

AtlanticRhodo

www.AtlanticRhodo.org

Volume 31: Number 1

February 2007





Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

Positions of Responsibility 2006 - 2007

President	Sheila Stevenson	479-3740	Director - Social	Available	
Vice-President	Ruth Jackson	454-4861	Director - Horticulture	Audrey Fralic	683-2711
R.S.C. (National) Rep.	Sheila Stevenson	479-3740	Director	Cora Swinamer	826-7705
Secretary	Lyla MacLean	466-4490	Newsletter	Mary Helleiner	429-0213
Treasurer	Chris Hopgood	479-0811	Website	King Butler	542-5805
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Past President	Penny Gael	826-2440	Seed Exchange	Sharon Bryson	863-6307
Director - Education	Jenny Sandison	624-9013	May - Advance Plant Sale	Ken Shannik	422-2413
Director - Communications	Mary Helleiner	429-0213	May - Public Plant Sale	Duff & Donna Evers	835-2586

Membership (Please Note Changes)

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$15.00 from January 1, 2007 to August 31, 2007, due January 1, 2007. Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008, due September 2007. Make cheques payable to Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society. ARHS is a chapter in District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. For benefits see ARHS website www.atlanticrhodo.org

American Rhododendron Society

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

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

Please include name, address with postal code, e-mail address and telephone number, for organizational purposes only.

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

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Cover Photo: 'Vinecrest'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



Calendar of Events

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

Tuesday January 2 Caye Harris-Allum will talk on “How to Grow and Care for Clematis and their Rose Companions”. Caye is a local resident who will talk on these most spectacular vines for your garden.

Tuesday February 6 Sandy Robertson will speak on “The Evolving Landscape Trade”. Sandy owns and operates “Earthcraft”, a successful and award winning landscape company from Bedford. He is very active in the development of professional standards in an industry that has suffered from ignorant operators. He will tell us what we should expect from professional landscapers and the qualifications they should hold.

Tuesday March 6 Steve Doonan will speak on “Cypripediums, the Growable Orchids.” Steve is a renowned alpine expert doing a tour of the north-east. We are lucky to have him speak on these most interesting orchids, several of which grow in Nova Scotia. Wouldn't it be great to be able to grow them in our gardens?

Tuesday April 3 Mary and Chris Helleiner will speak on “Wild Flowers of Crete.” Crete in April is a wildflower paradise – cyclamen, irises, asphodel, orchids, tulips and many other species are found there.

Tuesday May 1 **Place to be announced.**
May Meeting Sale. Our annual event which always causes a lot of buzz. Remember, if you are selling you must be a paid-up member and plants should be unusual or difficult to obtain. Please donate any of the more common varieties to the Public Sale. Also on this evening we will take some time collectively to pull together an evaluation of the rhodos we are growing. This should be very helpful to the new gardener.

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



A very warm welcome to our new and returning ARHS members who have joined since the February 2006 Newsletter:

Richard Belyea
Harold Berg
Paul Cabilio

Williamswood
Rochester MI USA
Wolfville

Barbara Fearon
Farah Murphy

Dartmouth
Eastern Passage

xxxx

Special Notices

Membership Dues

Dues for 2007 were payable January 1, 2007. See inside front cover for information. **Dues must be paid before ordering from plant sales or seed lists. Anyone who has not paid by April 1 will be deleted from the membership list and will not receive the May Newsletter.**

If in doubt as to whether you have paid, contact Betty Macdonald, Betty534@hfx.eastlink.ca. 852-2779.

Sales Confusion

We have standardized the names of our sales to avoid confusion:

Tissue Culture Sale – self explanatory. For members only.

May Meeting Sale – plants sold by members at the May meeting. See Calendar of Events.

Pre-order Pickup – Pick up for plants ordered from list in this issue. For members only.

Public Sale – Plants contributed by members and nursery grown plants, open to the public. Our main fund raiser.

2007 Tissue Culture Sale

This will be held on Saturday , March 31 at St. Andrew's Centre, 6955 Bayers road, Halifax. Pickup time will be 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. If you have pre-ordered plants please be certain to make arrangements to have them picked up if you are unable to do so yourself.

Work Day at Kentville Research Station

This will be Friday April 27. Contact Chris Hopgood, 479-0811, for information.

Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club

ARHS members are invited to Steve Doonan's lecture "Kabschia Saxifrages and their Culture", March 7, at 7:00 p.m., Cox Institute Room 24 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. ☺

ARHS Activities

September: Don Hyatt spoke about native American azaleas from the East Coast. He showed slides of the magnificent spring display in the Appalachians, when rhodo society members trekked into the mountains, and recommended that our local Society initiate such trips. He invited our members to join his trips: see his website www.donaldhyatt.com. Don donated some prints of the azaleas to ARHS which will be used as door prizes. They may also be purchased from his website. Native azalea seed donated by Don appears in our Seed Exchange list.

October: Two Steele lectures filled the Museum auditorium to capacity. Jens Birck spoke once again, this time on peat gardening, showing pictures of amazing rhodos grown in peat beds. The downside, for Nova Scotia gardeners, is that the peat blocks which support these gardens, and the coarse peat which fills them, is not available here. It is rumoured to be for sale in Quebec. Svend Hansen's lecture was about exploring in Sichuan and Yunnan in China for native rhodos. The illustrations were spectacular.

November: We welcomed Philip Macdougall back from the west coast; (the clematis talk was deferred to January). Once again there was a sell-out crowd at the Museum. Philip's talk was on shade plants, mainly Chinese; many of these were stunning and unusual and new to most of us. He told us about a source in China (Chen-Yi's catalogue – check her website.) Unfortunately Chinese plants cannot be imported into Canada.

The November issue of *Ericaceae*, the newsletter of the Toronto branch of the Rhododendron Society of Canada, contains a short piece on Captain Steele's recently named rhodo 'R.A.S'.

December: The Christmas party was well attended as usual. Members from the South Shore and Antigonish managed to come in spite of a snow storm the previous day. Both slides and digital images were shown. An attractive Christmas centrepiece of evergreens and pieris buds was donated by Ken Shannik and raffled for Feed Nova Scotia, raising \$43.00. It was won by Carol Morrison.

January: The clematis talk by Caye Harris-Allum was also well attended. It was announced that donated copies of gardening magazines would be available for borrowing, on an experimental basis. ☘

2007 Seed Exchange

By Sharon Bryson

Welcome to the 2007 Seed Exchange for the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society. This year is another example of interesting and challenging seed choices. We wish to thank the many contributors who have made this possible.

Plant enthusiasts outside of our regional society have again made contributions to our annual exchange. When you look over the list, say a thank-you to all of the contributors.

From among the many contributors, I would like to point out a few specifics. Kristian Theqvist from Finland has again sent us seeds from several of his interesting crosses. He has been continuing his hybridizing work on elepidotes aiming at super hardy hybrids. This year he has sent seed lots having “hardy” seed parents crossed with a number of interesting species as pollen parent. All of his crosses are cp, *i.e.* controlled pollination, where stigmas have been protected before and after pollination. W. Reich has been sending seeds for the last few years. Many of his crosses are aiming for improvements in several lepidote varieties. The aim for red is prevalent in some of the seed lots. Jens Birck, who visited Nova Scotia as part of the Steele Lectures this year, has again sent an interesting selection. Seeds for several azalea species are being made available courtesy of Mike Creel and Don Hyatt from USA. These two are among the most knowledgeable azalea enthusiasts in North America. All are encouraged to give some of these native species a try. Pictures and links will be available online.

The deadline for submitting your order is Feb 28, 2007. Please remember that the seeds go out on a first-come, first-served basis dependent on seed quantity. Get your orders in early and you have a very good chance of getting everything on your list. It is VERY helpful to list second choices on the order form. If none are listed, we have to make a small executive decision!

We are again anxious to encourage people to try growing rhododendrons and azaleas from seed. Anyone who needs information on growing rhododendrons from seed is encouraged to check out the CD from the ARHS library. Online information is available at both the AtlanticRhodo and the Willow Garden websites. To this purpose we are offering TWO FREE packages of seed to anyone interested, whether or not you order any other seeds. These are noted in the seed list. Please send the order form and \$2 to cover postage in the usual way. If you need further planting instructions, please ask.

At the end of each Seed Exchange there are inevitably leftover seeds. Should any of you be affiliated with gardening groups in your local areas and wish to share these, please contact me and we can make arrangements. There is no predicting what may be left, but it could be interesting.

Once again we will post the Seed List on the internet and insert many images and links to help in your decision-making. Check this out at <http://www.willowgarden.net>. Follow the links for ARHS Seed Exchange. A link to the list will be inserted on the Atlantic Rhodo site. www.atlanticrhodo.org

The Seed Exchange will be open to the world at large after our Feb.28 closing date.

Stories of your past successes and/or failures with seed growing are most interesting and welcome. Try contributing to the “interest factor” this year. Comments or suggestions regarding the Seed Exchange are also encouraged. You can send a note with your order or email at sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca

Have a fun time planning and planting from this year’s list. ☘

ARHS 2007 SEED EXCHANGE

INSTRUCTIONS

Seed packets are \$2.50 CDN each for collected wild, \$2.00 CDN each for hand-pollinated and \$1.50 CDN each for open-pollinated seed. One packet per lot per person. More may be ordered but are subject to availability. **All orders must be on the form provided and should be received by February 28, 2007.** Save this seed list for some of the footnote information.

Send all orders to: Sharon Bryson, #407 Old Maryvale Rd., RR#3 Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2L1 CANADA Please make your cheque or money order payable to 'Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society'. Add \$2.00 CDN for postage & padded envelope. Please list substitutes as quantities for some lots are small.

US regulations now require an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate. Seeds sent to the US will be shipped without a phytosanitary certificate and at the orderer's risk.

