

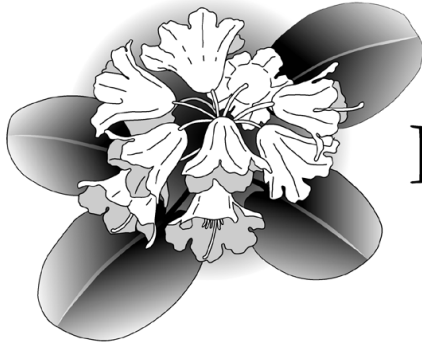
# AtlanticRhodo

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

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# Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

## Our Mission

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

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

## Membership

**Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society (ARHS).** Membership renewals are now **due**. The current membership period is September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025. The membership fee is \$30.00. For benefits and to download a membership form see ARHS website [www.atlanticrhodo.org](http://www.atlanticrhodo.org)

**American Rhododendron Society:** ARHS is a chapter in District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined ARHS and ARS membership cost is \$84.00 Canadian.

An on-line payment system is now available on the society's website at: <https://atlanticrhodo.org/shop/>. You can also still pay by cheque, made out to "Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society" sent to **Jim Sharpe, 6231 Watt St, Halifax , Nova Scotia, B3H 2B9**. Payment can also be made by e-transfer to [atlanticrhodo@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticrhodo@gmail.com). Please include your name, address (with postal code), e-mail address and telephone number, for organizational purposes only

*AtlanticRhodo* is the Newsletter of the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society. We welcome your comments, suggestions, articles, photos and other material for publication. Send all material to the editor at [atlanticrhodo@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticrhodo@gmail.com)

**Interim Editor:**

**Jean Henshall**

**Layout:**

**Sterling Levy**

Cover Photo: *Acer griseum* . [Photo Donna Evers]





## Calendar of Events

Meetings are normally held in the Nova Scotia Museum Auditorium. *Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St. Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada*

The ARHS will continue to offer our programming by Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Details and link will be sent to members.

- Tue Feb 4 ,2025** ARHS February Presentation: Paul Manning: What to do about the Japanese beetle?  
This presentation will be by zoom only
- Tue Mar 5, 2025** ARHS March Presentation: Sharon Bryson on Willow Garden  
This presentation will be by Zoom only
- Mon Apr 7, 2025** ARHS April Presentation: Photos of Cornwall Gardens  
This presentation will be at the NS Museum and by Zoom
- May 2025, date TBA** ARHS Member to Member Plant Sale  
This will be at the NS Museum if members have plants for sale.
- June 5, 2025** American Rhododendron Society Spring Convention  
Devour Studios, 360 Main St., Wolfville NS Canada  
June 5 @ 12:00 pm – June 8 @ 11:00 am

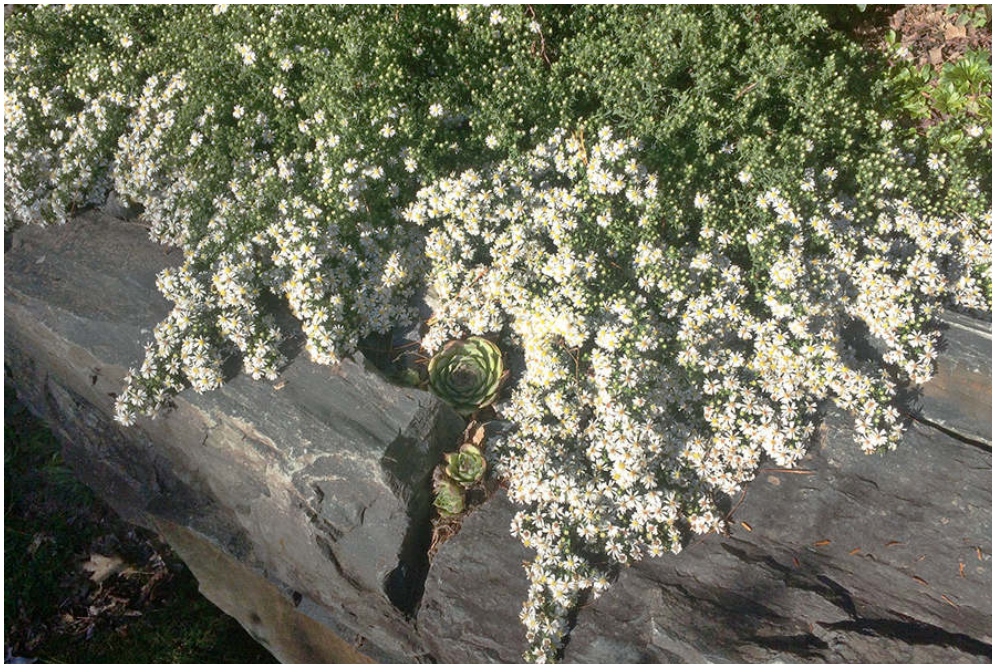
## A Word from the Editor

**Jean Henshall M. Sc.**

I must apologize for the length of time it has taken to put this issue of AtlanticRhodo together. I hope you enjoy reading Rhodo 101 as well as the news about some of the projects of ARHS. I want to thank Sterling Levy for his hard work in doing the layout. I also want to thank Jim Sharpe for his patience and support.

