia. The unreliable spring I find quite frustrating. This was a very frustrating spring. We had so much frost, more than we ever did, I think. This is the first year that I was worried the PJM Rhododendron bloom was going to be non-existent because all the initial flowers were frosted. And so you had to wait for five days or six days for the second buds to open. And then we had 32 centigrade and that heat does them in really fast. So that very reliable rhododendron bloom was cut short on each end.

John: I noticed you had a fence.

Sharon: Deer are a problem everywhere in Nova Scotia. Bill built a fence around the whole perimeter of the yard, many years ago, to deter deer. We haven't had any noticeable deer intrusion in several years, and we've never had devastation. The towns of Truro, New Glasgow - even Antigonish - have a far greater problem with deer than I do.

John: How do you see rhododendrons and azaleas fitting into a garden scheme in Nova Scotia. What do you see as their place?

Sharon: I think part of the problem is that many places don't have soil. And people don't know about soil. I think they look at soil as something that comes in a truck and gets dumped in their front yard. And that's not what soil is, really. All gardening goes back to soil and people have to learn how to make poor soil better. I think rhododendrons and azaleas can

A view of the “Octoberfest” garden bed alight with early spring bulbs. This is one of the few beds without any azaleas or rhododendrons. It was designed for summer display with lots of daylilies and other perennials.

live very happily in soil that you've made better, as long as you don't plant them right next to the foundation or in the smack dab middle of the lawn with grass growing all around.

John: If you think about the fact that gardens are always evolving, in an ideal world, what would this garden look like in 15 years?

Sharon: Oh, my God. I shudder to think. I will be what? 88 years old? There's no way I'm going to be able to garden as much at 88 as Bill did, so it will mean I need to win the lottery, to afford to hire a full time gardener. But that's not reality. So I try not to think that far ahead. I'm just looking ahead to the next year or two. I have almost stopped trying too many new plants.

John: Do you ever do tours in this garden?

Sharon: We basically have an open invitation to people to tour. On our web site, that's what it says: “Come visit us any time.” Bill always said you can come night or day, but if you come at night, bring your own flashlight. We've had people from all over the world, and we invite garden clubs.

John: Where did you do your seed germination?

Sharon: In the basement. We have three lighted chambers down there with three shelves each. And that's far more than we need now. So mostly now I use my chamber, which has three shelves with two of the four-foot fluorescent lights in each shelf. Bill used to grow rhodos and azaleas using only one light per shelf because they didn't need as much light intensity. The seedlings got put out to harden off in the spring and then into nursery beds.

John: Did you use greenhouses at all?

Sharon: No, we never had a greenhouse.

John: Looking generally at gardens and gardening in Nova Scotia today, as you see it, how would you compare it with gardening when you first started?

Sharon: You have garden clubs all over the province - 70, I think? - with between eighteen hundred and two thousand members. There’s been big growth over the years and probably will continue to be.

John: Are there any current trends in gardening or landscape design that interest you?

Sharon: In some areas people are trying to eliminate their lawns and grow other things. Well, I like a little lawn. You have to have something to connect point A to point B and a lawn serves that purpose. But the lawn is not the be-all and end-all. The lawn is a path, and the lawn here is basically a mixed ecosystem and as long as it gets mowed periodically, it's pretty green. It doesn't get specifically fertilized. It doesn't get specifically seeded with anything marvellous.

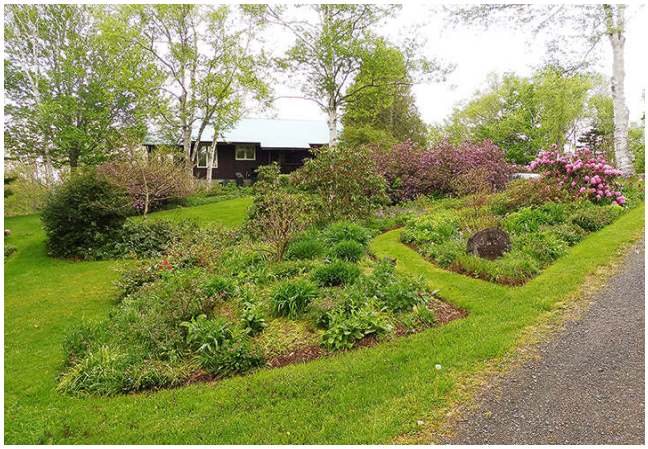
John: Is there anything in the way of fundamental advice that you would offer gardeners starting out?

