

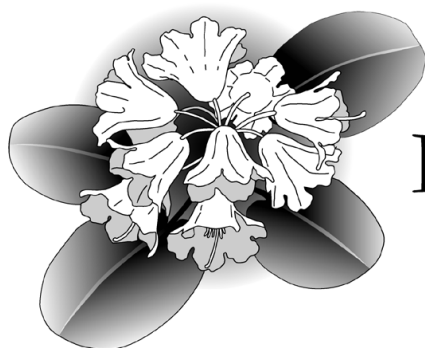
# AtlanticRhodo

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

Volume 48: Number 2

December 2025





# 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, 2025 to August 31, 2026. 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 \$74.00 Canadian. Members receive electronic copies of the ARS journal.

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:**

**Jamie Ellison**

**Layout:**

**Sterling Levy**

Cover Photo: *Enkianthus campanulatus* (Alleyne Cook selection). [Photo Jamie Ellison]



## President's Message

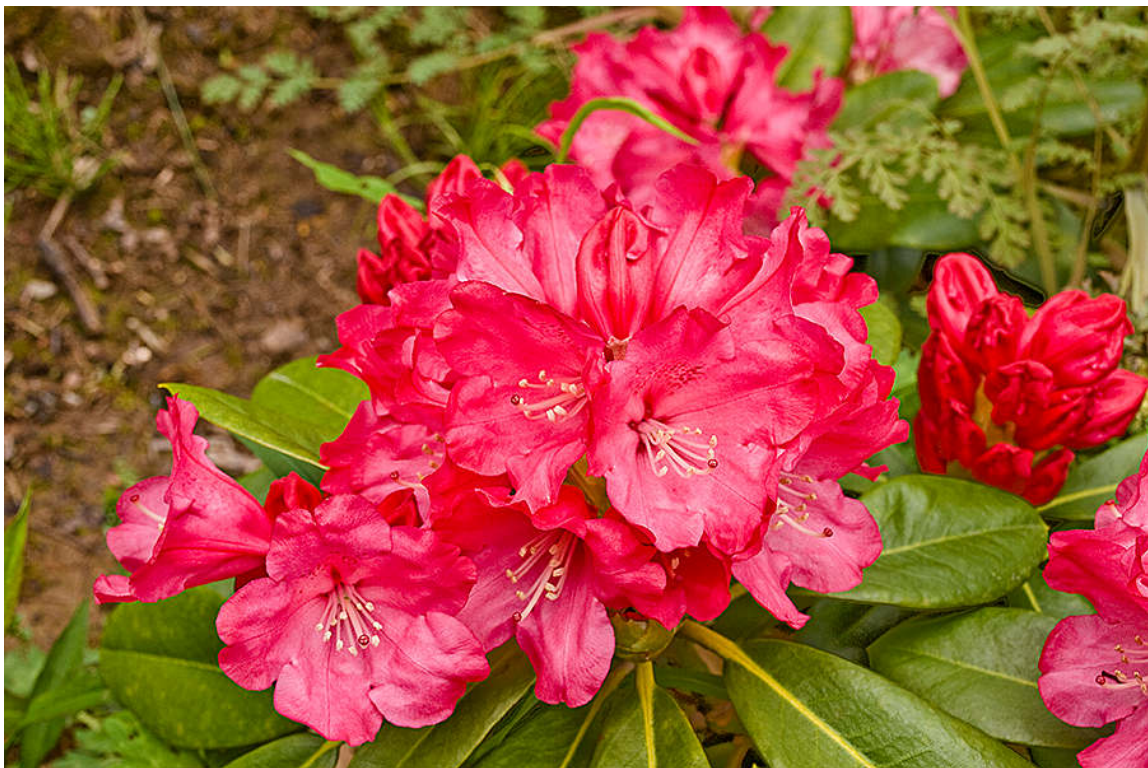
Last year was another successful year for ARHS with monthly programs at the NS Museum and by Zoom from September to May. In June we welcomed rhodo enthusiasts from across North America, Europe and New Zealand to the “Emerging Trends in Rhododendrons” ARS convention at Devour Studios and Acadia University in Wolfville and touring exceptional gardens with ARS members before and after the Convention. We also had a very successful convention and public plant sale at the Wolfville Farmer's Market. Thank you to all the ARHS volunteers who helped with the registration, tours and plant sale.

This year we had 140 members and about 30 also joined the American Rhododendron Society. We are working to make the membership renewal process easier. Financially the convention and garden tours were a success, with a surplus for the year of \$5,492.22 so our current balance is just over \$50,000. If you have any ideas or proposals for future projects for ARHS please contact me at [atlanticrhodod@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticrhodod@gmail.com).

Due to a vacancy for the Editor of Atlantic Rhodo we only had one issue last year. Jamie Ellison has volunteered for the fall 25 issue. Thank you to Jamie for putting together the issue and to Sterling Levy for the layout.

At our December 2 meeting the members will share pictures of our garden or garden travels. (in person at the NS Museum and by Zoom) and hold our holiday social (in person only). For the three winter months January, February and March, we will meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month by Zoom only. Current plans include presentations on the Rhodo Gardens of Vancouver Island to promote the ARS 2026 Convention and the Gravel Garden at Chanticleer Gardens in Wayne, PA.