Any errors and omissions are my responsibility.

This will be my final appearance as Editor. ☺



*Aster ericoides* 'Snow Flurry'. [Donna Evers]

## President's Message

Welcome to 2025, an exciting year for the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society.

We will be hosting the American Rhododendron Society Convention, "Emerging Trends for Rhododendrons" in Wolfville from June 5-8, 2025. This is the most important yearly meeting of the American Rhododendron Society and we expect over 100 delegates from across North America to visit Nova Scotia. We had planned to host the event in 2021 but with the Covid19 restrictions we hosted a very successful virtual event. For the 2025 Convention we are using the facilities of Devour Studios for our meetings and banquet, the Wolfville Market for the plant sale and Acadia University and Old Orchard Inn for accommodation. We will have speakers, garden tours and a great plant sale. As well with our conference organizer, Andrea Thomas, we are organizing a four day tour of rhododendron gardens from Halifax to Yarmouth to Wolfville before the convention, May 31 – June 4 and a post convention tour of rhododendron gardens of New Brunswick and northern Nova Scotia from June 8 - 12.

Information and registration is available on the convention website [ars2025.org](http://ars2025.org).

Last October we welcomed English Garden Historian Sarah Rutherford for our annual Steele Lectures. Sarah is a Kew trained horticulturalist who went on to complete advanced studies in garden history. Her 2016 biography "Capability Brown: and his Landscape Gardens" was published by The National Trust to commemorate 300 years since his birth in 1716. She has also produced books on Botanic Gardens, Arts and Craft Gardens, Garden Cities and Landscape Gardens. Wakehurst Place, a Kew Garden and site of the Millenium Seed Bank, commissioned her to study the impact of climate change in English Gardens. The first event will focused on the impact of climate change on gardens with a panel discussion including Sarah and Richard Zurawski, NS Meteorologist. On Monday, October 7 at 7:30 pm Sarah gave a second talk on "Arts and Craft Gardens" at the museum.

Monthly programs this winter will be offered by Zoom. They include Freeman Patterson's presentation on his rhododendron garden at Shampers Bluff NB in January, Dr. Paul Manning entomologist from Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture presenting on "What to do about the Japanese Beetle" in February and Sharon Bryson presenting on her rhododendrons at Willow Garden, Antigonish County in March. All the talks will be recorded with the link sent to ARHS members after the event.

In April we are planning to present photographs of "The Gardens of Cornwall" from a garden tour that several of our members are participating in this March, organized by the Atlantic Association of Landscape Designers. We are also considering holding a "member to member plant sale" in May if there is enough interest from our members. Next fall we have asked Julia Corden, former Head Gardener from the Goodwood Estate in West Sussex, England, to present the Steele Lecture on "Meconopsis and Himalayan Plants." Spring and fall meetings will be at the NS Museum of Natural History as well as by Zoom.

If you have any ideas for future programs, please send them to me at [atlanticrhodo@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticrhodo@gmail.com) address. Best wishes for your gardening!

Jim Sharpe  
ARHS President

### **In Memoriam: Duff Evers**

Duff passed at the age of 82 this May. He was a longtime and enthusiastic member of ARHS. Duff served as undergardener for his wife, Donna and built the lovely hardscape of their beautiful garden. Duff and Donna supported ARHS by opening their garden to many ARHS garden tours. It was also open many times for plant pick up. Duff is missed by his many ARHS friends. ☹

## ARHS Seed Exchange 2024-25

Hello, everyone! My name is Jamie Ellison, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new coordinator for the Atlantic Rhododendron Horticultural Society (ARHS) Seedex. I am taking over for Sharon Bryson who has dedicated the past 20 plus years managing this important aspect of our chapter. As part of my upcoming initiatives, I would like to remind everyone that all Rhododendron and companion plant seeds should be cleaned and clearly labelled. Please send your seed contributions to 159 Pereau Rd., Habitant, Nova Scotia, B0P 1H0 by December 1st. I welcome seed info lists on your contributions.. These can be mailed accompanying your donations or separate lists can be emailed to [jellison@xcountry.tv](mailto:jellison@xcountry.tv)

The exchange is now open for ARHS members. It opens to the General Public on February 2, 2025. Go to the URL below for the ARHS Seed List and order forms.