Sharon: Learn about soil. Find somebody who knows something and listen to them. And don't bite off more than you can chew. Those famous words came from my father.

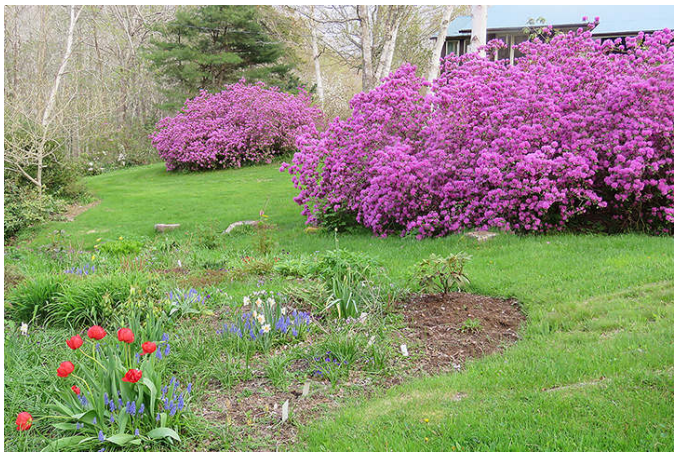
People are conditioned to (want) instant gardens. “Oh, my goodness, I have to wait five years for that!” Well, Bill was 70 years old when he first started growing rhododendrons and azaleas. He was looking forward to it. He didn't think, “Oh, well, I've only got five years”. People have to learn about that, too - that the journey is perhaps as good as the destination.

John: Better.

Sharon: Sometimes, it is. ¤

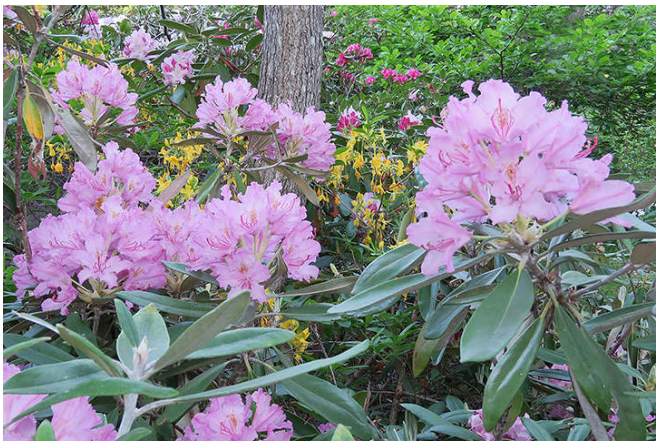


A first view of the spring perennial beds at Willow Garden, on June 5, 2020, as you approach the front of the house. The name Willow Garden translates as “Wilgenhof” in Dutch, the family name of Sharon’s late husband, Bill. (Photo John Brett.)



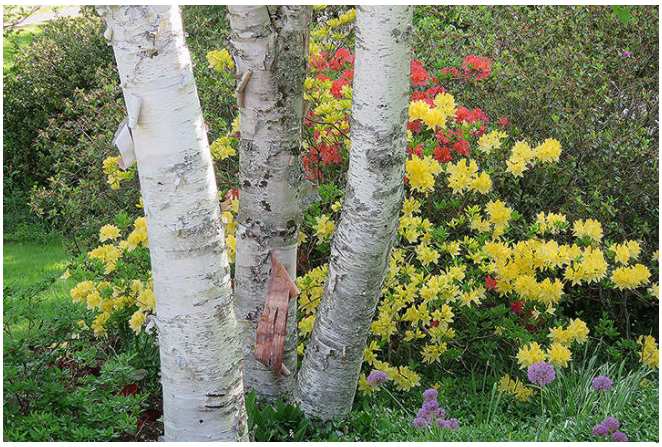
The PJM rhododendrons at the front of the house are about twenty five years old, and provide a vibrant splash in mid-late May. Each grouping is comprised of several large plants. The foreground shows a newly renovated section of the large perennial bed.