We are planning on a spring plant sale that would include both pre-ordering for members and sales for the general public. We hope to use Victoria Park in downtown Halifax on Saturday, June 13, 2026. ☐



R 'Morgenrot'



# Exploring the Gardens of the Maritimes

By Andrew Booker *Rhododendron Collections and Project Officer, Pukeiti Gardens, Taranaki Regional Council, New Zealand*

Earlier this year, my partner Karyn and I headed off to the Maritimes on Canada's east coast to explore the remarkable landscapes of Nova Scotia. Our destination was Wolfville and the American Rhododendron Society Convention. The gathering of passionate rhododendron enthusiasts and specialists—held in a wonderful historic setting—focused on emerging trends in the world of rhododendrons, including conservation and hybridization.

It was during this time that we repeatedly heard the name Captain Dick Steele, along with stories of his influence on



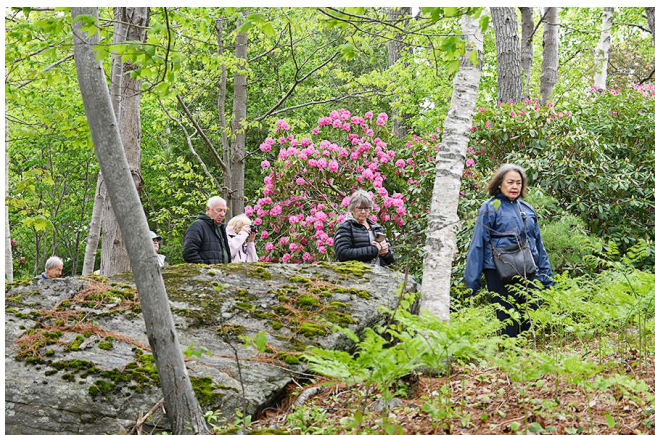
Captain Dick Steele



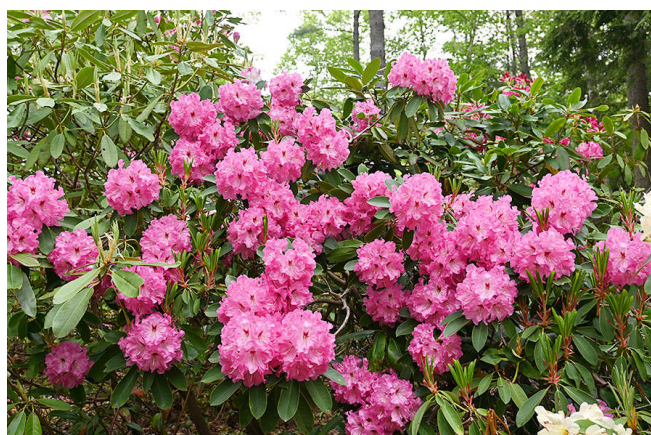
Steele Garden sign

rhododendron cultivation throughout the Maritimes—an influence that linked several of the garden landscapes we visited.

Captain Steele, a naval officer, plantsman, nurseryman, and breeder, was a friend to many and had an enormous impact on the growing of rhododendrons in the region, something we came to appreciate very quickly. Before the convention proper had begun, the pre-tour visited the Halls Road Gardens in Halifax—the site of Captain Steele's Boulderwood Nursery and now a community of shared landscapes filled, of course, with his plants.



Wandering between the gardens.



R. 'Barbara Hall'

Large rhododendrons dripping with bloom, both cultivars and species, greeted us warmly as we slipped between the unfenced properties of the many enthusiastic neighbours. These were cold-hardy plants—beauties such as **R. 'Barbara Hall'**, resplendent in pink and bred by Steele to withstand temperatures down to  $-28^{\circ}\text{C}$  and remain sunfast, surviving the harshest winter or warmest summer.

To see individual properties united in one seemingly endless landscape that followed one man's shared dream was a stunning start to our journey around the Maritime region. It had all begun with a letter outlining what might be possible, backed by a promise of support. For us, coming from the Southern Hemisphere, this was also an introduction to cold-hardy rhododendrons—not something we ever had to contemplate in New Zealand, though commonplace to our northern





Walking through Pine Grove Park.

travelling companions. The families made us all welcome, offering guided walks, homemade cookies, and a lemonade stand—sharing their homes, gardens, and enthusiasm.

Another of Captain Steele's community projects was Pine Grove Park in the town of Liverpool, where, along with the local mayor, he convinced the town's lumber industry to establish a park. His drive and support resulted in a 50-acre woodland garden enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. We spent a delightful couple of hours wandering the trails with the former mayor, admiring the masterful mix of introduced rhododendrons among the trunks of hemlocks, remnant rocks, and lush groundcovers. The underplanting—provided solely by nature—included treasures such as *Cypripedium acaule*,



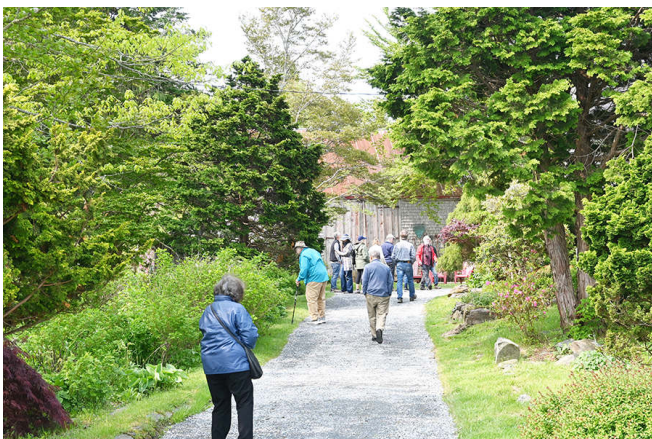
*Cypripedium acaule*



*Cornus canadensis*

*Cornus canadensis*, and others we could only covet and photograph.