<https://atlanticrhodo.org/news-programs/plant-sales-and-seed-exchanges>

Thank you for your support, and I can't wait to get started

Best regards

Jamie

## ARS Bronze Medal

Presented to Jamie ( James ) Ellison for contributing his outstanding plant knowledge and photographic skills, and enthusiasm --- time and time again --- to the great benefit of the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society. ☘



## Calling all photographers!

Sterling Levy has done the layout for AtlanticRhodo for many years. The photos from his collection have greatly enhanced both the front and back pages. But he would like some new photos to use in AtlanticRhodo.

Now Sterling is asking members of ARHS to send their photos to him at [atlanticrhodo@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticrhodo@gmail.com). While the most common format is jpeg, Sterling can handle other formats.

The photos should be identified with the plant name(s), the photographer and should not be cropped. The available space varies and if they are cropped it limits Sterling's layout flexibility.

So get clicking! ☘

## Passionate Plant Person awards:

### Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society supports the Future for Horticulture

There are two important programs in Nova Scotia which provide education in horticulture and landscape design and ARHS provides support to students in both of them. The long established program in Bible Hill/Truro, currently part of the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, is in transition from horticultural technology to landscape architecture. We have provided an award for many years. The newer Nova Scotia Community College program at Kingstec in Kentville, provides hands on training in horticulture. We are pleased to support students in both programs. Here is a description of the students who have received recent awards. ☒

Jim Sharpe  
ARHS President

### Jasmine, Horticulture and Landscape Technology - Operations, Kingstec Campus

*“This award will positively impact my time attending NSCC. Trying to afford school, as well as the cost of living in general is very challenging and can often be discouraging. Thankfully, this award takes away most of my financial anxiety associated with being in school. It has re-enforced my belief that choosing NSCC was the right choice for me, and it has re-enforced the belief that there is a place for me at the school.”*



“I am extremely happy to be beginning my second year of the Horticulture and Landscape, specializing in Horticulture Operations. After serving almost eight years in the Royal Canadian Navy, I made the decision to pursue my true passion of horticulture and growing beautiful healthy plants. Through-out my military service, and while isolated at sea on a ship - I would often dream of gardens and working my hands in fresh soil. I faced many obstacles and challenges during my time in the military, including: isolation, harassment, mental/physical exhaustion, and the high-stress, frightening situations I would encounter. These challenges often felt all-consuming, and negatively impacted my mental health.

During particularly hard times, I would think about the past gardens of my parents and grandparents. I would envision being a student in a program that I would love; involving plants, greenhouses, gardens. When we had internet connectivity at sea, I would visit the NSCC Horticulture and Landscape program webpage, and I would dream of being in the program. Finally, after being very unhappy with the direction of my life and with a poor state of mental health, I decided to go for it! I applied to the program, and submitted a voluntary release with the military.

While I was in the process of leaving the military, I often had other serving members comment on how they would see me again in the military. This was awful and disheartening because it told me that they did not believe in me, that they thought I would fail and re-enlist in the military. Your generosity shows me that there is someone that believes in me, someone who thinks I can accomplish my goals! Thank you for believing in me, and for believing in the past recipients of this award. It truly makes such a positive difference.”

**Thank you for your generous support of NSCC students! Together, we're transforming Nova Scotia one learner at a time!** ☒



## Passionate Plant Person awards: Dalhousie University- Bachelor of Technology, Landscape Architecture

### IAN LOGAN

**Program of Study: Bachelor of Technology, Landscape Architecture**

#### **What attracted you to the Faculty of Agriculture and your program?**

After years in the tourism industry, I felt it was time to return to school and the Landscape Architecture program is the only one east of Ontario. I felt the AC was the best location relative to home, so I chose it for the distance and the unique program.

#### **Tell us about your primary area of study.**

Landscape Architecture is the melding of architecture and engineering. The program offers very hands on experiences in its first few years. In the 3rd and 4th years, students learn how to create technical drawings and use specific computer programs, while utilizing learned theory to design the most environmentally friendly spaces they can.

My experiences up to this point have been fantastic. Learning the technical and theoretical aspects of the program and profession was a challenge to start, but I took those on and am conquering them as they come.

#### **What are your plans after you complete your studies?**

After graduation, I plan on doing the necessary work experience and exams to achieve my professional license. My favoured area of study is combining urban and natural environments to create more green and ecofriendly cities.

#### **Besides academics, how else have you been involved at the AC?**

I am a Residence Assistant in Fraser House. We take nightly shifts and do rounds of the building to ensure it and the students are safe. We also host programs to encourage interaction between students. I recently hosted a mental health and wellness trivia night.