SEED LIST

DONORS: **BIR** - Jens Birck, Copenhagen, Denmark **CLA** - Chris Clarke, Liverpool, NS **CLY** - Bruce Clyburn, New Waterford, NS **COR** - Wendy Cornwall, Halifax, NS **CRE** - Mike Creel, Lexington, S.C., USA **DAN** - Carol Dancer, Victoria, BC **DOI** - Yasuyuki Doi, Hokkaido, Japan **DUF** - Rosylyn Duffus, Fall River, NS **FRA** - Audrey Fralic, Port Mouton, NS **HAN** - Svend Hansen, Danstrup, Denmark **HAR** - Gloria Hardy, Halifax, NS **HOP** - Chris Hopgood, Halifax, NS **HYA** - Don Hyatt, McLean, VA, USA **LOO** - Jack Looye, Niagara on the Lake, ON **MAC** - Philip MacDougall, Surrey, BC **MAT** - Stefan Mattson, Enkoping, Sweden **NIE** - Remi Nielsen, Norway **OST** - Walter Ostrom, Halifax, NS **RAH** - Fazal Rahman, Bridgewater, NS **REI** - Wolfgang Reich, Germany **SAN** - Jenny Sandison, Mahone Bay, NS **SHA** - Ken Shannik, Halifax, NS **SMI** - Ruth Smith, Halifax, NS **THE** - Kristian Theqvist, Finland **WEA** - John Weagle, Halifax, NS **WIL** - Bill Wilgenhof, Antigonish, NS

Rhododendron Species – Collected Wild - \$2.50

- 001 HYA *arborescens*
- 002 HYA *arborescens* Compact white - Collected wild, Macon County, North Carolina
- 003 HYA *calendulaceum* Engine Gap, NC Appalachian Trail in the Roan Highlands
- 004 HYA *calendulaceum* Big Yellow Mountain NC (Roan Highlands) Oranges, bicolours & some good reds in area
- 005 HYA *calendulaceum* Hooper Bald, NC large flowers, mostly oranges & gold
- 006 HYA *calendulaceum* Red - collected wild, Avery County, North Carolina
- 007 HYA *calendulaceum* Yellow - collected wild, Carter County, Tennessee
- 008 HYA *calendulaceum* Mix (wide variation: yellow, orange, to red) collected wild, Mitchell County, North Carolina
- 009 HYA *calendulaceum* Mix (mostly orange but some variation) collected wild, Jackson County, NC
- 010 HAN *elegantulum* cw
- 011 MAC *formosanum* Taiwan 2710M
- 012 MAC *hyperythrum* Taiwan
- 013 BIR *kesangiae*, cw WB
- 014 MAC *rubrospilosum* Taiwan
- 015 MAC *rubrospilosum* Taiwan 2300 M
- 016 MAC *rubrospilosum* Taiwan 2975 M
- 017 THE *tomentosum*, Turku Archipelago, Finland
- 018 NIE *tomentosum* RAN0023 The most western population known. Telemark County, Norway
- 019 NIE *tomentosum* RAN0024 Second of two populations, truly isolated and relic. Telemark County, Norway
- 020 NIE *tomentosum* RAN0025 Buskerud County, Norway. South end of Roytjern. 294M

- 021 HYA *vaseyi* Mix - Collected wild, Transylvania County, North Carolina

Rhododendron Species - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

- 022 BIR *camtschaticum* Goteborg - will come true
- 023 CRE *chapmanii* isolated selfed, 05 seed
- 024 CRE *eastmanii*

Rhododendron Species - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 025 WIL *albrechtii*
- 026 OST *ambiguum*
- 027 HYA *arborescens* Large white (selfed?), original plant came from Macon County, NC
- 028 OST *brachycarpum erimo*
- 029 OST *brachycarpum*, low form
- 030 WEA *camtschaticum*, Rishiri form
- 031 RAH *canadense* 'Alba' - white version of native Rhodora
- 032 WIL *canadense* (Native Rhodora) - fuchsia
- 033 OST *caucasicum*
- 034 HAN *decorum* aff. op
- 035 WEA *fragrantissimum*
- 036 WEA *kaempferi*, ex. 'Hakodate' (sibbed) Halifax Public Gardens
- 037 WIL *kiusianum* - pink forms
- 038 REI *lapponicum* OP
- 039 WIL *maximum*
- 040 HOP *minus* Carolinianum Group - dark pink
- 041 WIL *minus* Carolinianum Group - pink / multi-budded
- 042 WIL *mucronulatum* - pink form
- 043 WIL *mucronulatum* - white
- 044 WEA *mucronulatum* v. *taguetii* dwarf form
- 045 CRE *periclymenoides* Flat Creek Fuchsia
- 046 HAN *praevernum*, selfed
- 047 HYA *prunifolium* Orange-red Garden plant (selfed?)

048 WIL *schlippenbachii*, pinker form
 049 OST *schlippenbachii*, from Meagher's pink form
 050 CRE *vaseyi*, OP group
 Mary Henry Arboretum, PA
 051 OST *vaseyi*, pink-lavender, good form
 052 HYA *vaseyi*

Rhododendron Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated -\$2.00

053 REI 'April Gem' x (*moupinense* x *aureum*)
 054 DOI *aureum* (deep yellow flower) x *falconeri*
 (pollen from Bhutan 3300m)
 055 BIR (*aureum* x *haraeum*) x *prunum*
 056 BIR 'Bambi' x *haraeum*
 057 BIR 'Bambi' x *prunum* wb
 058 CLY 'Bellefontaine' x *R. fortunei* RSF82/026
 059 CLY ('Blue Peter' x 'Calsap') x 'Montego'
 060 DOI *brachycarpum* v. *roseum* x *proteoides* BH064
 061 DOI *brachycarpum* v. *roseum* x *proteoides* R.151
 062 REI *calostrotum* 'Azurika' (Hachman)
 x *concinnum pseudoyanthinum*
 063 THE 'Calsap' x *brachycarpum ssp. tigerstedtii*, cp
 064 THE 'Calsap' x 'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' †1, cp †25
 065 REI *carolinianum* x *valentinianum* v.
oblongilobatum (intense yellow)
 066 THE 'Charme La' †2, selfed, cp
 067 LOO 'Cherokee' †3 x 'Casanova'
 068 LOO 'Cherokee' x 'Rio'
 069 REI *cinnabarinum* Roylei x *concinnum*
pseudoyanthinum
 070 REI *concinnum pseudoyanthinum* x *carneum*
 071 REI *concinnum pseudoyanthinum* x 'Pintail'
 072 REI *concinnum pseudoyanthinum* x 'Scotian Bells' 230
 073 REI *concinnum pseudoyanthinum* x
 'Honeydrops' †4
 074 REI *concinnum pseudoyanthinum* x *cinnabarinum*
 Roylei
 075 REI *concinnum pseudoyanthinum* x *dendrocharis*
 076 CLY 'Connecticut Yankee' x 'Montego'
 077 REI *dendrocharis* A x 'Pintail'
 078 REI *dendrocharis* A x *dendrocharis* D
 079 DOI (*dichroanthum* Apodectum Group x
brachycarpum v. *roseum*) †5 x *lacteum*
 080 DOI (*dichroanthum* Apodectum Group x
brachycarpum v. *roseum*) x *macabeanum*
 081 DOI (*dichroanthum* Apodectum Group x
brachycarpum v. *roseum*) x *tsariense* 'Yum Yum'
 082 REI ('Dora Amateis' x *moupinense*) x *dendrocharis* A
 083 REI ('Dora Amateis' x *moupinense*) x
moupinense x *aureum*, light yellow)
 084 REI 'Dorte Reich' †6 x *concinnum pseudoyanthinum*
 085 LOO ('Double Charm' †7 x 'Sweet Lulu') x 'Casanova'
 086 THE 'Elviira' †8 x *forrestii* var. *repens*, cp
 087 BIR 'Goldprinz' x *prunum* wb
 088 BIR 'Goldspeckl' x *nikkomontanum*
 089 BIR 'Goldspeckl' x *prunum*
 090 REI *hanceanum* (Canton Consul) x *valentinianum*
 v. *oblongilobatum*
 091 THE 'Hellikki' †9 x 'Henry's Red' †10, hp
 092 THE 'Hellikki' x 'Rasputin' †11, cp
 093 THE 'Helsinki University' †12 x *calophytum*, cp
 094 THE 'Helsinki University' x *longesquamatum*,
 095 THE 'Helsinki University' x *prattii*, cp
 096 THE 'Helsinki University' x *taliense*, cp
 097 REI 'Honey Drops' x *cinnabarinum* Roylei
 098 REI *keiskei* (y.f.) x *dendrocharis* A

099 REI *laponicum* x *campylogynum* var. *celsum* x
 (*dauricum* 'Album' x *mucronulatum* 'Album')
 100 BIR *makinoi* (Briggs) x *makinoi* (Kew)
 101 REI (*moupinense* x *aureum*) x *spinuliferum*
 102 LOO 'Mrs. Richard Fennicia' †13 x 'Rio'
 103 REI (*nivale* 'boreale' x *strictophyllum*)
 x *concinnum pseudoyanthinum*
 104 REI *pachysanthum* x *proteoides*, selfed
 105 BIR 'Paprika Spiced' x *prunum* wb
 106 THE 'Pekka' †14 x *calophytum*, cp
 107 THE 'Pekka' x *hemsleyanum*, cp
 108 THE 'Pekka' x *insigne*, cp
 109 THE 'Pekka' x *longesquamatum*, cp
 110 THE 'Pekka' x *prattii*, cp
 111 THE 'Pekka' x *taliense*, cp
 112 REI 'Pintail' x *concinnum pseudoyanthinum*
 113 THE 'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' x 'Calsap', cp
 114 THE 'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' x *insigne*, cp
 115 THE 'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' x *longesquamatum*, cp
 116 THE 'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' x *prattii*, cp
 117 BIR *proteoides* R151 x *prunum* wb
 118 BIR *proteoides* R151 RBGE x *proteoides* BH-064
 119 LOO 'Purple Reign' †15 x 'Blue Baron'
 120 REI ('Razorbill' x 'Laurin') x *cinnabarinum* Roylei
 121 REI ('Razorbill' x 'Laurin') x *concinnum*
pseudoyanthinum
 122 LOO 'R.O. Delp' †16 x ('Casanova' x 'Barbara
 Cook') †17
 123 LOO 'Sandwich Appleblossom' x ('Casanova' x
 'Barbara Cook')
 124 REI (*spinuliferum* x *dauricum nanum*)
 x *mucronulatum* 'Mahoghany Red' †18
 125 REI [*spinuliferum* x *dauricum nanum* (purple-red)]
 x *dendrocharis*
 126 THE 'St. Michel' †19 x *hemsleyanum*, cp
 127 THE 'St. Michel' x *prattii*, cp †25
 128 REI (*wardii* x *macabeanum*) X (*aureum* x 'Prelude')
 129 REI (*wardii* x *macabeanum*), selfed
 130 LOO 'Wizard' x 'Capistrano'
 131 REI (*xanthocodon* x *primuliflorum*
cephalanthoides, white) x *cinnabarinum* Roylei
 132 REI [{*yak* x (*discolor* Hyb. x *scyphocalyx*)] X
 (*discolor* Hyb. x *scyphocalyx*), Hobbie †20} X
ochraceum
 133 DOI (*yakushimanum* FCC x *prunum*) X (*mallotum* x
proteoides) Berg