The scale of Steele's passion—and the resources that enabled him to support gardens and gardeners—became even clearer when the tour reached Bayport and the nursery where Captain Steele spent his final years. *Fig. 9* Stretching across several acres, the twisted trunks of what appeared to be ancient rhododendrons—cultivars all—stood above mossy logs, streams, and piles of abandoned pots. Scattered remnants of deer netting hinted at desperate attempts to keep browsers away from treasured plants, though we heard stories of Steele managing to keep more deer **in** than **out** of his nursery. The property is



Entering the garden.



Into the beyond.

now undergoing a slow, faithful restoration by the current owners, intended more to celebrate the garden that was than to revive it as a business.





The tangled rhododendrons.

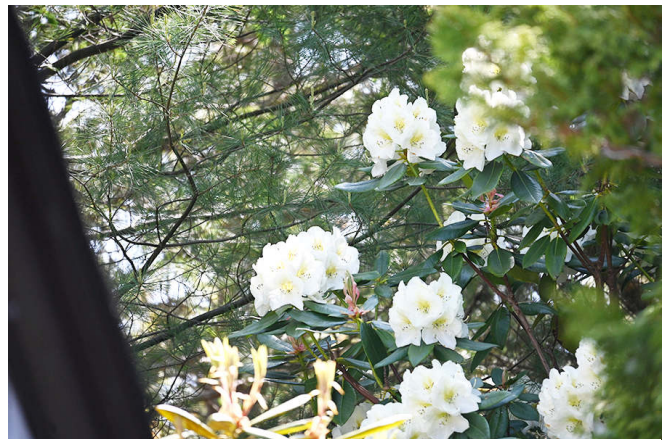


Derelict pots

Further examples of the man's influence could be seen at Morris Island, where John Brett—whom we had met at Halls Road—maintains another garden tucked away at a waterside retreat. A tall stand of hemlock sheltered the garden from the road, screening a large plant of **R. 'Phyllis Korn'** and other treasures. A cooling breeze came off the water on the opposite side. Plants shared by Captain Steele through his long association with John and his family allowed them to enjoy a wide



John Brett & *Rhododendron rex*.



R. 'Phyllis Korn'.

range of cold-hardy rhododendrons—ticks and blackflies included (sandflies, to us southern folk). One plant John was particularly proud of was *Rhododendron rex*, which hid from the harsh sun beneath a sprawl of birch and hemlock. Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens came as the final stop on the pre-tour. This community project, launched in 1981 and supported by Steele—whose energy for beautifying the landscape seemed tireless—showcased a broad range of plants and landscapes



Down the garden path with friends.



Acadian cottage with thatched roof.





Rhododendron grex - Kentville Research Station.

celebrating the Acadian people and local history, supplemented with the beauty of the plant of the moment: the rhododendron.

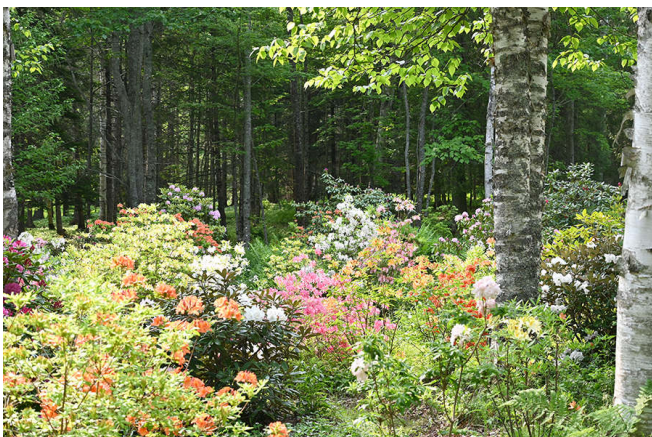


R. 'Bellefontaine'

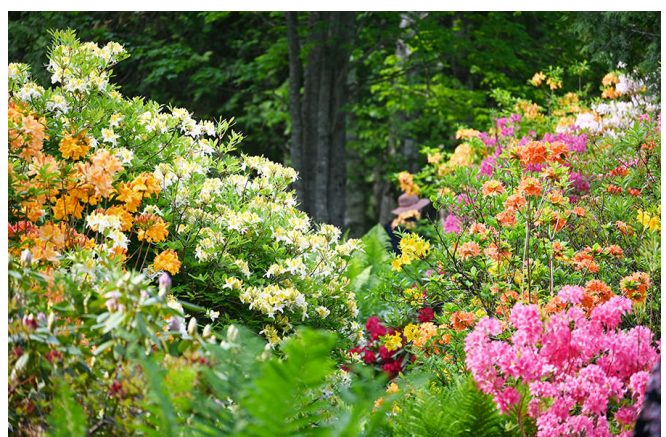


Admiring the Ghent azaleas.