I am also the Landscape Architecture Rep for the Dalhousie Agricultural Students Association, where I bring the concerns of students in my program to the larger student governing body.

#### **How has receiving an award affected you as a student?**

This award has allowed me to worry less about financial issues that I will face after graduation. It has allowed me to make purchases for school (such as drafting equipment and computer software like Adobe), that I would have otherwise needed to pay out of pocket.

The award has also emboldened me to work harder and achieve higher, as I view them as a motivating factor that someone is paying attention to my academic performance.

This award has given me a boost to my academics through alleviating the financial burden that my education has, and for that I cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

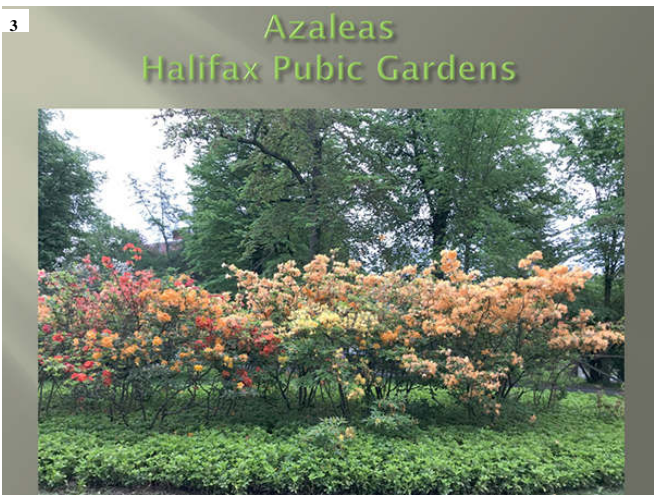
**PASSIONATE PLANT PERSON AWARD**

# Rhododendrons 101 an ARHS presentation

## By Ruth Jackson September 2024

### Rhododendrons and Companion Plants

Rhododendrons are plants for all seasons. Rhododendrons have impressive flowers. They are one of our few broadleaf evergreens. Furthermore, they like acidic soils that are common of in the Atlantic Provinces. Picture 2 shows rhododendrons in the Halifax Public Gardens. Note the setting of the plants as well as the blossoms. The rhododendrons are protected by trees in the background, but they are not overshadowed by them. Also notice the shape of the large pink flowered rhododendron. It is broader than it is tall, and it is probably 10 feet tall. Picture 3 in the public gardens shows flowering azaleas. The azaleas again have a background of deciduous trees. The azaleas are smaller plants. Their range of colours, include but are not limited to yellow, orange, and red shades that are not commonly seen in the larger leaf rhododendrons. Note that sometimes the word rhododendrons is used, and other times word azaleas (picture 4). Both the azaleas and the rhododendrons are in the genus rhododendron. The word rhododendron is correct for both. Commonly the word rhododendron is used to indicate larger plants with thicker trunks, leathery leaves and have 10 or more stamens. In contrast, azaleas a subset of rhododendrons tend to be smaller, more delicate plants. They may lose their leaves, but the significant difference is that they have 5 stamens. Picture 5 illustrates that not only do some rhododendrons such as *Rhododendron yakushimanum* have showy flowers, as you see in the picture, but also have attractive flower buds. The bright buds add weeks of colour to the plants.







5

*R. yakushimanum*  
'Mist Maiden'



6

Consider the Leaf

**Consider the Leaf**

The leaves of rhododendrons are often overlooked. Picture 6 shows John Brett in his garden on Morris Island, near Yarmouth. It has a slightly warmer climate than most of the Atlantic Provinces, so he is able to grow more tender plants with huge leaves. Picture 7 shows a selection of leaves from my garden in Halifax except for the largest leaf by the ruler that is the one that John Brett has in his hand. There is a diversity of leaf sizes that provide gardeners with a wide range of choices to explore in garden design. An under appreciated trait of the broad-leaved rhododendron's leaves is their ability to thrive in our climate. Picture 8 addresses how rhododendrons have adapted to freezing temperatures. The leaves change orientation from being perpendicular to the stems to parallel, and they roll. What does the plants accomplishing by this is this? If you prevent the leaf from folding parallel to the stem in winter, the leaf will turn brown and be unable to photosynthesize in the spring. The curling of the leaf is also believed to have a purpose. It creates a slightly warmer temperature, so the leaf thaws out slower, so the cells are not damaged. The leaf response provides a way of estimating temperature in the winter. They change orientation at  $-4^{\circ}$ .