A view to the back garden. Many of the rhododendrons near the arbor and the Red Oak (far left) are yak hybrids. Two pink rambler roses cover the arbor.



The exact parentage is lost for this *R. smirnowii* cross from 1995. It has some definite yak characteristics, except for the bloom.

The venerable Knaphill azalea hybrid, *R.* ‘Homebush’, in full bloom, probably two plants which have been there since the mid-nineties.



This lovely azalea group compliments a clump of paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) growing just in front of the house. Bill often planted two or three azaleas together, not always knowing what colors would turn up, in this case coral pink and a nice pale yellow.

"R. aka 'Cat's Pajamas' cross", another favorite yellow rhododendron propagated at Willow Garden. The cross is likely from seed lot ARS 1996 #671: 'Cat's Pajamas' (Delp) X {'Janet Blair' x [(*wardii* x *hemsleyanum*) x 'Autumn Gold'] #1/95} (Photo John Brett.)

Sharon calls this rhodo "our best yellow". It came out of ARS seed lot 1992#608 {[('Big Deal' x 'Donna Hargrove') x ('Golden Star' x 'Catalgla')] X *R. wardii*}, and thrives in this zone 5B site. Other hardy yellows came out of this seed lot, and now reside in gardens around Nova Scotia.

This face-on view of *R.* "Sproeten" explains the origin of the name, which means "freckles" in Dutch. It was Bill's first notable success with growing rhodos from seed. It was propagated by cuttings and several members of the ARHS have it in their gardens. It has always been a favourite.

One of several azaleas grown from a 1995 cross, *R.* 'Homebush' x unnamed Big Pink (Alstrup). This one shows quite a lot of doubling.

This big Japanese maple was grown from seed and becomes the main focus of this garden bed in the fall: a pleasing autumn contrast to the rhododendrons.

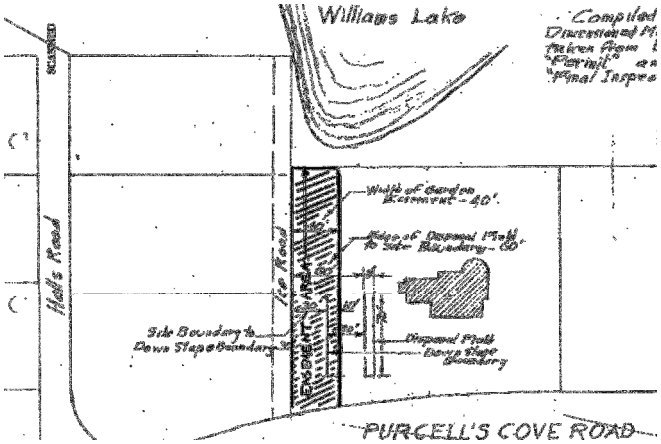
Paper birches and a dusting of early snow in the front yard. When the land was cleared, the birches were left wherever possible. Their presence is an important aspect of the garden's character.

The Dick Steele Garden – A Look Back at 13 years in 22 Photos.

by John Brett All photos by the author unless otherwise noted

"The best time to plant a tree is right now." I don't know who first said this, but it's some of the best gardening advice ever dispensed. You'll see proof of this in the photo diary below: what started out as a shaded gully back in 2006, choked with goutweed and red maple saplings, has grown into a lush woodland garden featuring an impressive collection from the genus *Rhododendron*, including both species and many Dick Steele hybirds, as well as a diversity of woodland perennials.

To those involved since the beginning, it seems in hindsight that all of this happened almost overnight. The garden started out as a Halls Road neighborhood initiative, encouraged by a grant from the ARS Endowment fund, and a passionate belief in the value of the unique Halls Road rhododendron landscape. Significant investments of all kinds – though mainly of labour, plants and perseverance -created it and maintain it today. But time does truly fly. How quickly the garden filled in, and how impressive it now appears, like some miniature ravine transported out of the Sino-Himalaya, tucked away in a quiet corner of Halifax. So my advice is: plant a tree, a shrub, a perennial of the herbaceous kind, and do it as soon as you can. Time will take care of the rest. ¤



All gardens start with a plan of some kind. This site drawing was drafted by architect, Charles Fowler, resident of Halls Road, and founding member of the Halls Road Garden Society. The garden is identified here as the "easement area".