Possibly the most amazing sight of the entire Convention, at least for me, was found at the Kentville Research Station, where much of Captain Steele's earlier work eventually settled. Although the illusion is aided by the slope, the vast sprawl of a rhododendron grex—including in its progeny **R. 'Bellefontaine'**—was astonishing. Note the lone piper standing in the



Freeman Patterson's woodland dream.



Pastel swathe.





Enjoying the garden.



*Rhododendron atlanticum*.

bottom right of the scene—initially there to signal the start and end of the tour, she provided an unexpected sense of scale. Other notable plantings included Ghent azaleas and several cold-hardy selections under evaluation.

## The Exotic Bleeding-hearts

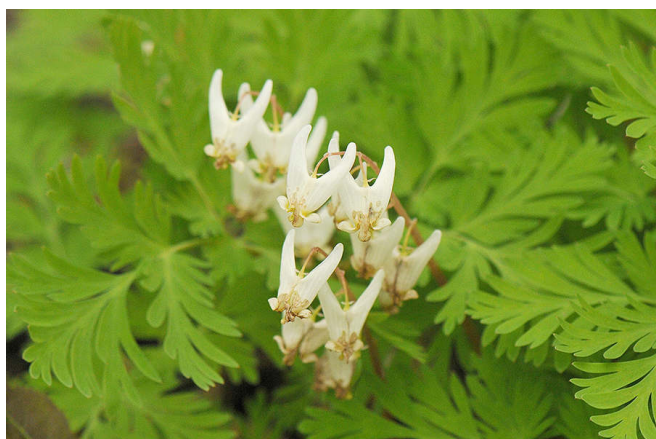
By Todd Boland



*Lamprocapnos (Dicentra) spectabilis*. [Photo Jamie Ellison]

For many gardeners, one of the most elegant garden perennials is Japanese bleeding-heart, *Lamprocapnos (Dicentra) spectabilis*. Even the species epithet says it all...spectacular! Native to Japan, northern China and Siberia, this woodlander created quite a stir in Europe when first discovered, since, at the time, no other garden plants had such bizarre yet beautiful flowers. The arching racemes of pink, distinctly heart-shaped flowers in May and June are unmistakable. Plants reach 60-90 cm with coarse, fern-like foliage that is waxy-green, often blue-tinted. The early spring growth is bright pink, a wonderful addition to the spring garden. This most exotic of flowers is now a standard perennial in many gardens throughout Canada. Once quite rare but now readily available is the less vigorous pure-white form called 'Alba'. Relatively recent is the red-flowered cultivar called 'Valentine'. This is a Canadian introduction discovered as a chance seedling by a gardener in British Columbia. Perhaps the most spectacular of all Japanese bleeding-hearts is 'Gold Heart' whose foliage is brilliant golden-yellow! The contrast between foliage and bright pink flowers is striking.





*Dicentra. cucullaria*



*D. formosa. 'Luxuriant'*

The remaining bleeding-hearts, the true *Dicentra*, are all plants of much smaller stature, 30-45 cm, with more finely-cut, fern-like foliage and smaller blossoms. Most are native to North America with one outlier in eastern Asia. The two most popular are the fringed bleeding-heart, *D. eximia*, from eastern North America, and Pacific bleeding-heart, *D. formosa*, from the west. These species, while not as showy as their Japanese cousin, have a much longer blooming season, extending into late summer if moisture levels are adequate. Their growth is so vigorous that they make admirable groundcovers in shady areas. The two species are quite similar but *D. formosa* is the more floriferous and larger-flowered of the two, with more selections available on the market. It has rose-pink, broader flowers and grey-green to blue-green foliage on plants 30-45 cm tall. 'Bacchanal' is perhaps the most popular selection with grey-green foliage and wine-red flowers. 'Aurora' is a white-flowered selection. *Dicentra eximia* has narrow, light pink flowers and pale green foliage on plants about 30 cm tall. The white form is called 'Snowdrift'.

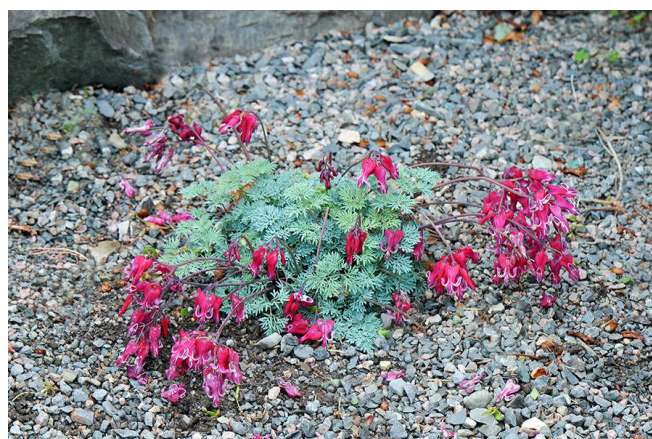
There are two ephemeral woodland species from eastern North America: squirrel corn, *D. canadensis*, and Dutchman's-breeches, *D. cucullaria*. Both reach 15-30 cm, producing white flowers in May. These are wonderful subjects for growing under taller deciduous trees and combined with other early-flowering plants such as spring bulbs, trout lilies, trillium and hepatica. Keep in mind that, being ephemeral, they will go dormant and disappear by early summer.