7

Consider the Leaf



8

Leaf Response to -4 C

Picture 9 points out that rhododendrons are often divided into two classes. The smaller leaved plants are called lepidotes. They have littler leaves with minute scales on underside of the leaf. The larger leaf rhododendrons are called elepidotes or without scales. Picture 10 shows additional characteristics of rhododendron leaves: size, shape, and texture. The leaves surface can be shiny or hairy and have a soft velvety feel. If the fuzz is on the top of the leaf, it is called tomentum. If it is underneath, it's called indumentum. The tomentum and indumentum are an asset to the plant in various ways. It helps with respiration, and it also provides some protection from insects. For the gardener, the surface characteristics of the leaves add an opportunity to design for long season interest when the plants are not in bloom. Picture 11 directs our attention to rhododendrons that lose their leaves. A plant such as *Rhododendron schlippenbachii* or the Royal Azalea with its pure pink flowers has an extended season of beauty in the fall when its leaves turn colour.



9

## Consider the Leaf

Elepidotes large leaf  
Lepidotes little leaf with scales

## Consider the leaf

Tomentum & Indumentum  
Textural and structural interest in all seasons

10

## Consider the Leaf

Fall Colour

11

## Changing Seasons Spring

Pinegrove Park, Liverpool

Garden near Peggy's Cove

13

### Rhododendrons in the Seasons

The impact of rhododendrons varies through the seasons. Because rhododendrons are broad leaved evergreens, the snow rests on them making interesting patterns in the winter). However, if the snowfall is heavy and wet and rain is predicted followed by freezing temperatures, using a broom to gently sweep the snow off might prevent broken limbs.

Picture 13 shows rhododendrons in the spring. In the upper portion of the picture the azaleas in Pinegrove Park in Liverpool are making a bright display in a range of colours oranges, yellows, pinks, whites. On the lower portion of picture 13 lepidotes in a garden by the sea are displayed. This garden is windy, and the smaller leaved plants are better adapted to this condition. Picture 14 was taken in the summer when most of the blossoms are gone. The red arrow shows a rhododendron with indumentum contributing textural interest.

## Changing Seasons Summer

14

## Designing with Rhododendrons

"Rockburn" Garden, Ferguson's Cove

15



## Designing with Rhododendrons

The following pictures feature gardens of members of our society (ARHS). These gorgeous gardens incorporate rhododendrons, companion plants, native vegetation, and exploit the natural features of the landscape. In academic garden terms they celebrate “the genius of the place”. The first garden on a hill (picture 15 - previous page) incorporates gravel and rock lined paths. Picture 16 from the same garden shows carefully placed and sized controlled plants producing the effect of a tapestry. The deciduous trees have been limbed up to allow filtered light. Picture 17 is from a garden in Mahone Bay that has a broad, sweeping lawn. The rhododendrons are interplanted with conifers, shrubs, and perennials. The garden is protected around the edges by trees. Picture 18 from the same garden, shows how the rhododendron flowers evolve with time. The pictures are taken about a week apart and different plants display more profuse bloom. When purchasing a rhododendron, there is usually an information tag that gives blooming time: early, middle, or late. You could plan a garden in which the plants bloom concurrently that would be photograph equivalent of a single print. Or you could arrange your garden so that the plants bloom over an extended period of time; in contrast to a single photograph, you are making a video. Picture 19 is from a garden in Kingswood that was originally covered in forest. Notice that the trees have been limbed up so there is sufficient light to grow rhododendrons and a wide variety of perennials and shrubs. Picture 20 was taken in an urban garden in Dartmouth, smaller in scale than the previous gardens, and the plants have been chosen accordingly. There are small trees and the compact rhododendrons supported by perennials. The Japanese maple foliage and shape contrast with the rhododendrons, particularly in the fall when they turn bright colours. Large rhododendrons have their own charm. Picture 21 is from a garden on Hall’s Road near Purcell’s Cove, created by a founding member of the club, dominated by mature rhododendrons. In the lower left-hand portion of the picture a person is visible beneath the rhododendrons. It is important to consider the mature size of a rhododendron.





20

## Garden of Bob Pettipas



Acer palmatum 'Aureum' & evergreen azalea 'kuisianum' in Bob Pettipas garden



### Boulderwood - Hall's Road

21



## Rhododendrons grow !!

22

Rhododendron 'Roseum Elegans'



## Many new gardens are cut out of the forest ~2015

23



## Same place in garden the shed is hidden 2024

24

Picture 22 addresses growth rate and size of rhododendrons. The rhododendron in this picture is about 30 years old. John for scale is about 6 feet tall; the rhododendron is approximately 10 to 12 feet in height, and wider than it is tall. In the lower corner John's hand shows that the growth on that rhododendron is about 8 inches per year. Decisions have to be made on whether you want a fast or slow growing rhododendron. It is vital to read the specifications on the label. It should give you the estimated size at 10 years. Note, the plant does not stop growing in 10 years. Large rhododendrons have a particular use in the garden. Gertrude Jekyll, one of the pre-eminent gardeners of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the arts and crafts movement, pointed out that rhododendrons were valuable in creating the transition from the forest to the garden. Picture 23 is from the garden in Kingswood and the photo was taken about 10 years ago. There is a shed and through the trees you can see a house. Like many

gardens in new subdivisions, the lots have been cut out of a forest. The trees in a forest do not have branches and leaves the reach the ground except on the edge. Picture 24 is a recent picture of the garden. The red arrow shows the position of the shed and the neighbor's house is no longer visible. Choosing the size and placement of plants is important for the long-term management of your garden.