Rhododendron Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

134 OST *caloxanthum* x *williamsianum*
 135 WIL 'Haaga' - extremely hardy Finnish hybrid,
 dark rosy-pink
 136 OST "Lust", "seed from a lost label plant that grows
 like stink" **FREE**
 137 WIL 'Nepal' - hardy, pink buds opening white
 138 WIL 'Red River' - very late red, *R. maximum* hybrid
 139 WIL seedling from ARS92#608 †21
 aka "Ivory Cloud"
 - large outfacing ivory blooms, hardy
 140 WIL seedling, yellow from ARS92-608
 141 WIL seedling from ARS92#765 †22 aka "Ruby
 Lemon" †23
 142 OST seedling, "my Yellow" [(*brachycarpum* x
aureum) x *caloxanthum*]; low, compact, early, bright yellow
 143 OST "my Yellow Hybrid #1" sibling of above yellow
 144 OST *yakushimanum* x *rex*

Azalea Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

145 CRE *flammeum* RedBank 3 x red *flammeum*

Azalea Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 146 CRE "Between2Roads"
periclymenoides / *canescens* natural hybrid
Pink, ball-shaped truss, tubular florets
- 147 WIL Seedlings from a 'Homebush' cross, many pink forms
- 148 WIL Unnamed - large white flowers- yellow blotch
- 149 WIL Unnamed - Yellow, small florets, likely *luteum* mix, good fall colour
- 150 WIL Unnamed scarlet, large flowers
- 151 WIL Deciduous mix - coral, white, pink, and yellow shades **FREE**

Companion Plants - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 152 SAN *Acanthus hungaricus* (Bear's Breeches) - Per.
- 153 DUF *Amonia tabernaemontana* (Willow Blue Star) blue bloom, late spring -summer 60+cm. - Per.
- 154 DUF *Arisaema flavum* (Jack in the Pulpit) small yellow, slow to emerge in spring. - Per.
- 155 DUF *Asclepias incarnata* (SwampMilkweed) Butterfly favourite Pink 80cm - Per.
- 156 DUF *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Weed) Orange bloom, tap root, resents transplant. ~40cm. - Per.
- 157 HAR *Baptisia australis* (Blue false indigo) Blue-green foliage, purply-blue pea-like flowers. - Per.
- 158 WIL *Buddleia davidii* (Butterfly Bush) - best purple, easy from seed, blooms in the first year, arching habit, late. - Shrub
- 159 WIL *Catalpa ovata* (Chinese catalpa) - creamy white flowers, blooms at young age, 35-40' - Tree
- 160 WIL *Catalpa speciosa* (Northern Catalpa) July bloom 75 Ft.+ - Tree
- 161 WIL *Ceratotheca triloba* (South African Foxglove) - white or pale mauve flowers, ~3Ft. - Annual
- 162 WIL *Clematis recta*, *purpurea* - Purple new foliage, white flowers Herbaceous 3Ft+ - Per.
- 163 SHA *Clematis viorna*, small, thick, purple-pink, urn-shaped flowers Herbaceous
- 164 CRE *Clethra alnifolia* "Creel's Calico" selfed, (Summersweet) variegated foliage. Do not fertilize - Shrub
- 165 WIL *Cornus kousa* 'Chinensis' Spring bloom, small tree
- 166 WIL *Corydalis sempervirens* Blue-green foliage, pink/yellow bloom. Low- Per or self-seedling annual
- 167 WIL *Cotoneaster horizontalis* Fern-like leaf structure, pink flower, red berries - Shrub
- 168 OST *Enkianthus campanulatus* v. *sikkokianus* (J.Weagle) excellent fall colour - Shrub
- 169 WIL *Exochorda x macrantha* (Pearlbush) - white blooms in late spring, ~4' - Shrub
- 170 DUF *Gentiana asclepiadea* (Willow Gentian) Blue form - Per
- 171 SHA *Gentiana asclepiadea* (Willow Gentian) Blue flowers, arching stems ~2Ft. - Per
- 172 SHA *Gentiana asclepiadea* ex 'Alba' (Willow Gentian) white form -Per
- 173 COR *Halesia monticola* (Mountain Silverbell) White flowers followed by winged fruit - Tree to 30 Ft.
- 174 HYA *Kalmia latifolia* White with red stripes (similar to 'Peppermint') - collected wild, Macon County, North Carolina - Shrub
- 175 HYA *Kalmia latifolia* Mix - Mostly pink or white, collected wild, Macon County, NC - Shrub
- 176 WIL *Laburnum alpinum* (Golden Chain Tree) yellow blooms in June. - Tree
- 177 WEA *Lilium henryi* - Waxy orange flowers with green center and reflexed petals. Arching stems. - Bulb
- 178 DAN *Lilium martagon* 'Album' drooping recurved blooms - earliest lily - Bulb
- 179 WIL *Lilium martagon* Pink drooping recurved blooms - earliest lily - Bulb
- 180 FRA *Magnolia* hyb. ex 'Galaxy' tulip-shaped, reddish purple flowers in mid-season on a fast-growing pyramidal shaped tree. †24
- 181 WIL *Magnolia kobus* hyb. ex. 'Leonard Messel' Pink flowers, early spring - Small tree †24
- 182 COR *Magnolia soulangeana* (Saucer Magnolia) Large blooms - Tree †24
- 183 COR *Magnolia stellata* (Star Magnolia) white blooms, early spring - Tree †24
- 184 WIL *Magnolia stellata* (Star Magnolia) Dwarf form white blooms, early spring - Tree †24
- 185 SMI *Minuartia groenlandica* (Greenland Sandwort) Alpine, rare, delicate white flowers, limited seed -Per
- 186 DAN *Paeonia anomala* ssp. *Anomala* - Per
- 187 DAN *Paeonia mlokosewitschii* aka "Molly the Witch" yellow flowers - Per
- 188 DAN *Paeonia officinalis* ssp. *Humulis* Early blooming, deep rose-pink ~12" - Per
- 189 SHA *Paeonia paradoxa* (*officinalis* ssp. *villosa*) - Single bright fuchsia pink flowers with blue-green foliage, 18-24" - Perennial
- 190 MAT *Paeonia suffruticosa* v. *spontanea* - Per
- 191 HYA *Pieris floribunda* White cw, Transylvania County, NC - Shrub
- 192 HYA *Pieris floribunda* - Buds with pink tinge cw, Transylvania County, NC - Shrub
- 193 DUF *Platycodon grandiflorus* ex 'Hakone' (Balloon Flower) white, double form ~70cm. -Per
- 194 DUF *Platycodon grandiflorus* (Balloon Flower) white with mauve streaks ~70cm. -Per
- 195 DUF *Rudbeckia hirta* (Gloriosa Daisy) double form, yellow-bronze shades -Per
- 196 WIL *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (Sweet Brown-eyed Susan) late blooming, tall -Per
- 197 SHA *Smilacina racemosa* (Solomon's Seal relative) Arching stems with terminal racemes of fluffy white flowers followed by red berries. Shade to part shade. 3' -Per.
- 198 CLA *Sorbus vilmorinii* (Mountain Ash) Fern-like foliage, red - purple in autumn; fruits are rose-red, changing through pink to white flushed rose - small Tree
- 199 COR *Styrax japonica* (Japanese Snowbell) white pendulous flowers, late spring 20- 30 Ft. - Tree
- 200 DUF *Tricyrtis* sp. (Toad Lily) spotted cream flowers, August bloom. ~50 cm. Woodland - Per
- 201 DAN *Watsonia* sp. Bulb, from S. Africa, good pot plant

FOOTNOTES

- †1. 'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' (also known as 'Peter Tigerstedt'), super hardy Finnish hybrid
- †2. 'Charme La', large pinkish-purple flowers, Brueckner's lepidote hybrid *minus* Carolinianum Group
- x *pemakoense* Patulum Group