The most dwarf and exquisite species is the alpine bleeding heart, *D. peregrina*. Plants have a delicate disposition, with fern-like, gray-green, ground-hugging leaves and 10 cm stems topped with a small cluster of pale to dark pink hearts. It is native to Japan, China and nearby Siberia. It is rarely seen and probably just as well as it is known to be very challenging to grow.

There are many dwarf bleeding hearts of hybrid origin on the market. Most are hybrids between *D. eximia* and *D. formosa*. 'Luxuriant', has very blue foliage, cerise-pink flowers and grows about 30-45 cm tall. 'Adrian Bloom' is quite similar but has crimson-rose flowers. Other pink-toned hybrids include 'Bountiful' (deep pink), 'Stuart Boothman' (rosy-pink), 'Amore Rose' (bright rose-pink) and 'Spring Magic' (pale rose-pink). Among the white-flowered hybrids are 'Langtrees', 'Margery Fish', 'Silver Smith', 'Sweetheart' and 'Snowflakes'. With the richest colour tending to bright red are 'Fire Island', 'Red Fountain' and 'Fire Cracker'.



*Dicentra 'Langtrees',*



*Dicentra 'Burning Hearts'*





*Dicentra* 'Burning Hearts'



*Dicentra formosa*

The 'Hearts' series are cultivars that infuse *D. peregrina* into the *D. eximia* and *D. formosa* hybrids. These are the smallest bleeding-heart hybrids, usually under 20 cm, with many having wonderful blue-tinted foliage. 'Candy Hearts' has dusky-rose flowers, 'King of Hearts', carmine-pink, 'Burning Hearts', cherry-red with super-blue foliage, 'Ivory Heart', white, 'Love Hearts', creamy-white with touches of pink and the very unique and desirable 'Sulphur Lights', the only primrose-yellow bleeding-heart, with the added bonus of exquisite touches of deep pink. Despite having the difficult-to-cultivate *D. peregrina* in their background, these hybrids are much more easily accommodated.

Cultivation of bleeding-hearts is generally easy. Hardy to zone 3, they may be grown across much of Canada. Being woodland plants in the wild, they appreciate a humus-rich soil that never completely dries out. Dappled shade or morning sun-afternoon shade is ideal but they will tolerate full shade and even full sun if grown under moist cooler conditions such as coastal Atlantic Canada and British Columbia. If conditions become too dry and warm, the Japanese bleeding-heart may go summer dormant so it may be wise to combine them with ferns and hosta that can cover the bare space left by the faded plants. The other bleeding-hearts are not as quick to go dormant, especially if kept moist. Under ideal conditions, they will bloom from spring until fall, a feature rare in most perennials. Grow them as a groundcover or combine them with other woodland plants such as hellebores, small hosta, astilbe and hakone grass. Every garden deserves at least one bleeding-heart but with the varieties now available, try several of these most exotic of garden plants. ☐



*Enkianthus campanulatus*



# The Seasons of Enkianthus-The Bell that Rings Twice

By Jamie Ellison

*Enkianthus* is a small yet captivating genus in the heath family (Ericaceae) that deserves wider recognition in temperate gardens, particularly in the northeastern regions. Native to the eastern Himalayas through China and Taiwan to Japan, *Enkianthus* species are primarily deciduous shrubs, occasionally reaching small tree stature. They are cherished for their delicate, pendant, urn- or bell-shaped spring flowers and, often, spectacular autumn foliage. Botanically, they occupy a unique position within Ericaceae as the sole members of the subfamily *Enkianthoideae*.

## Hardy Species for Northeastern Gardens

The following species are reliably hardy in temperate zones of the Northeast:

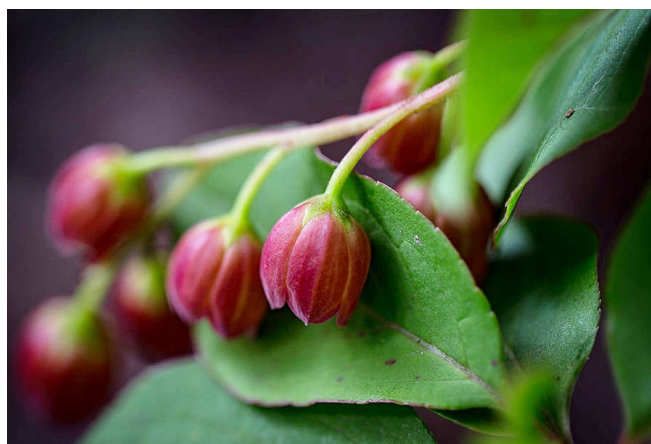
*Enkianthus campanulatus* — Redvein Enkianthus

*Enkianthus perulatus* — White Enkianthus

*Enkianthus cernuus* (including *f. rubens*) — Drooping Enkianthus



*Enkianthus campanulatus* 'Bruce Briggs'



*Enkianthus cernuus* *f. rubens*.