## Strategic Plant Spacing

A) Put in small plants that have slow and steady growth  
Consequence - a sparsely planted bed

B) Put in large plants with faster growth for instant success  
Consequences - plants are over crowded

C) Plan to remove some plants  
Consequences - long term stability and interest in the border

25

26

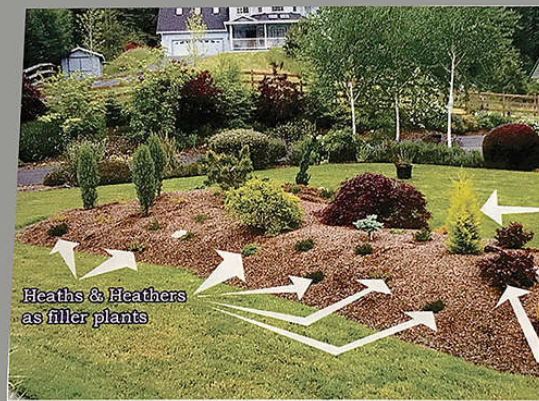


Fig. 5. An example of an initial planting in a real garden.

Permission from Dan S. Wallace | JARS



Fig. 6 How the garden looks after seven years.

Permission from Dan S. Wallace | JARS

27



Fig. 5. An example of an initial planting in a real garden.



Fig. 6 How the garden looks after seven years.

28

Picture 25 explains strategies for plant spacing in developing a garden bed. Patient gardeners could lay out a bed with plants that have slow growth and wait for the plants in the bed to mature. Most people don't have that kind of forbearance. A common choice is to put in plants with faster growth that within a few years will fill the bed. Consequently, you will have overcrowding. Another strategy is to put in specific plants that grow large but interspersed with plants that are slower growing and not as long lived. Picture 26 is an example from an article in JARS (Journal of the American Rhododendron Society). The site is probably in California. The plants are not the same as we grow, but they illustrate the principle. To establish a reference point, at one edge of the picture, there are three cylindrical conifers. At the front of the bed there are heaths and heathers as filler plants. They are shorter lived, but they are providing early interest. Picture 27 shows the same bed seven years later. You see the three cylindrical evergreens and note the growth on the plants. The planting of the bed stills looks controlled. Picture 28 compares the bed at a seven-year interval. The bed looks good for many years and significantly the maintenance is reduced.

### Care and Maintenance of Rhododendrons




As pointed out considering the space a mature rhododendron will require (picture 29) is crucial for limiting work in the future. Drainage is critical for rhododendrons. If it is a wet spot, they will not thrive. In the various gardens shown the rhododendrons were located in full sun or received filtered light beneath limbed up deciduous trees. Wind can be a problem for rhododendrons, the lepidotes deal with it better. Wind can be reduced with a border around the garden of larger trees. In the Atlantic Provinces, our soil pH is generally acidic, that is suitable for rhododendron growth. However, the soils are low in organics and adding additional organics is helpful. Picture 30 shows a root bound plant. There are several techniques of dealing with this problem. The middle picture shows cutting wedges out of the root ball and the lower picture illustrates spraying water on it. Once the root ball is prepared, it is ready for planting (picture 31). Rhododendrons are shallow rooted, so there is no need to dig a deep hole. The hole can be than wider than the root ball and adding organics may encourage the roots to spread out. If the area is wet and soggy, do not plant the rhododendron flush with the soil, raise it. Picture 32 illustrates removing the spent flowers from young plants or recently transplanted rhododendrons, to prevent the plant using energy to produce seeds. In the lower corner of the picture, the thumb and finger are used to snap off the wilting flowers. Rhododendrons are shallow rooted so mulching them is helpful to conserve water and reduce weeding.



using hoes near rhododendrons roots is not recommended, it could damage their surface roots. Rhododendrons are light feeders; that is, they require little fertilizer (picture 33). Azaleas thrive on a handful of fertilizer spread around and away from the trunk. Otherwise not a lot of care is needed.