- †3. 'Cherokee' = a plant of the Hages, has large orange-rose flowers
- †4. 'Honeydrops' = 'Laurin' x *cinnabaranum* v. Nepal A.M.
- †5. Dwarf shrub, small indumented leaves, orange flowers
- †6. 'Dörte Reich' = *minus* Carolinianum Group x *cinnabarinum* ssp. *xanthocodon* Concatenans Group
- †7. 'Double Charm' = 'Queen Anns' x 'Golden Star'
- †8. 'Elviira', low growing red flowered hardy Finnish hybrid, *brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* x (*forrestii* var. *repens* hybrid)
- †9. 'Hellikki', red flowered hardy Finnish hybrid, *smirnowii* Seidel hybrid x unknown
- †10. 'Henry's Red', red *catawbiense* seedling x unknown
- †11. 'Rasputin', Hachmann's dark flowered cross = ('Nova Zembla' x 'Purple Splendour') x 'Purple Splendour'
- †12. 'Helsinki University', super hardy Finnish *brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* hybrid
- †13. 'Mrs. R. Fennicia' is a Smirfort (*smirnowii* x *fortunei*) with peachy-salmon flowers
- †14. 'Pekka', super-hardy Finnish *brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* x *smirnowii* hybrid, strong growth
- †15. 'Purple Reign' = (Tet. Carol. x *fastigium*) x (Tet. Carol. x 'Blue Diamond') / Tet. Carol. = tetraploid *carolinianum*
- †16. 'RO Delp' = 'Lodestar' x 'Mary Belle'
- †17. (Casanova' x 'Barbara Cook') is a good hardy yellow, Trautman Cross.
- †18. ex ARS1987#456 Glossy, reddish-purple leaves, especially in winter. Flowers are purple-red.
- †19. 'St. Michel', (also known as 'Mikkeli'), super hardy Finnish *brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* x *smirnowii* hybrid
- †20. Hobbie cross is coppery-red. Cross with *yak* gave orange-pink flowers, fading to yellow; back-cross with the Hobbie plant gave a dwarf, small-leaved plant with red, tubular flowers on long stalks; aim with *ochreum* cross is a plant with more florets per bud.
- †21. ARS92-608 = {['Big Deal' x 'Donna Hargrove'] X ('Golden Star' x 'Catalga')] X *wardi*
- †22. ARS92#765, ('Barbara Cook' x 'Janet Blair')
- †23. Pink buds open to out-facing florets, with dark burgundy flare and throat, florets age to yellowish
- †24. Magnolia seed has been stratified. Store in fridge in plastic packet as received until March/April then sow in warm soil.
- †25. cp = Controlled Pollination, where stigmas have been protected before and after pollination. Exception: 'Hellikki' x 'Henry's Red' was hand-pollinated on wet non-covered stigmas.

NOTES

1. Open-pollinated species, with the exception of a very few, may not come true from seed. Cultivars, with the exception of a few perennials do not come true. Plants from these seeds should not be labelled as being that species or cultivar. Be sure that you label the plants as being 'OP' in the case of species and 'ex' in the case of cultivars.
2. The 2007 Seed List will be posted on the Internet with insertion of images and links to help in your decision-making. <http://www.willowgarden.net>
Follow the links for ARHS Seed Exchange.
A link to the list will be inserted on the Atlantic Rhodo site. www.atlanticrhodo.org
3. See the RSCAR Members' Handbook for an article on growing rhododendrons from seed. The article can also be found on our website.
4. When sowing rhododendrons on peat we recommend you sterilize it first. Microwave it for 15 minutes or pour boiling water through it several times. Allow to cool.
5. We would like to thank the seed donors for their time and effort making crosses, collecting and cleaning seeds. We would also like our membership to take note of the types of seeds donated this year. We highly encourage members to attempt their own hybridization of rhododendrons. Seed of uncommon trees, shrubs and perennials is always most welcome. ☺

Passionate Plants Person Award

By Sheila Stevenson

Timothy LeVangie is the first recipient of the AH &RS Passionate Plants Person Award at Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Tim is in his second year of the two year Plant Sciences Technology program, specializing in ornamental horticulture. He loved looking at hemlocks when he was a kid, and is now interested in tissue culture practices and new cultivars that offer new colour. He is also fascinated by native mushroom populations and blueberry cultivars. Tim chose to spend a mandatory six hour campus volunteer stint as a mulcher in the rock garden, where he did some fancy footwork to avoid damaging the root systems of the plants. He imagines working "in an upscale landscape company."

The Scholarship Committee was particularly impressed with the following excerpts from his application – "my love of plants started when I worked on a small organic vegetable farm [with Katamavik in Ontario]. After that I knew I wanted to do something with plants. I grew up in North Side East Bay [Cape Breton] with a forest as my playground and spent over eleven years in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. This summer I worked for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality taking care of the flower beds on the [Sydney] boardwalk – the best job I ever had. I had free rein to tend to the roses, junipers, spirea, many flowers, hydrangeas and the trees. I took pride in my work and it showed with the many compliments I received."

Following a dinner with all the award sponsors on October 26, 2006, where the ARHS was thanked for joining the ranks of NSAC supporters, Cora Swinamer and Sheila Stevenson attended the impressive Autumn Assembly where students received their awards. ☺

SPRING 2007 ADVANCE PLANT SALE FOR MEMBERS

Quite a few 'new' rhodies offered this year. To augment these there is a large selection of previously offered rhodies - many very popular but hard to find and others choice and even rarer. This is your chance to obtain those rhodies that you missed ordering in the past. A few are noted "Public Sale Only" and can not be pre-ordered. These may only be purchased at the public sale in May.

Quantities of some items are small and others we may not receive at all. You may list substitutes for specific plants on the order form. (i.e. You are ordering plant #1, and if it is not available, you would like to receive plant #3 - enter the number '3' in the "sub" column beside plant #1.)

You may order more than one plant per variety. However, plants will be allocated in the order in which they are received on the basis of one plant per variety per membership. Following this allocation, an adequate reserve will be retained for the public sale. Any surplus will be divided up amongst multiple orders. Please complete the enclosed order form and return it before March 21, 2007. (Orders from new members will be accepted after this date.)

Please note that the mark-up on these plants is minimal. For this reason we are not able to provide a warranty with the plants.

Plants are to be picked up at 5 Sime Ct., Halifax, NS on Saturday, April 28, 2007 between 10:00 am and 2:00 p.m. Sime Ct. is in the Kingswood subdivision off Hammonds Plains Rd. Take Kingswood Dr. (between Kearney Lake Rd. and Farmer Clem's) to Brenda Dr. (the first street on the right) and follow it to the first left which is Sime Ct. Plants are to be paid for when they are picked up. Do not send payment with your order form. Plants will not be shipped. Any plants not picked up on this date will be offered for sale at the public May Plant Sale. ☺

LEPIDOTE RHODODENDRONS

R. 'Angel Powder' (*carolinianum* 'Epoch' x white *mucronulatum*) Large trusses of wavy-edged, dainty white flowers very subtly flushed pink. Mid-season. Upright-growing, dense habit to 5'(1.5m) high. Vigorous & floriferous. One of the best Delp lepidote hybrids. Hardy to at least -20°F(-29°C). (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Anneke Plazek' - [(*carolinianum* x white *dauricum*) x (white *dauricum* x white *mucronulatum*)] Large frilled flowers in ball-shaped trusses are pink in bud and open white with a pink flush. To 6'(1.8m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide in 15 years. Very hardy - buds to -25°F(-32°C) and the plant to at least -30°F(-34°C). A beautiful and extremely tough Hinton hybrid from Ontario. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'April Jewel' - {(Pink *carolinianum* x *dauricum* 'Arctic Pearl') X [*dauricum* v. *nana* x (Pink *carolinianum* x 'Pioneer')] A Looye hybrid similar in colour to 'PJM'. Dense upright habit with excellent mahogany winter colour. Very tough. Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'April Mist' - [(*carolinianum* v. *album* x *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink')F2 x (*dauricum* v. *album* x *dauricum*)F2] Double soft pink flowers with darker pink edges - its flowers seem to glow in the fog. Very early. Dark green foliage turns burgundy in the fall. Can be almost deciduous. Vigorous. Compact upright-rounded habit to 4'(1.2m) high and wide. A beautiful Mehlquist hybrid. Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'April Rose' - [(*carolinianum* v. *album* x *mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink')F2 x (*dauricum* v. *album* x *dauricum*)F2] A floriferous and very early Mehlquist hybrid. Strong reddish-purple double flowers provide a much needed brilliant early splash of colour. Reddish-bronze fall colour. Retains a few leaves over winter. Compact broad-upright habit to 5'(1.5m) high and wide in many years. Requires very good drainage. Zone 5. An ARHS "Top Ten" lepidote. **Public Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)**

R. 'Azuray' - ('Russautinii' x *dauricum* Sempervirens Group) A free flowering bright sky blue hybrid blooming in mid-May. Yellow new growth maturing to olive green. Narrow, upright and open habit growing to 6'(1.8m) high x 3'(0.9m) wide in 13 years. Plant hardy to at least -30°F(-34°C), buds to -15°F(-26°C). A Brueckner hybrid and a sibling of R. 'Bluenose'. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Blue Baron' - ('Starry Night' x self)? An early-blooming Mezitt hybrid with near blue flowers similar to 'Starry Night' ('Gletschernacht') but hardier. Elongated, dark glossy green foliage turns bronze in winter. Compact, mounded-spreading habit growing 3-4'(0.9-1.2m) high and wide. Zone 6. **Public Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)**

R. 'Bluenose' - ('Russautinii' x *dauricum* Sempervirens Group) 2"(5cm) funnel-shaped, clear blue flowers in lax trusses of 3-5. Upright, open habit to 7.5'(2.3m) high and wide in 15 years. Olive green foliage. Plant hardy to -25°F(-31°C), buds to -17°F(-27°C). A Brueckner hybrid bred in New Brunswick. (2 gallon - \$20.00)

R. *dauricum* var. *compactum* f. *roseum* - A very early blooming and nearly deciduous species retaining only a few leaves at the branch tips in winter. These plants are grown from seed produced by the cross-pollination of two clones. The offspring of the cross of these clones has proven to reliably produce compact plants with clear pink flowers. Give it full sun and excellent drainage avoiding frost pockets. Great for the rock garden - will probably be only 1-2'(0.3-0.6m) high in 10 years. Zone 5. (2 Yr. Old Field Grown Sdls - \$15.00)

R. *dauricum* var. *nana* - These are grown from hand-pollinated seed of a select purple flowered clone from Dr. Doi of Japan. Should also be compact and low-growing. Zone 5. (2 Year Old Field Grown Seedlings - \$15.00)