Redvein Enkianthus (*Enkianthus campanulatus*) is among the hardiest and most widely cultivated species. Typically growing 1.8–3 m tall, it can occasionally reach greater heights in ideal conditions and is generally hardy to USDA Zone 5 (Canadian Zone 5a–5b). In late spring, it produces abundant drooping racemes of small, bell-shaped flowers, cream to white with striking red or pink veins—hence the name “redvein.” Numerous cultivars emphasize flower colour and size, including ‘Showy Lantern’, ‘Bruce Briggs’, ‘Sikokianus’, and ‘Red Bells’, which offer shades from cherry red to vibrant red. An unregistered selection by the noted plantsman Alleyne Cook features cherry-red bell-shaped flowers on an upright form, while ‘Albiflorus’ displays creamy white flowers with minimal red veining. White Enkianthus (*Enkianthus perulatus*) is slower-growing, more compact, (1-2m) and is slightly less hardy than *E. campanulatus*, best suited to zones 5b–7. It is valued for neat clusters of pure white bell-shaped flowers in spring, followed by glossy foliage that turns brilliant red and orange in autumn. A noteworthy, rarer selection is ‘Compacta’, which grows under 2.5 cm per year and pairs beautifully with lepidote rhododendrons, dwarf conifers, or in rock garden settings. Drooping Enkianthus (*Enkianthus cernuus*) lives up to its name with slender, nodding racemes of pure white, deeply lobed, and fringed bells, giving each flower a delicate, filigreed appearance. The red-flowered form (*f. rubens*) is particularly prized for its cherry-red drooping bells, though both species and cultivars are less commonly available. Hardiness is comparable to the preceding species and plants grow 1-2 m.

All three species offer dual seasonal highlights: delicate spring bell displays and glossy foliage that transform into striking copper, orange, and red tones in autumn. In Nova Scotia, autumn colour typically begins in mid-October and can last into November, depending on site conditions—earning *Enkianthus* the fitting title, *The Bell that Rings Twice*.

## Cultural Requirements

*Enkianthus* prefers acidic, humus-rich, well-drained soil. They do not tolerate waterlogged clay; incorporating organic matter and ensuring good drainage is key to their success. They are best grown in part shade or morning sun with afternoon



*Enkianthus perulatus* ‘compacta’





*Enkianthus perulatus*



*Enkianthus campanulatus*

protection in hotter climates. In cooler climates, they tolerate more sun, which enhances autumn colour. Deep shade reduces flowering and diminishes fall colour intensity. Maintain consistently moist (but not soggy) soil. Mulching with leaf mold or bark is beneficial and helps keep roots cool. Like most Ericaceae, *Enkianthus* are not heavy feeders and rely on complex mycorrhizal associations to meet nutritional needs. For colder sites, *E. campanulatus* and its selections are the best choice. Less hardy species and selections are worth trying in colder zones, benefiting from sheltered spots, away from drying winter winds and salt exposure. Plant where roots remain cool and moist, and mulch to protect against freeze-thaw cycles.

### **Landscape Uses and Companion Plants**

*Enkianthus* have compact, often layered, branching habits that suit mixed shrub borders, woodland gardens, acid rock gardens, and ericaceous groupings alongside rhododendrons, azaleas, *Pieris*, and heathers. Its pendant flowers provide a graceful spring display, smaller cultivars make attractive specimens or focal points near paths, allowing flowers to be admired at eye level. Autumn displays are often spectacular, adding seasonal structure when other shrubs remain green.

Every temperate garden deserves at least one *Enkianthus*—a truly *Elegant Bell of the Woodland*. ☐

### ***Editor's Note:***

We are pleased to present an excerpt from the November 2025 Newsletter of the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (British Columbia). Provided courtesy of the editor Linda Derkach.

The section highlights visits to Nova Scotia gardens during the Spring 2025 ARS Convention in Wolfville, NS.

We also call your attention to the announcement for the April 2026 ARS convention on Vancouver Island. (page 23 )



## ***Nova Scotia Adventure***

*In June of 2025, passionate rhododendron enthusiasts congregated in Wolfville, Nova Scotia for the ARS 2025 Spring Convention organized by the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society. As a proud Canadian, I wanted to see more of Nova Scotia than the brief touch-down some years ago on my way to England. I was thrilled to be able to tour parts of this beautiful province and enjoy great camaraderie, spectacular scenery and great food. The Annapolis Royal Historic Garden was one of our stops. Here are some great memories.*



This gracious home was built around 1871 and stands at the entrance to the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, graced by modern-day rhododendrons.

Annapolis Royal and the gardens are nestled in the Annapolis Valley and on the shore of the river bearing the same name. History abounds here and includes French and English settlers who arrived on the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq First Nation, whose enduring presence and traditions continue to shape the spirit of the community today. Interestingly, this past weekend saw the 2025 North American Conker Championship held at Annapolis Royal Historic Garden!