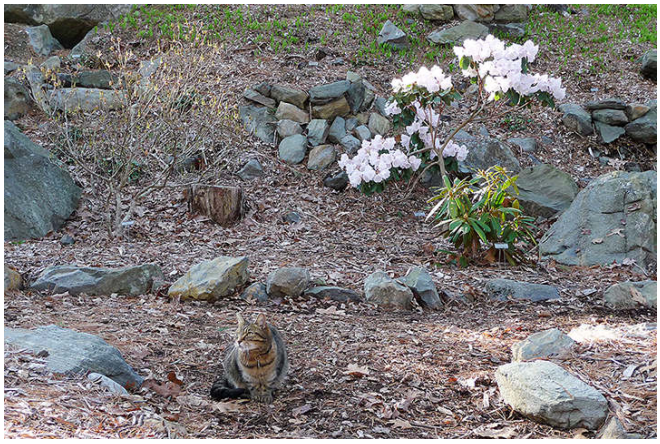
Paths and beds are laid out and rhodos start to be placed, mostly small, but this large *R.* 'Barbara Hall' needed a new home. Bill Leverman and Tom Baskett are hard at work in early fall, 2007.

At about the same time, Ken Shannik was hired to construct steps allowing easy access down into the garden.

The Dick Steele Garden (DSG) officially opened on October 5, 2007. Members of the Halls Road Garden Society (HRGS), the ARHS, and friends gathered to celebrate the big day. Dick Steele stands in the front row, fourth from the right. (photo Mern O'Brien)

The DSG viewed from the south west end, as it looked in late winter, 2008. Note the stairs on the right and the bench on the left, a gift from Jane Shaw-Law, long-time resident and founding member of the garden.

This view is from the opposite end of the garden from the previous photo. Dick Steele continued to advise on the design and plantings during the early years. He's seen here in April, 2008, with his daughter Sally, and Tom Baskett, who laid out the garden beds and put in many rhodos and azaleas. .



A neighbor's cat poses with *R. oreodoxa* var. fargesii, *R. Schlippenbachii*, and *R. degronianum* var. yakushimanum in May, 2008. All of these were transplanted from Halls Road gardens the previous year.

Sculptor, Richard Robertson, creates the granite bird bath found at the southwest end of the garden. It was commissioned by Jane Law, and installed in 2008.

The granite bird bath installed, with new planting beds behind, in June 2009.

A similar view to the previous photo, taken in February, 2011. Against the snow it's clear the rhododendrons are gaining some presence. Seven beds had been created and planted by this point, the same number as exist today.

June, 2014, and what a difference in 7 years! The photo is from Purcell's Cove Rd. looking northwest down the garden to Williams Lake. The photo to the right is the same view taken in late winter, 2008

June, 2014, a view from the opposite end of the garden with lots of new growth showing on a cluster of six R. 'PJM Elite' planted in 2010. *R.adenopodum* blooms in the foreground, lower right.

Also taken in June, 2014, we see rhodos planted in 2007 becoming substantial shrubs. Prominent are one of Dick Steele's best hardy reds, *R.* 'Richard Bass' and to its right, *R.* 'Pinehurst 83M'

Some plantings are memorialised with special plaques, in this case honoring Jane Law. She was a long-time friend of Dick Steel, and he named this hybrid rhododendron after her.

By 2015, *Trillium caudatum*, *Sanguinaria canadensis* f. multiplex, and other woodland perennials are getting established along the borders of the rhododendron beds.