R. 'Dora Amateis' - (*carolinianum* x *ciliatum*) A very floriferous white (with a touch of pink) hybrid. Every spring it literally smothers itself in flowers, hiding its dense, dark green foliage. Mounded habit to 2.5'(0.75m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide. Best in full sun with excellent drainage. Zone 6. An ARHS "Top Ten" lepidote. **Public Sale Only (1 gallon - \$20.00)**

R. 'Ginny Gee' - (*keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy' x *racemosum* Forrest #19404) Bright pink buds open to blush pink then fade to white tinged pink on this Berg hybrid. Multiple trusses of 4-5 flowers create a sheet of bloom. Early. Dense, dark green foliage. To 1'(0.3m) high x 1.5'(0.45m) wide. Perhaps one of the best dwarf hybrids. Zone 6. An ARHS "Top Ten" lepidote. **Public Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Isola Bella' - (*fletcherianum* x *dauricum* 'Album') A Brueckner hybrid, once known as "Mabel R." Beautiful dark green distinct foliage with excellent winter leaf retention. Peach buds open pastel pink and fade to white. Smashing, floriferous and very early. To 5'(1.5m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide with a dense, upright-spreading habit. Bud hardy to -5°F(-20°C) - plant much hardier. Zone 6.
Public Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. keiskei 'Fairy's Fairy' - (*R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy' x *keiskei* "Hardier Form") Pale yellow flowers cover this species in early spring. This is a dwarf Brueckner selection of his cross with a dense spreading habit. Flowers are darker yellow than its mother. Dark green foliage. To 1'(0.3m) high. Hardier than 'Yaku Fairy'. Zone 5b.
(Year Olds. - \$10.00)

R. 'Manitau' - A 'Conestoga' (*carolinianum* x *racemosum*) hybrid. Golden orange buds open to clear, light pink & fade to creamy white. This one covers itself in bloom every year. Early. Bronzy foliage in winter. A semi-dwarf with a dense, compact habit. To 18"(0.45m) high. Zone 5. An ARHS "Top Ten" lepidote.
Public Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)

R. 'Mary Fleming' - [(*racemosum* x *keiskei*) x *keiskei*] A Nearing hybrid with creamy-yellow flowers flushed with salmon-pink. Foliage emerges bronze, ages dark green and turns bronze again in winter. Compact habit to 2'(0.6m) high x 3'(0.9m) wide in 10 years. An ARS "Award of Excellence" winner. Zone 6. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. ('Mary Flemming' x keiskei 'Yaku Fairy') - A knee-high hybrid with a broad spreading habit and cream-coloured flowers similar to keiskei but later blooming. Zone 5b.
A few only. (Year Olds. - \$10.00)

R. mucronulatum var. ciliatum - These are seedlings grown from hand pollinated seed of a dwarf purple variety from Dr. Doi of Japan. Var. *ciliatum* has small hairs on the leaf margins as the name suggests. *R. mucronulatum* is a very early blooming species blooming slightly later than *R. dauricum* and is totally deciduous. The dwarf forms often have striking fall foliage colour. Choice and a great addition to the rock garden. Zone 5. **(2 Year Old Field Grown Seedlings - \$15.00)**

R. mucronulatum 'Cornell Pink' - A beautiful selection of this deciduous species with large bright rose-pink flowers in profusion. Blooms very early in spring before the leaves emerge. Ethereal in the fog! Golden yellow fall colour. Upright willowy habit to 9'(2.7m) high. Requires excellent drainage. Zone 5.
Public Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Olga Mezitt' - (*minus* Compact Form x *dauricum sempervirens*) Sometimes referred to as the pink 'PJM' it comes from a different Mezitt breeding line. Its flowers are clear pink and maintain their colour. Blooms slightly later than 'PJM' and is very floriferous. Bright green foliage turns bronzy-red in winter. Vigorous and similar in habit to 'PJM' reaching 4'(1.2m) high in 10 years. Once very common - now harder to find. Zone 5. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Patty Bee' - (*keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy' x *fletcherianum*) A very floriferous clear yellow early flowering Berg hybrid. Dense foliage turns maroon-red in winter. Very dwarf - to 8"(0.2m) high x 12"(0.3m) wide in 6 years. Zone 6. An ARS Superior Plant award winner.
Public Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Wren' - (*ludlowii* x *keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy') Clear yellow flowers stand up like pansies above a creeping mat of shiny, dark green foliage. Floriferous. Foliage turns bronzy-red in winter. At its best planted on a bank or in a raised bed and ideal for the rock garden or small spaces. A beautiful Cox hybrid. Zone 6.
Public Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)

ELEPIDOTE RHODODENDRONS

R. (aureum x repens)F2 - A very early blooming Kentville hybrid much admired by the ARHS volunteer work crew at the Kentville Research Station several years ago. Bell-shaped pink flowers in lax trusses grace this almost prostrate plant. The first few propagations were offered last year to the volunteers who expressed an interest in it. We now have plenty more to offer the general membership.
(Year Olds. - \$10.00)

R. auriculatum - A species for the collector being borderline hardy. Its loose trusses of 7-lobed frilled white flowers appear as late as August and the subsequent new growth emerges and hardens off rapidly thereafter. Dark green foliage is very long and narrow and its tell-tale leaf buds are very slim and pointed. Be sure to provide it with good drainage, wind-protection and irrigation during its vegetative growth during our often dry Augusts. Tall growing with an upright habit. Only for the collector in the mildest locations. **(2 gal. - \$35.00)**

R. 'Bellefontaine' - (*fortunei* x *smirnowii*) A Kentville hybrid with large trusses of lightly scented pink flowers. Very large growing - plants at Kentville are 14'(4.0m) high after 40 years. Lush, dark green foliage. A great plant! Zone 5b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. (brachycarpum Tigerstedtii Group x 'Mrs. T.H. Lowinsky') - A sister seedling of John T. Meagher with a darker more prominent blotch and more upright trusses.
A few only. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. Brueckner #B-15-01 ('Catawbiense Album' x aureum) - A Brueckner hybrid with pale yellow flowers fading to creamy-white in small well-formed trusses. Broad, almost totally prostrate spreading habit. Zone 5b.
(Year Olds. - \$10.00)

R. Brueckner #C-78-10 ('Parson's Gloriosum' x williamsianum) - A beautiful foliage plant with foliage resembling *R. williamsianum* and red buds. **(Year Olds. - \$10.00)**

R. Brueckner #H-1-03 (nikkomontanum x williamsianum) - A tight extremely low-growing hybrid with round williamsianum leaves and large white flowers opening from pink buds.
(Year Olds. - \$10.00)

R. 'Calsap' - ('Catalpa' x 'Sappho') Lavender buds open into large conical trusses of snowy white flowers with a large dramatic burgundy blotch. Dense emerald green foliage. Vigorous. Broad, upright habit to 5'(1.5m) high in 10 years. Zone 5. An ARHS "Top Ten" lepidote and a real showstopper. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Capistrano' - A complex Leach hybrid reported to be his best yellow. Its clear, pale yellow flowers are borne on a compact well-branched plant with excellent dark green foliage. To 5'(1.5m) high and wide. Zone 6. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Crispy' - ('Oh My!' selfed) A second generation "Smiryak", this Delp hybrid has pale purple-pink frilled flowers edged dark purple-pink and deep red spotting. The flowers are held in large rounded truss of 18. Dark green foliage with tan indumentum. Upright habit to 7'(2.1m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide in 25 years. Zone 5b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Delp's Sunsheen' - ('Sweet Lulu' x [*vernicosum* aff. x ('Neried Group' x *fortunei* ssp. *discolor*)] A beautiful hybrid with lax trusses of pale yellow flowers flushed pink and heavily spotted reddish-pink. Shiny yellow-green foliage on a compact plant to 4'(1.2m) high in 10 years. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Fantastica' - ('Mars' x *yakushmanum* 'Koichiro Wada') Large trusses of bicoloured flowers with bright red margins and pastel pink centres grace this very showy Hachmann hybrid. Vigorous & floriferous. Long, narrow indumented leaves. Compact, low mounding habit to 3'(9m) high. Zone 5b. **Public Sale Only (2 gal. - \$25.00)**

R. 'Festivo' - ('Hachmann's Polaris' x *wardii*) A beautiful hybrid with pale yellow flowers with reddish spotting opening from peach coloured buds. Foliage is dark green on a slow-growing compact plant to 18"(45m) high x 3'(9m) wide in 10 years. For milder parts of Zone 6b or Zone 7. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Firestorm' - ('Vulcan' x 'Chocolate Soldier') A deep red late-blooming Mehlquist hybrid. The large, wavy-edged and thick flowers are held in dome-shaped trusses. Dense spreading habit to 3'(9m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide in 10 years with dark green foliage. A sister of 'Scarlet Romance'. Zone 5. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Forcat' - (*fortunei* x "Catalgla") A very tall, extremely vigorous growing hybrid with fragrant pink flowers. Can grow to 20'(6m) or more high. A Steele hybrid. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. fortunei - A tall growing species with an upright-open habit. Lush dark green foliage is accentuated by purple-red petioles. Its large, very fragrant flowers, usually pale pink, are held in lax trusses. Spectacular in full bloom. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$35.00)**

R. fortunei 'R. Robinson' - Unfortunately only a few of these custom propagations are available. This is the stunning pink, large-flowered and extremely fragrant *R. fortunei* on Dr. Robinson's front lawn at Boulderwood. **(Year Olds. - \$15.00)**