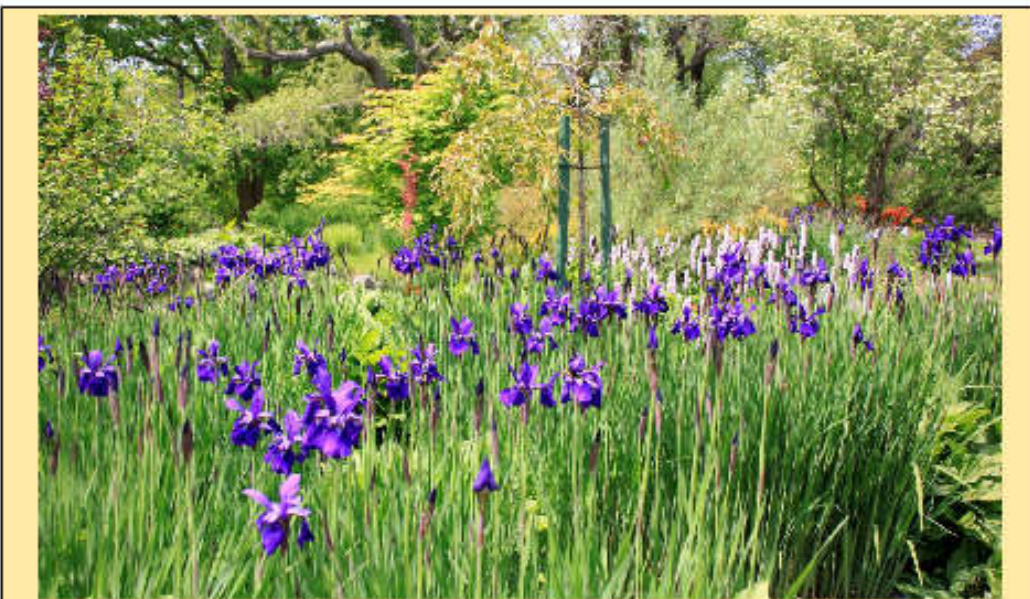
*Words and Photos: Linda Derkach*

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The Historic Gardens at Annapolis Royal have been in operation since 1981 and contain many fine old trees.



Gently winding paths led us to this spectacular drift of iris and the pale pink *Bistorta officianalis* in the background.

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A sweeping path beside three connecting ponds is guarded by a bank of luscious deciduous azaleas, and includes a wonderful specimen of 'Gibraltar'



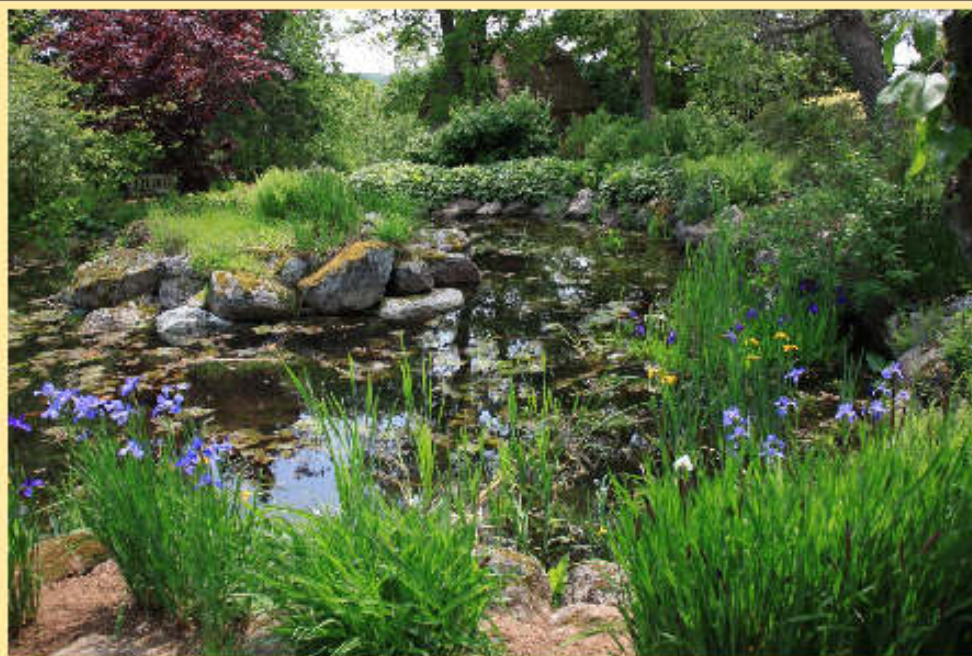
*Rhododendron 'Gibraltar'*







Connecting ponds near the rock garden were lined with beautiful, shade-loving plants like this vigorous Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum*)



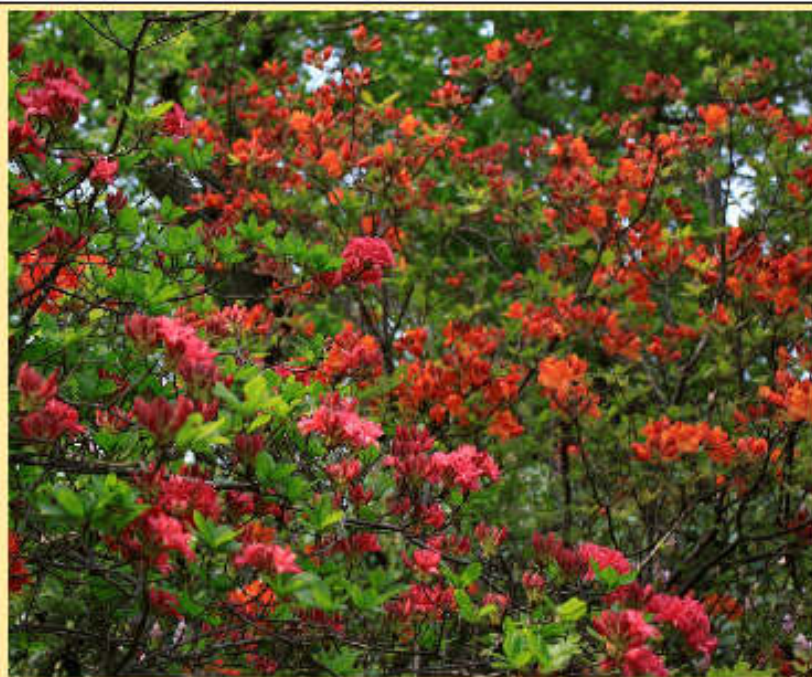
The ponds lined with many, varied marginal plants that don't mind having their toes in the water.