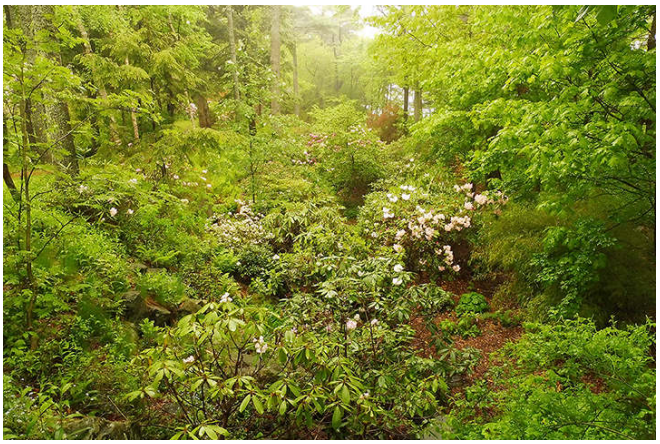
Dramatic foliage on a *R. sutchuenense* cross – probably *R.* 'Barbara Hall' X *R. sutchuenense* 'Grieg' - made by John Weagle and grown by John Brett, is just one of many beautiful effects that add drama to the garden as it matures.

By 2017, the Dick Steele Garden has matured to a point that it is becoming a popular garden destination. The Quebec Rhododendron Society visited in June 2017 as part of their tour of Nova Scotia gardens.

R. 'Barmstedt' is a Hans Hachmann variety from Northern Germany that thrives in this woodland setting with high shade and a half day or less of direct sun.

The author beside a *R. calophytum* hybrid in full bloom on April 29, 2018. Donated by ARHS members Stephen Archibald and Sheila Stevenson in 2007, it thrives in a sheltered spot under large pines, as does *R. auriculatum.*

Like the *R. calophytum* hybrid, this stand of *R. mucronulatum* blooms early, seen here on May 6, 2018. The plants were started from seed donated to the ARHS seed exchange and planted out in 2009. The stairs leading down into the garden can be seen in the lower left corner.



Compare this photo taken June, 2020 with the same view from 2008 shown above. What a difference in 12 years! At this point the further development of the Dick Steele Garden depends as much - or perhaps more - on subtractions as it does on additions.

Some Thoughts on Botanical Names

by Brenda Macdonald Photos by author unless otherwise noted.

(*Editor's note: Atlantic Rhodo thanks the author and the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society for kind permission to reprint this article. Brenda Macdonald is president of the Victoria chapter, ARS district 1.)*

Since we are all staying at home looking for things to amuse us, I thought I might divert myself and you, gentle reader, with a not too serious look into the obscure derivations and meanings of botanical descriptors, which are often part of the scientific names of the plants we grow.

In the 18th century, Carl Linnaeus developed a simple yet brilliant classification system wherein every living thing was to be given its own unique binomial (Genus and species) name. The system has been refined, expanded and further codified over the years, but the basic structure remains the same: the Genus name (first word) is the group to which an organism belongs, and the species name (second word) is the name of the particular organism within the Genus. It is often the species name (also known as the "specific epithet") which gives us the most information about a plant: its shape, colour, habit, or usual location. The exceptions to this are those plants whose species names memorialize people: *R. fortunei*, *R. genesterianum*, *R. williamsianum* are a few examples.

Although a plant's binomial scientific name is often referred to as its Latin name, it's worth noting that Greek also turns up with alarming regularity.

Here are some of the most common descriptors, with an explanation, as well as commonly used English analogs:

1. The look of the thing:

Descriptor	Meaning	English analog
arboreum, arborescens	tree like	arboretum, arborist
compactum	compact	compact
complexum	interwoven	complicated, complex
decorum	ornamental	decorative, decorated
impeditum	tangled	impediment, impede
intricatum	complex	intricate
maximum	largest	maximum
pendulum	hanging	pendulous, pendulum
prostratum	low growing	prostrate
rigidum	stiff	rigid

2. How/where it grows:

Descriptor	Meaning	English analog
alpicola	dwells in high mountains	alpine
dendricola	dwells in trees	dendrology
ripense	on river banks	riparian
drumonium	of woods	
dumicola	dwells in thickets	
faucium	of gorges	
hylaeum	of forests	
oresbium	living on mountains	
rupicola	dwells among rocks	
scopulorum	of crags	

3. What the leaves look like (often in conjunction with ending "phyllum" or "folium", both meaning "leaves". Hence, phyllo pastry – having many layers or leaves):