R. 'Fundy' (syn. 'Evangeline') - (*fortunei* x *smirnowii*) Very similar to R. 'Bellefontaine' and also a Kentville hybrid. 'Fundy's' flowers are darker pink with a larger blotch and slightly later blooming. Zone 5b. **A few only. (2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Hancock's Smirfort' - (*smirnowii* x *fortunei*) An Ontario hybrid by the late Leslie Hancock of Woodland Gardens. There is a large plant in Dr. Robinson's Garden at Boulderwood. Typical fragrant pink flowers but this one sets multiple buds resulting in huge trusses. Zone 6. **A few only. (2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Helliikki' - (open pollinated seedling of a *R. smirnowii* hybrid) Dark red-violet flowers on a plant to 5'(1.5m) high with a dense rounded habit. New leaves are indumented turning green with age. An extremely hardy hybrid from Finland. Hardy to -34°C(-29°F). **Public Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Henry's Red' - A very hardy Mezitt hybrid with dark blood-red flowers held in tight trusses against dark green foliage. Free-flowering. Broad, irregular open habit to 5'(1.5m) high and wide in 10 years. Zone 5. Always in demand. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'John T. Meagher' - (*brachycarpum* Tigerstedtii Group x 'Mrs. T.H. Lowinsky') Large trusses of white flowers with a dark brown blotch sit on top of lush shiny dark green foliage. Dense habit to 5'(1.5m) high x 8'(2.4m) wide in 10 years. Grown by the late John Meagher from a cross by Dave Hinton. Buds are hardy to -10°F(-23°C), possibly colder if brief. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Mary Craig' - ('Goldsworth's Yellow' x *degronianum*) A Kentville hybrid bred by George Swain and named by Dr. Craig in honor of his wife. Early blooming with pink flowers emerging from dark pink buds. Semi-dwarf with a compact habit. Zone 5b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Mary Grystar' - [('Mars' x 'America')#9 x ('Mars' x 'America') #12] A Delp hybrid with medium to pale violet-purple flowers. Grows to 3'(9m) high and wide in 10 years. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Minas Grand Pré' (*catawbiense* 'Compactum' x *williamsianum*) A profusion of pink bell-shaped flowers in loose trusses grace this Kentville Research Station hybrid. Small oval leaves emerge with a bronze tone and age to dark green. In full sun it forms a perfect dense, compact, mounded dome and grows to 3'(9m) tall in 10 years. Zone 5b. **(Year Olds - \$10.00)**

R. 'Minas Peace' - [('Catalgla' x *degronianum*) x *yakushmanum*] A stunning but tricky to grow Kentville hybrid. Early-blooming with large, deeply lobed, pearlescent white flowers suffused with pale pink. Dark green foliage with grey-orange indumentum. Compact, spreading habit. Zone 6. **Only a few available. (Year Olds. - \$15.00)**

R. ('Mist Maiden' x *tsariense*) Weagle - A hybrid grown by John Weagle with beautiful foliage. Its looks like a slightly more vigorous *R. tsariense*. Dark green leaves with thick cinnamon coloured indumentum. Compact habit. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(Year Olds - \$10.00)**

R. 'Nova Sunrise' - Don Craig's newest hybrid. Buds start out pink turning pale yellow and open to cream with a pale yellow centre. A very interesting effect. Compact mounded habit. Zone 5b. **A few only. (2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Percy Wiseman' - Multi-coloured, funnel-shaped flowers - peach-pink and cream, fading to creamy-white with a yellow throat - in rounded trusses. Very floriferous. Lush glossy dark green foliage. Low, dense, mounded habit. To 3'(9m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide in 10 years. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C). Parentage likely not as usually published. **(1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Pohjohla's Daughter' - (*smirnowii* x *catalgla*) Large flowers open lavender-pink with a paler centre quickly ageing to almost pure white with a yellow-green flare. Very striking. Low compact mounding habit to 3.5'(1.05m) high and spreading wider. Hardy to -29°F(-34°C). An extremely hardy Finnish hybrid. **Public Sale Only (1 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Purple Passion' - A very hardy *catawbiense* hybrid with large trusses of dark violet-purple flowers with a white throat. To 6'(1.8m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide in 10 years with a compact dense rounded habit. Hardy to -29°F(-34°C). **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. "Regatta Point Grex" - (*yakushmanum* hybrid) Propagated from a series of plants grown from a seed lot by the late John Meagher and planted in the bed at Regatta Point. Flowers are lavender-pink with paler centres giving a bicolor effect. Dome-shaped trusses. Very dense, compact habit. Zone 6, probably colder. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Rhododendron rex ssp. fictolacteum - A big-leaf species with leaves to 4" (10cm) wide x 12"(30cm.) long! Dark green on top they are covered by buff to rusty-brown thick indumentum. Flowers are white to pale pink with dark red spotting and are held in large ball-shaped trusses. Tall, upright open habit forming a small tree in time. Borderline in the mildest of Zone 6b gardens and will need a site protected from wind. Truly spectacular and a must have for the adventurer or collector! **(2 gal. - \$35.00)**

R. roxieanum - A compact, slow-growing, very choice species. Oblong to lanceolate foliage is deep green with heavily textured reddish-brown indumentum. Flowers are white, often tinged with pink &/or spotted with crimson. Dense, compact upright habit growing 2-3'(6-9m) high in 10 years. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$35.00)**

R. 'Sue Gunn' - [('Nova Zembla' x *yakushmanum*) x ('Catalgla' x 'Elizabeth')] A Don Craig hybrid named after his daughter. Flowers are vivid bright pink in dome-shaped trusses. Compact rounded habit to 4'(1.2m) high x 3'(9m) wide in 10 years. Zone 5b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Rhododendron thayerianum - A striking foliage plant and very unique! This species has very stiff narrow pointed foliage, dark green in colour with thin buff indumentum, and v-shaped in profile with recurved margins. The very dense foliage clothes a plant with a dense stout branching habit. Flowers are white flushed with pink and are held in lax trusses. Upright-spreading, mounded habit to 6'(1.5m) high. Zone 6b. **(2 gallon - \$35.00)**

R. 'The Porcupine' - (*degronianum* x *makinoi*) The name says it all for this Joe Harvey hybrid raised by Christopher Clark in Liverpool, NS. Foliage is very long and narrow with recurved edges and dense white indumentum. Pink flowers, darker at the edges and fading to white in the centre, are borne in dome-shaped trussed early in the season. Dense habit to 6.5'(2.0m) high x 8'(2.4m) wide in 15 years. Zone 6. **A few only. (2 gallon - \$20.00)**

R. thomsonii - Grown from a cross of the "Sofiero" form with the L&S#2487 form by Jens Birck. Beautiful foliage is rounded and dark green. Its waxy, dark red flowers are held in loose lax trusses. Early blooming. Upright habit. Only for the collector in mildest areas. Zone 7? **A few only. (Field Grown - \$20.00)**

R. 'Todmorden' - [(*Pygmalion*' x *haematodes* x 'Wellfleet') sibbed or selfed] A beautiful early-flowering Dexter hybrid with ball-shaped trusses. Flowers are large and bicoloured. Edges are bright pink shading to white in the centre. Beautiful dark green foliage on a vigorous upright-rounded plant to 5'(1.5m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide in 10 years. Zone 6b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. yakushmanum 'Mist Maiden' - If you were to grow only one rhododendron, this should be the one. This species has long narrow leaves with tan-white indumentum. New growth is covered in silver tomentum. Dense foliage covers a plant that is symmetrical and broadly mounded in shape. Its rosy-pink buds open to form large apple-blossom pink trusses fading to white. Slow growing to 4'(1.2m) high x 11'(3.3m) wide in 30 years. Best in a half-day of sun. A proven performer. Zone 5. **(2 gallon - \$20.00)**

R. (yakushmanum x insigne) Weagle #2 - An exceptional foliage plant. Dark green with silver indumentum. Zone 6. **(Year Olds - \$10.00)**

R. ARS 92-608 #11 ('Ivory Cloud') - {[(*'Big Deal*' x *'Donna Hargrove*') x (*'Golden Star*' x *'Catalgla*)] x *wardii*} Large out-facing ivory blooms grace this hybrid grown by Bill Wilgenhof in his garden just outside of Antigonish. He reports no winter damage after recent harsh winters and it is the hardiest of his selections from this cross. **A few only. (2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. ARS92-608 #7-Yellow - A sister seedling of the above, this one has good non-fading yellow flowers. **A few only. (2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. ARS92-608 #9-Yellow - Another sister seedling of the above, this one they've dubbed "best yellow" although the flowers are a bit smaller. The mother plant is about 3'(9m) tall. **A few only. (2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. ARS #95-899 - Again seed grown by Bill Wilgenhof, this complex hybrid has early lax rounded-trusses of strong pink-edged flowers with creamy-white centres. Each flower has up to 7 wavy edged overlapping lobes. The lax trusses reveal matching prominent white calyxes edged pink. The mother plant is compact and about 3'(9m) high. Has suffered some bud damage in their garden. Very striking. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