### Site selection

- Space For Mature Plant
- Drainage
- Sun/Shade
- Wind/Exposure
- Soil Ph And Organics

29

### Rootball Preparation

- Loosen pot bound roots
  - Cut out wedges or use fingers if not too tight
  - Spray of water from hose is another method





30

### Planting

- Dig hole about 3 times the width of the root ball, not much deeper
- Amend backfill with organics ?
- Place rootball so finished height is flush or **slightly higher than surrounding soil**




31

### Deadheading






32

### Transplanting

Transplant just after flowering for best results

Keep well watered during the first year





33

### Mulching & Fertilizing

Mulch reduces weeds, maintains moisture & temperature.

Rhodos are very light feeders  
Azaleas benefit from annual feeding after blooming

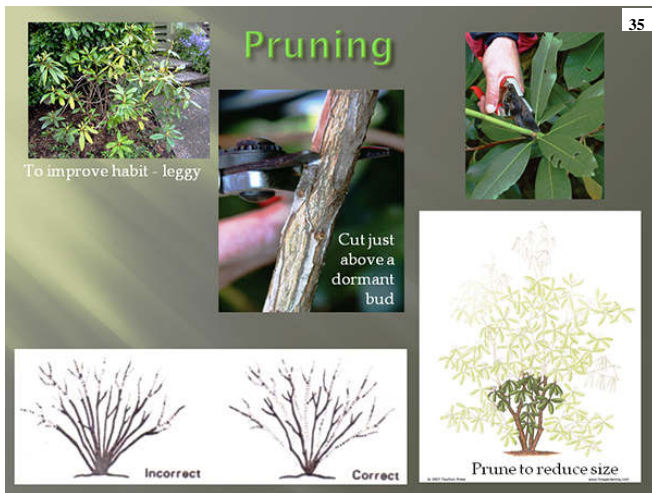
- 6-12-12: a handful spread evenly over the mulch and away from the trunk
- Never use aluminum sulphate on or near rhodos or azaleas – it is toxic






34





Picture 34 illustrates transplanting. Because rhododendrons have small root balls it is relatively easy to dig them up and move them. After you've done this, keep them well watered for the first year. However, if we considered the plant size at maturity, transplanting should not be necessary. However, enthusiastic gardeners are prone to over planting, leading one members of our society with an extensive garden experience to complain that rhododendrons need to be transplanted so often they should be on wheels. Picture 35 addresses pruning for shape and size. The sooner the plant is shaped the better. A club member consulting on a garden in which large rhododendrons blocked the view, she recommended hard pruning. The plants were cut back to stumps and within a few years they were growing on. The plants are resilient.

### Pests and other problems

Fortunately, it's not often rhododendrons harbour pests (Picture 36). However, if you have a plant that is not thriving, carefully examine it. Note in the picture the section labelled borer and stem damage. Action has to be taken to address this problem or the rhododendron will die. Look at the stems carefully, if the stems are hollow and you can see that there are larvae in them the problem has difficult to de deal with. There are sprays that can be purchased, but you have to get the spray under the leaves to reach the insects. There are also nematodes that can be released. However, the bugs when they chew on the stems produce a fine sawdust like material that makes it difficult for the nematodes to reach them. A more common problem and one that is easier to deal with is the Black Vine Weevil. They chew notches in the leaves and the larvae, a white semicircle shaped larva, feed on the roots. They can be dealt with by applying nematodes. You can buy the nematodes at garden centres such as Halifax Seed. They are released in June, on a wet day. All the problem insects will not be killed but you will be able to control the infestation and your plants will survive. Another possible problem is revealed by the leaves that are yellow with bright green veining indicating an iron deficiency. You can acquire chelated iron to correct this problem.



### ARHS recommended Rhododendrons and Companion Plants

The ARHS has presentations not only on rhododendrons but also on companion plants. There are numerous plants that enhance the rhododendron garden with similar cultural requirements that have different bloom times, shapes, and textures (picture 37). For example, *Viburnum plicatum* 'Mariesii', the doublefile viburnum, has layered branches with flowers in the spring.



Plants like *Daphne* 'Carol Mackie' are early blooming and scented. There are small trees like *Stewartia pseudocamelia* that bloom after the rhododendrons and have striking fall colour. A small tree recommended by our society is *Cornus kousa*, the Korean Dogwood (picture 38). It blooms after most of the rhododendrons, or at the same time as Rhododendron maximum in early July. The Korean dogwoods showy "flowers" are actually bracts, so the tree is in "bloom" for about six weeks in shades of white, pink and red. The fall colour of the leaves is spectacular, and the bark is attractive. The magnolias are adapted to slightly acid soil conditions, and they blossom in whites, pinks, yellows, and various sizes. For smaller gardens there is a group of magnolias called The Little Girl series. The smaller rhododendrons look great planted out with perennials, small shrubs, and conifers. The witch hazels (*Hamamelis*) that bloom in February and March are a welcome sight (picture 39). Whenever the temperatures rise above freezing, they unfurl their strappy petals. There are perennials to choose from that are shade tolerant such as Japanese forest grass (*Hakonechloa*). These plants mentioned are just a small selection of companion plants that are available.