Descriptor	Meaning	English analog
barbatum/semibarbatum	bearded/half-bearded	barber
cardiobasis	with heart-shaped base	cardiac, cardiology
detonsum	shorn	tonsure
erosum	eaten away	erosion, eroded
giganteum	huge	gigantic
hirsutum	hairy	hirsute

lanatum, lanigerum	wooly	lanolin
myrtifolium	like Myrtus - the myrtle plant	
oleifolium	like Olea - the olive plant	
pentaphyllum	having five leaves	pentagon
scabrum, scabrifolium	rough	scabrous, scabies
scintillans	sparkling	scintillating
serrulatum	with small teeth	serrated
thymifolium	like Thymus - the thyme plant	
viscidifolium	sticky	viscosity

But here is an example of the kind of trouble one gets into when delving into the derivations of the botanical name of a favorite rhododendron. *R. anthopogon* ssp. *hypenanthum* 'Annapurna' is a named variety grown from a group of smaller-leafed *hypenanthum* seedlings which were promising because of their compact cushion shape and tendency to blossom at a relatively early age. The "limp tissue paper" texture of the small, narrowly flaring blossoms with their short pedicels give the inflorescence an oddly congested look. The leaves are so aromatic they are used as incense in their native Tibet habitat.

R. anthopogon ssp. *hypenanthum* 'Annapurna'

R. anthopogon ssp. *hypenanthum* 'Annapurna' appears to be a victim of a taxonomic "sinking", as the botanists say, since at one time there was an *R. hypenanthum* as well as an *R. anthopogon*. The official difference between the two was apparently the presence or absence of persistent leaf bud scales (yes for *hypenanthum* and no for *anthopogon*), although originally they appear to have been divided more along colour lines: *anthopogon* tending toward the pink, red, and rose scheme, and *hypenanthum* tending to be of yellow and cream hues.

Both these species share the trait of having a ring of hairs in the throat of the flower tube, and one can only assume that this was such a salient feature that the botanists deemed it necessary to immortalize that fact in the naming of the species.

R. anthopogon ssp. *hypenanthum* 'Annapurna'
type: lepidote epithet: bearded flower
antho, anthum (Greek) flower
pogon (Greek) beard
hypen (Greek) moustache

So now, as a result of this "sunk" taxon (see "sinking" above), we have a fairly small and delicate flower with the overwhelming name of Rhododendron Flower-beard Moustache-flower 'Annapurna'. And while Annapurna may denote an ethereal white goddess, such an addendum can do little to overcome the almost overwhelmingly shaggy male aura already in place.

The other interesting thing about this flower is the official description of its shape: hypocrateriform. (Initially I was led slightly astray by references to a "hypercratiform" flower shape in both the Coxs' *Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species* and a handy little reference book by Melva Phillipson entitled *Botanical Features Used in the Identification of Rhododendron Species*, but I am now fairly confident that these two references were simple errors.)

hypo (Greek) beneath, under
crater (Latin) bowl
form (Latin) shape

This long word (and its even longer synonym hypocraterimorphous) is simply the way scientist have - not unlike the Germans - of jamming all the meaning of a longer phrase, such as my "narrowly flaring", into a single word.

I have seen expanded explanations describing "goblet-shaped" or "trumpet-shaped", but they all describe the same basic shape: a blunderbuss, or a grain of rice you have cooked too long, with a long narrow tube topped by abruptly flaring lobes, more often flattened than not.

Phlox sp? showing the salverform flowers. (photo Dinesh Valke courtesy of Wikimedia Creative Commons https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/deed.en).

A term used more frequently – but apparently not in conjunction with rhododendrons – is salverform. The Phlox flower is a typical salverform flower with its wide, flat, flare atop a narrow corolla tube.

I knew that a salver was the term for the small round silver tray on which household staff would present visitors' calling cards to the lady of the house, but what I did not know was that the original derivation of salver is from the Latin "salvare", to save, or "salvus", safe.

This verb/adjective root was gradually transformed from describing food that had already been tasted (made safe) for incumbent royals (somewhat nervous about the easy access other would-be royals had to various poisons), to the name for the tray which carried the food, and thence to any tray used in the service of the upper class, including those for calling cards. From poisoned-food testing to a flat-topped flower form, surely metonymy at its finest.