EVERGREEN AZALEAS

Azalea 'Alexander' - (*nakaharai* x *'Kin no sai*') A Polly Hill North Tisbury hybrid with large, deep reddish-orange flowers and a prostrate, irregular mounding-creeping habit. Late July blooming. To 8"(2m)high x 3'(9m) wide in 10 years. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Blue Danube' - (*kaempferi* hybrid) An unusual colour in evergreen azaleas - not blue but a deep reddish-purple (more purple than red). The large flowers are borne on an upright-spreading plant growing to 3'(9m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Boudoir' - A tough Gable hybrid of unknown parentage. Flowers are large and described as "watermelon pink" with a dark blotch. Early blooming. Can grow to 5'(1.5m) high and wide. Zone 5b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Carol' (Gable) - ('Louise Gable' x 'Caroline Gable') Another Gable hybrid with hose-in-hose, vibrant pink-red flowers with a darker blotch. Mid-season blooming. Forms a low, broad-spreading shrub. Zone 5b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Corsage' - Large, pale lavender pink flowers with a dark blotch. Fragrant and late-blooming. Vigorous dense habit to 4'(1.2m) high and wide in 10 years, spreading wider with age. Zone 6, possibly colder. A Gable hybrid. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Kathleen' (Dutch) - A beautiful, tall growing *R. kaempferi* hybrid with large dark purple-pink funnel-shaped flowers in profusion. Very showy. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Komo Kulshan' - A hybrid but often listed as a variety of *kiusianum*. Flowers are bicoloured - bright rose-red with light pink centres. Leaves are larger than *R. kiusianum*. Habit is larger and more vigorous growing 3-4'(9-1.2m) high and spreading broader. Beautiful burgundy fall colour. Zone 6, possibly colder. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea (nakaharai Orange x kiusianum 'Mt. Fuji')#1-1 - An early John Weagle hybrid and one that has played prominently in his subsequent breeding. Small purplish flowers are borne in profusion on a knee high horizontal spreading plant. July-blooming. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea "Regatta Point" - Propagations of a seed-grown plant by the late John Meagher growing in his Regatta Point planting. Bright pink flowers cover the very dense, low mounded plant. Possibly a cross by John Weagle. Zone 6b, possibly colder. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Scotian Mirage' - {('Lady Louise') x [(*'Lady Louise*' x (*nakaharai* Orange Form X *kiusianum* 'Mt Fuji')#1-1)]} Large flowers of the very palest white-lavender. Dense horizontal spreading habit to 16"(4m) high x 32"(8m) wide in 12 years. A late July blooming Weagle hybrid. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Scotian Picotee' - {('Lady Louise') x [(*'Lady Louise*' x (*nakaharai* Orange Form X *kiusianum* 'Mt Fuji')#1-1)]} Dense horizontal spreading habit to 16"(4m) high x 32"(8m) wide in 12 years. White with strong pink tips. A July blooming Weagle hybrid. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Springtime' - (*poukhanense* x *kaempferi*)F2 A tough Gable hybrid with large strong purple-red flowers with a darker blotch. Upright-spreading habit to 5'(1.5m) high or more. Zone 5b. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Steele's Late and Lovely' - A charming Steele hybrid with an almost prostrate spreading habit. Its large coral-pink flowers are borne very late in the season. Zone 6. **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

Azalea Wendy Cornwall - ['Frosty' x (*nakaharai* Orange Form x *kiusianum* 'Mt. Fuji')#1-1] Another Weagle hybrid grown by Wendy Cornwall. Pastel purple-pink flowers with paler centres on a compact spreading plant. Late-blooming. Zone 6. **(2 gallon - \$20.00)**

Azalea 'Wombat' - (*nakaharai* 'Mariko' x 'Gaiety') An excellent late Cox hybrid which produces a carpet of bright pink flowers with a slight blotch. Dense, very low spreading habit growing only 6"(.15m) high. Zone 6. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

DECIDUOUS AZALEAS

R. 'Arneson Little Gem' - Large soft yellow-orange flowers with reddish-orange edges open from red buds. Very showy. Disease resistant. Dwarfish compact habit growing to only 18"(.45m) high x 24"(.6m) wide in 15 years. Hardy to at least -20°F(-29°C). (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Azalea 'Arneson Ruby' - Large ruby red flowers with ruffled edges in large ball-shaped trusses. Said to be fragrant. Very floriferous. Vigorous upright habit to 5'(1.5m) high x 3'(9m) wide in 10 years. Hardy to Zone 6, possibly colder. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

R. vaseyi - An eastern US native, this superb species has almost flat, wide funnel-shaped flowers and blooms early before the leaves. These are seedling of a pink clone. Upright and open in habit, it is very graceful in bloom. Good fall colour. Growing in moist spots in nature it will do best in a moist, well-drained site in the garden. Zone 5. (Field Grown - \$20.00)

Azalea 'Weston's Parade' - A July blooming Mezitt hybrid with dark pink flowers with an orange blotch. Very late blooming with a strong vanilla fragrance. Dark green foliage turns bronze-green to orange in fall. Mildew resistant. Broad-upright habit to 4'(1.2m) high x 3'(9) wide in 10 years. Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$20.00)

OTHER ERICACEOUS PLANTS

Calluna vulgaris 'Dainty Bess' - (Dainty Bess Heather) A compact spreading heather with grey-green foliage and delicate mauve flowers in late summer. Grows only 4"(10cm) high and slowly spreading. Great for the rock garden or even a trough. Zone 5. (3.5" pots - \$5.00)

Calluna vulgaris 'Darkness' - (Darkness Heather) A showy cultivar with long dense upright spikes of dark red-purple flowers. Dark green foliage. A vigorous dense upright-spreading grower to 12"(.3m) high. Zone 5. (3.5" pots - \$5.00)

Calluna vulgaris 'White Lawn' - (White Lawn Heather) A beautiful and always admired cultivar with lush green foliage and a dense prostrate habit. Long panicles of white flowers are borne in late summer turning the "lawn" white. Grows only 2-4"(5-10cm) high and slowly spreading. Zone 5. (3.5" pots - \$5.00)

Empetrum nigrum - (Black Crowberry) A native plant resembling *Erica carnea* in foliage but coarser. Forms a matt of dark green foliage with reddish stems. Turns reddish-maroon in winter. Its inconspicuous pink flowers develop into large shiny black fruit. Salt tolerant and very hardy. Great for rock garden or seaside garden. Zone 3. (3.5" pots - \$5.00)

Erica carnea 'Foxhollow Fairy' - (Foxhollow Fairy Heath) - A low growing late-winter to early-spring blooming heath. Flowers open near white with a pink calyx giving a bicolor effect and age to pink. Grows to 6"(15cm) high and spreading. Zone 5. (3.5" pots - \$5.00)

Kalmia latifolia 'Minuet' - (Minuet Dwarf Mountain Laurel) A miniature cultivar, with light pink buds opening to light pink flowers with a bright cinnamon red band. Glossy, dark green evergreen foliage is disease resistant. Dense habit to 2.5'(8m) high & wide in 10 years. Best in full sun but needs excellent drainage and protection from winter wind. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Kalmia latifolia 'Raspberry Glow' - (Raspberry Glow Mountain Laurel) Burgundy red buds open strong pink and fade to medium pink. Very showy. Dark green evergreen foliage is disease resistant. Upright habit to 4'(1.2m) high x 3.5'(1.0m) wide in 10 years. Best in full sun but needs excellent drainage and protection from winter wind. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Leucothoe fontanesiana 'Nana' - A stoloniferous evergreen shrub with panicles of white pieris-like flowers suspended from its arching stems. Its pointed dark green foliage is thick, leathery and borne alternately up the stems. Can develop red winter colouring given some sun. Makes a great groundcover for shade to part shade in moist well-drained soil. This selection grows only 2'(.6m) high and can spread up to 6'(1.8m). Zone 6, possibly colder. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

X Phylliopsis 'Coppelia' - A bigeneric hybrid (*Kalmiopsis leachiana* x *Phyllococe empetrifomis*) developed by Barry Starling. Cluster of many long-petioled, small lavender-pink bell-shaped flowers in spring against evergreen small linear foliage. Free-flowering and a repeat bloomer. Similar to 'Sugarplum' but less compact growing. To 18"(.45m) high x 24"(.6m) wide. Can be cut back like heather. Requires excellent drainage & full sun. Dislikes drought & high temperatures. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

X Phylliopsis 'Sugarplum' - Another Starling bigeneric hybrid (*Kalmiopsis leachiana* x *Phyllococe caerulea*). Sugary plum-pink, globe-shaped flowers are borne against evergreen small linear foliage in spring & sometimes again in fall. Mounding habit eventually growing 1-2'(.3-.6m) high & 2'(.6m) wide. Requires excellent drainage & full sun. Dislikes drought & high temperatures. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Vaccinium vitis-idaea - (Foxberry, Partridgeberry) A beautiful evergreen species with small glossy dark green oval leaves that turn burgundy in winter. Small pink flowers precede the edible shiny red fruit ripening in fall. Compact, mat-forming habit growing only a few inches tall. Best in full sun in moist peaty well-drained soil. Great for the rock garden or front of the peat bed. Zone 3. (3.5" pots - \$5.00)

CONIFERS

Abies koreana 'Aurea' - (Golden Korean Fir) This slow-growing Korean Fir is remarkable for its bright golden-yellow coloration. Its very decorative blue-purple cones - held upright like candles - are especially showy against the yellow foliage! Starts out with a low mounded habit but eventually will form a broad irregular upright dense pyramidal habit to 6'(1.8m) high in 10 plus years. Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$35.00)

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Golden Whorl' - (Golden Whorl Hinoki Cypress) A unique cultivar with stiff contorted bright golden yellow glossy foliage with some fasciation. Takes on orange tones in winter. It has a dense shaggy habit forming a squat to pyramidal mound. Grows to 4'(1.2m) wide x 5'(1.5m) wide in 10 years. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Sciadopitys verticillata - (Japanese Umbrella Pine) A slow growing conifer with a perfect dense pyramidal shape and beautiful, thick, long, shiny, dark green needles. Can be treated as a dwarf conifer for many years but eventually can grow into a 30'(9.1m) tall tree. Attractive exfoliating bark. Zone 5. Very choice but be warned the plants will not be large. Rarely available. (2 gallon - \$40.00)

***Thujaopsis dolobrata* 'Nana'** (Staghorn Cedar) This conifer resembles a cedar but has broader, flatter, fan-like foliage - glossy green on the top and marked with white on the reverse. Bronzy winter colour. It has thin red bark which exfoliates in papery layers. This is a low-growing selection forming a broad dense mound to 2'(.6m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide in 10 years. Foliage is also reduced in size. *Thujaopsis dolobrata* has garnered the nickname "battleaxe cedar" here. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

MAGNOLIAS

***Magnolia* 'Yellow Lantern'** - (*acuminata* v. *subcordata* x *soulangeana* 'Alexandrina') An excellent pale yellow Savage hybrid with large tulip-shaped flowers which hold their shape and are long-lasting. Spring-blooming before the leaves emerge. It is single-trunked tree with a narrow upright habit. Vigorous. To 25'(7.6m) tall. Zone 6. (2 gal. - \$35.00)

GRASSES & SEDGES

***Carex conica* 'Marginata' ('Snowline')** - (Dwarf Variegated Sedge) A tufted mounding sedge with narrow dark green leaves edged with creamy white. Slow-growing, it can eventually form a mound 15"(4m) high x 24"(6m) wide. Partially evergreen - cut back in early spring. For sun to part-shade in moist well-drained soil. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$12.00)

***Carex siderosticha* 'Lemon Zest'** - (Lemon Zest Carex) A striking sedge with foliage that emerges golden yellow in spring maturing to chartreuse. Growing only 6"(15cm) tall, it is a slowly spreading striking groundcover for part shade. Best in moist well-drained soil. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$12.00)

Miscanthus sinensis - (Maiden Grass) A striking and elegant grass with arching foliage and dramatic plumes of flowers. It is a warm season grass and will take several years to become established here. Clump-forming, not a spreader. Fall-blooming - in our climate they will only flower when summers have been sufficiently warm. Plant in full sun in a warm spot with well-drained moist soil. Best planted in early summer when the soil has warmed up. Cut back to 6" (15cm) before new growth starts in spring. Zone 6.