Picture 40 acknowledges the gardens displayed in the pictures.



On the ARHS website there is a list of proven performers, plants that over the years have been successful in our gardeners. The list is based on hardiness, bloom time, flower colour and height. Remember size is at 10 years, not the ultimate dimension (picture 41). The list is divided in four different sections that are shown in picture 42. The elepidotes (picture 43) are the large or "elephant" leaved plants. The flowers tend to come in pinks, purples, and whites. There are a few red and the yellow flowering plants that are considered choice. A selection of the recommended lepidotes is shown in picture 44. These are smaller plants, with flowers in shades of pinks, whites, yellows, and purples. The blue purple is particularly attractive in these lepidotes. A subset of the recommended deciduous azaleas is shown on picture 45. On the plant labelled 'Weston's Innocence' the 5 stamens typical of azaleas can be counted. The Northern Light Series of azaleas has a wide range of colours. One of my favorites azaleas is 'Pink and Sweet' because of its late bloom time in late July, early August. In picture 46 a few evergreen azaleas are shown. These plants can be low growing and drape over rock, especially in gardens that are windblown.





43

### Proven Performers Elepidotes (Large-leaf)



44

### Proven Performers Lepidotes (little leaf)



45

### Proven Performers Deciduous Azaleas



46

### Proven Performers Evergreen Azaleas



47

Additional Information at  
[www.atlanticrhodo.org](http://www.atlanticrhodo.org)



Thank you!

If you want more information, you can go to the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society website. <https://atlanticrhodo.org> The club meets on the first Tuesday of the month starting in September. Since COVID most lectures are available on Zoom as well.

Transcribed and edited by Jean Henshall. ☺

## Book Review

**The Arts and Crafts Garden by Sarah Rutherford. Shire Publications 2013 p 81**

**ISBN 978 0 74781298 2**

Sarah Rutherford has packed a great deal of information about the development of the arts and craft garden and its history into this small book. The profuse photos illustrate her points well. There is a list of the key designers and some of their gardens. There is also a list of gardens to visit with their addresses and telephone numbers. I enjoyed learning about the history of the development of Arts and Crafts garden and I think this book is an excellent introduction into history of design in English gardens. This book is definitely a must read for gardeners interested in design.

If you have a book if that you would like to recommend to the readership about rhododendrons, azaleas and their companion plants please write a book review and send it to the Editor for inclusion in another issue of AtlanticRhodo.

The email address is [atlanticrhodo@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticrhodo@gmail.com) ✉

**- Jean Henshell**

## Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society Board Members and Other Roles

If you want to contact ARHS please use the [atlanticrhodo@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticrhodo@gmail.com) e-mail address.

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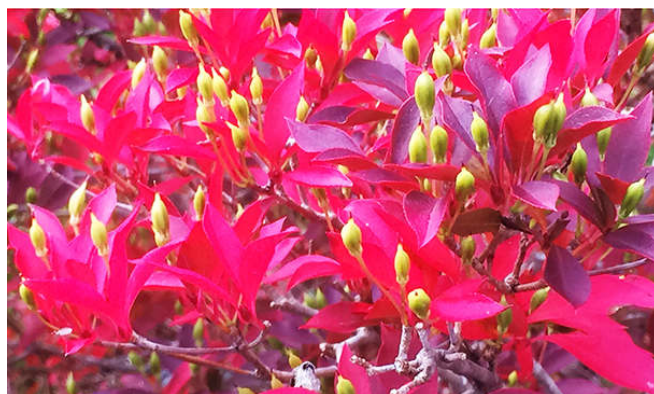
**Jim Sharpe, Rebecca Lancaster, Jamie Ellison, Judy Estey, Justin Morash, Andrea Dawson**



**Photo Album - Autumn Colour, often under-appreciated as a garden feature.**



*Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Ruby Slippers'. [Donna Evers]



*Enkianthus serrulatus*. [Donna Evers]



*Corylopsis spicata* 'Aurea' [Donna Evers]



*Liriodendron tulipifera*. [Donna Evers]



Staghorn sumac– *Rhus Typhina*. [Sterling Levy]



Virginia Creeper – *Parthenocissus*. [Sterling Levy]



*Hamamelis* 'Jalena'. [Sterling Levy]



Crabapple 'Red Jade'. [Sterling Levy]