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*Rhododendron 'Strawberry Ice' (Deciduous azalea)*



Towering deciduous azaleas mingle to create stunning and colourful combinations in the Ericaceous Collection.

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*Rhododendron* 'Minas Maid' here and below was bred by G.S. Swain in 1966 and selected by Donald Craig at the Kentville Research Station in Nova Scotia. A cross of 'Nova Zembla' and *degronianum* ssp *yakushmanum*, the flower buds of 'Minas Maid' are hardy to -25 Celsius. As Nova Scotia is considerably cooler than coastal BC, the major bloom time for rhododendrons is early June. Climate zones range from Zone 5b to 6b in coastal areas. Thus rhododendrons must be tough as well as beautiful!







The garden borders a riverside marsh with views of a Butterfly Garden and Native Plant Collection. This striking red evergreen azalea spills over and through the boardwalk fencing and the viewing area.

This huge, old deciduous magnolia (right) is about to bloom in mid-June. Below, the wisteria on this arch can only be described as exuberant!!







### **La Maison Acadienne**

This authentic replica of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Acadian home features small infill and post and beam structure with parged walls and small paned windows containing glass panes or animal hides. Originally built in 1981, it was largely re-built in 1996 when more specific information about Acadian design techniques was available. The walls are mud and there is an interior clay chimney with a stone fireplace. The bake oven, also made of local clay, is on the exterior chimney wall. The thatch on the roof comes from the garden's own stand of Norfolk reed, an excellent, long-wearing thatching material.

Acadians grew medicinal herbs and a variety of vegetables, including beets, carrots, onions, chives, parsnips, cabbages and turnips, some of which can be seen in the potager. This evocative kitchen garden has four symmetrical beds in traditional French style, with hedges and a pole fence to keep out foraging animals. A small orchard surrounded by a French willow hedge contains early varieties of apples and pears.

During our visit in June 2025, the humming/buzzing of hundreds (*thousands?*) of bees could be heard at a distance as they nested in the thatched roof.

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This intriguing weathered doorway leads to the Rose Garden. A spectacular *Hydrangea petiolaris* (Climbing Hydrangea) totally obscures the adjoining fence. Ferns and other companions create a lovely, verdant companion garden.



Architectural *Podophyllum pleianthum* flourishes in moist, acidic, organically rich, leafy, well-drained soil in part shade to full shade. Hardy in zones 6 to 8, Mayapple blooms in May and June in cooler Nova Scotia.

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Peonies in June in Nova Scotia

## 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.

<b>President, Program Director,</b>	<b>Jim Sharpe</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Nancy Lewis</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Judy Estey</b>
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	<b>Lynn Brooks &amp; Ying Watt</b>
<b>Member at-Large</b>	<b>Roslyn Duffus</b>
<b>Seed Exchange &amp; Atlantic Rhodo</b>	<b>Jamie Ellison</b>
<b>Plant sale coordinator</b>	<b>Marion Bryson</b>
<b>Layout Atlantic Rhodo</b>	<b>Sterling Levy</b>
<b>Zoom Meeting Support</b>	<b>Rebecca Lancaster</b>
<b>Auditor</b>	<b>Chris Hopgood</b>





## ARS 2026 Spring Convention

*Vancouver Island, BC, Canada*

***Tuesday, April 21  
to Saturday, April 25, 2026***

**Please join us for this fabulous 5-day event on  
Vancouver Island, British Columbia**

Register for the **ARS Convention in Qualicum Beach on Friday, April 24**, then choose one or all of the pre- and post-convention garden tours. Each day of garden tours is individually priced, lunch included. Dinners are optional. More detailed information on travel and accommodation on the website soon.

- **Tuesday** – Pre-tour of gardens from Victoria to Shirley, BC with the *Victoria Rhododendron Society (VRS)*
- **Wednesday** – Pre-tour of public and private gardens in Victoria with *VRS*
- **Thursday** – Pre-tour of country gardens by car in the Cowichan Valley with the *Cowichan Valley RS*, starting late morning.
- **Thursday evening** – Early arrivals in Qualicum Beach are invited to join us for no-host beverages and/or dinner at the Shady Rest Pub on the Salish Sea.
- **Friday** – **ARS Convention & Rhododendron Species Foundation AGM at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre:** Welcome breakfast, speakers, plant sale, prizes, lunch, Milner Gardens & Woodland tour, social time with friends, ARS Awards and optional buffet dinner. All organized by *Mount Arrowsmith RS* and *Nanaimo RS*; Plant sale managed by *North Island RS*.
- **Saturday** – Post-tour of gardens from Qualicum Beach to Nanaimo organized by the *Nanaimo RS*. Optional dinner in the evening at a local restaurant.

Convention link: <https://marsrhodos.ca/2026-ars-convention/>

***Registration Opens in early January 2026***

***Everyone Welcome!***

***Mt. Arrowsmith RS – Nanaimo RS – Cowichan Valley RS – Victoria RS – North Island RS – RSBG***