And thus endeth the lesson on botanical names, or, how to amuse oneself during enforced social distancing. ¤

ARS Bronze Medals Awarded

At our December 1, 2020 meeting, Ken Shannik and Sterling Levy were each presented with the American Rhododendron Society's Bronze medal, which is awarded to members of the ARS who have made outstanding contributions at the chapter level. Both Ken and Sterling have done just this, over many decades with the Atlantic chapter (The Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society). Ken has served as president, treasurer, and for many years played a critical role in our plant sales, which became annual highlights on the gardening calendar. As well, he has worked quietly and effectively behind the scenes on many other volunteer efforts. Sterling's accomplishments are equally various. He has also served as president and played a key role in the early years of our plant sales. But perhaps most outstanding has been his dedication to this newsletter. He has been doing the design layout for over 25 years, and as a result of his efforts, it has become a most attractive and much-read publication. So a very large and heartfelt congratulations to Ken and Sterling on the presentation of these well deserved awards. ¤

Ken Shannik receiving the ARS Bronze Medal during a break in his workday at a client's garden.(Photo John Brett.)

Sterling Levy receiving the ARS Bronze Medal at home, surrounded by his garden.(Photo John Brett.)

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

The Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society (ARHS) & American Rhododendron Society (ARS) District 12

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	Amount	
Local Membership in ARHS (with e-mail newsletter) (after Nov. 30 **add** $10 late fee)	**$20.00**	
OR: Combined Membership: ARHS/ARS (ARHS = $20; ARS = $54 ($40 US))	**$74.00**	
Printed Newsletter mailed 3 times per year (b/w with colour front and back) **additional**	**$35.00**	
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Rhododendrons Down East in Nova Scotia: American Rhododendron Society 2021 Spring Conference

June 3, 2021 - June 6, 2021

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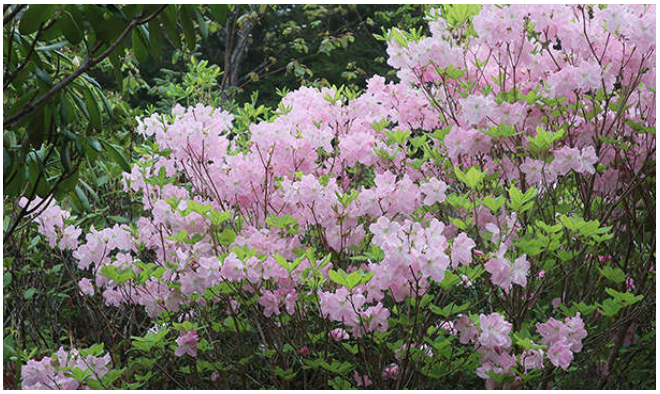
Co-chair ARS 2021 Spring Convention	Jim Sharpe	902 425 6313
Co-chair ARS 2021 Spring Convention	Rebecca Lancaster	902 453 0251

Photo Album - A taste of what's in bloom at ARS Convention time (June 3-6) in Atlantic Canada .

R. pachysanthum. (photo John Brett.)

R. elegantulum. (photo John Brett.)

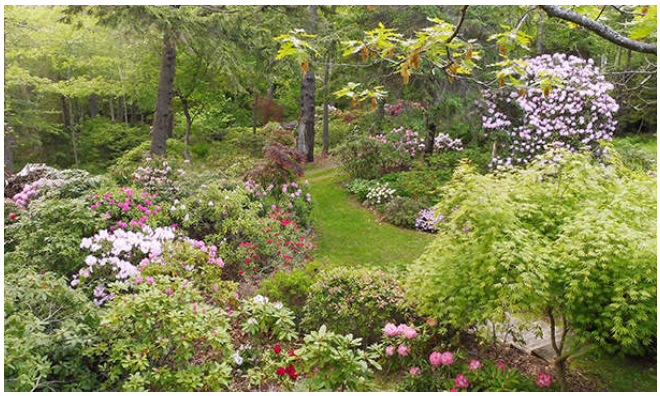
R. "Barmstadt" (photo John Brett)



R. schlippenbachi. (photo Owen Willis.)

A garden view at Mahone Bay, NS. (photo Jenny Sandison.)

Plantings at Shamper's Bluff, NB. (photo Freeman Patterson.)



A backyard view, Halls Road, Halifax. (photo John Brett.)

A garden view at Shamper's Bluff, NB. (photo Freeman Patterson.)