Three cultivars are offered:

'Little Kitten' - A fine-textured miniature selection forming a compact mound of arching narrow silver-green leaves Grows 16-24"(4-.6m) tall and is topped by silvery red-brown flowers aging to white on stems to 3'(9m) tall. Great for the larger rock garden or small perennial garden. (1 gal. - \$12.00)

'Malepartus' - A selection with broad 5/8"(15mm) wide silver-veined green leaves and an upright arching habit. Large red-maroon flowers emerge on burgundy stems and age white and fluffy. Foliage turns bronze to orange in fall. Grows to 7' (2.1m) tall in flower. A dramatic accent plant for the border! One of the best cultivars for our climate. (1 gal. - \$12.00)

'Sarabande' - A fine-textured cultivar with 1/4"(6mm) wide green leaves edged with silvery-white. Flowers are reddish-brown and tassel-like aging to silvery-white. Upright in habit. Grow 5-7'(1.5-2.1m) high in flower. (1 gal. - \$12.00)

PERENNIALS

***Campanula* 'Samantha'** - A beautiful new spreading variety with cup-shaped violet-blue flowers with paler centers. Very floriferous, long blooming and fragrant. Reblooms if deadheaded after flowering. Grows to 6"(15cm) high x 18"(45cm) wide. For full sun in well-drained soil. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$12.00)

***Coreopsis* 'Autumn Blush'** - A stunning new coreopsis with pale yellow to pale peachy-yellow petals with strong red centres. In the colder weather the petals take on a rosy-red flush. Blooms from late spring through fall! Very floriferous. Cut back after blooms fade to encourage reblooming. For full sun in well-drained soil. Grows to 2'(6m) tall. Zone 6, possibly colder. (1 gal. - \$10.00)

***Corydalis curviflora* var. *rosthornii* 'Blue Heron'** - This new corydalis introduced by Dan Hinkley claims to be the largest, most fragrant and bluest! Its grey green foliage contrasts nicely with its red stems. Given adequate moisture it can bloom throughout the summer. Plant in rich moist well-drained soil in part shade. Grows to 9"(22cm) tall. Zone 6b, possibly colder. (1 gal. - \$10.00)

***Eremurus x isabelinus* 'Cleopatra'** - (Cleopatra Foxtail Lily) Dramatic tall spikes of hundreds of tightly packed burnt orange flowers which gradually open up the spike. Strap-like bluish-green basal foliage. Flower spikes grow 4-5'(1.2-1.5m) high. Plant in full sun in rich well-drained soil with the crown just below the soil level. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$12.00)

***Geranium pratense* 'Midnight Reiter'** - A compact selection with dark chocolate-purple foliage and lavender-blue flowers. Grows 6-9"(15-23cm) high. Grow in full sun to light shade for best foliage effect. Cut back after flowering for repeat bloom. Reddish fall colour. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$12.00)

***Mukdenia (Aceriphyllum) rossii* 'Crimson Fans'** - They say *Mukdenia*, I say *Aceriphyllum* ... I still cannot bring myself to refer to this charming plant by its new name. As its old name suggest this saxifraga relative has large maple-like foliage borne from creeping rhizomes from which also rise stalks of pure white saifraga-like flowers in spring. Usually rich green, the foliage of this cultivar emerges green, turns bronzy-red and maintains splotches of red throughout the summer. A choice plant for part-shade to shade. Forms a slowly creeping clump with flower stalks to 16"(4m) high and foliage 6-8"(1.5-.2m) high. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Nipponanthemum (Leucanthemum) nipponicum - (Montauk Daisy, Nippon Daisy) A wonderful woody and semi-evergreen daisy with thick fleshy dark green foliage. Its large white flowers with yellow centres appear in profusion in fall! It forms a large mounded plant and can grow to 5'(1.5m) tall and wide. To prevent it getting too large and to ensure it doesn't get floppy cut it back to 6-12"(15-30cm) in early spring. Needs full sun. Salt tolerant. Zone 5. (2 gal. - \$15.00)

***Thalictrum* 'Black Stockings'** - (Black Stocking Hybrid Meadow Rue) A stunning new meadow rue with cluster of typical airy flowers but these are a beautiful lavender and are borne on top of almost black stems. Its ferny fresh green foliage is equally accentuated by the dark stems. For sun to part shade in moist rich well-drained soil. Grow 4-6'(1.2-1.8m) tall. Very striking. Zone 6, likely colder. (1 gal. - \$12.00)

***Tricyrtis formosana* 'Guilty Pleasure'** - (Guilty Pleasure Toad Lily) Pink flowers spotted lavender are borne above the golden yellow foliage of this new cultivar. Fall blooming. To 2'(6m) tall. For part shade to shade in rich well-drained soil. Vigorous. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$10.00)

Yucca nana - A new species or possibly a variation of *Y. harrimaniae* endemic to a small area of the mountains on the Utah - Colorado border. Typical grey-green foliage with white filaments. Grows only 1'(3m) tall with 3'(9m) tall spikes of white flowers. Will need full sun and excellent drainage. Great for the smaller rock garden! Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$10.00) ☘

Plant Portraits

Gentiana asclepiadea

Gentians are among my favourite flowers and this species, willow gentian, is lovely and, once established, I have found it to be one of the easiest to grow in my garden. Mine have all come from seed and I must admit that they have been somewhat slow to grow in the first years but have now developed into large, deep rooted clumps so site them carefully. I did think I would move them a few years ago but thought better of it when I tried to dig under the clump. It was much easier to move the plants they were crowding.

They are planted in good, humus rich soil, moist but well drained and have part shade for some of the day and full sun for several hours in the afternoon. This doesn't seem to be a problem now that they are mature but they do get good watering in dry weather.

The roots send out long willowy stems from 24-36 inches which can be allowed to flop or could be supported with something like a peony cage early on. If allowed to flop, they can cover a fairly large area, so beware. The flowers show up a little later in the season and stay in good shape for a while. They are trumpet shaped and open all along the stem at the leaf axils from mid to late summer. They are generally light to dark blue with a lighter or white throat. They usually produce copious seed but I have rarely seen seedlings. I expect that is because they are so slow to develop that they usually get weeded out or crowded out by other more vigorous things. If you want to try growing from seed, it is best to get fresh seed and plant it immediately, perhaps in a pot and leave out in a cold frame for the winter. I have found that they do better if left to grow on a bit this way before setting out in the garden.

There are other colour forms available now but I have yet to have anything but blue turn up from my seed lots. I would be interested to know if anyone has seen any of these at any nurseries around here.

— Roslyn Duffus

Minuartia groenlandica

Greenland sandwort, a beautiful little alpine plant, grows miraculously out of the crevices of granite rocks on windswept barrens where it is associated with reindeer moss and other lichens. It is found on bare mountain summits at medium elevations and as its name would suggest, in the alpine zone of Greenland. In Nova Scotia and Newfoundland it is uncommon to rare and its habitat requires protection. It occurs in Halifax Regional Municipality at the top of Blue Mountain (near Hammonds Plains) and in some areas of granite outcrop such as the Herring Cove Backlands. Also known as mountain sandwort, its taxonomy has been changed recently from *Arenaria groenlandica* to *Minuartia groenlandica*.

It is one of the few alpine plants that bloom all summer – from June until late October in Nova Scotia – it was blooming at one location in HRM in mid-October in 2006. Its clusters of small delicate white flowers with yellow centres bloom above narrow green leaves resembling chickweed often forming tufts or mats at the base. Typically, it is no more than 8 centimetres in height. Because of its relatively small delicate form it can be unintentionally crushed under a hiker's boot, or even worse, under a motorized recreational vehicle. Protecting the habitat of our own alpine plants is an obvious priority.

I collected a small quantity of seed at two different sites in HRM this fall after many of the plants had already matured and dispersed most of their seed thus reassuring myself that next year's plants would not be compromised. Jeremy Lundhome, a botanist at Saint Mary's University advises that the seed germinates readily, requires no stratification and that the plant is remarkable for its resistance to drought.

The small amount of seed will be available from the Seed Exchange. It is hoped that we might start generating our own seed supply without need to harvest seed from plants growing in the wild. So, if you have granite outcrop on your property this may be a natural choice. It also should lend itself to tufa containers.

— Ruth E. Smith



Minuartia groenlandica. [An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, Britton & Brown, 1913 edition.]

Scandinavia 2003

By John Weagle

I first became enamoured with rhododendrons in 1973. I now suspect a devious and clever plot by two friends – Captain Richard Steele and Walter Ostrom; maybe it was simply their irrepressible and infectious enthusiasm for the genus. Steele was our local guru and hybridizer who stirred the hybridizing drive in me. Ostrom was the then young disciple, mainly interested in lepidote species and lepidote hybrids, and stimulated an interest in these (lepidotes) and the Taliensias. The excitement over big-flowered faceless hybrids quickly faded. Sometime around 1978 Joe Harvey got us interested in indumented species by species crosses. I had subscribed to the ARS and local chapter seed exchanges every year and it wasn't until the early 1990's that I noticed a strange pattern had developed in my seed growing records. The donors of most of the seed I was growing from the ARS were people who I did not know – names that never came up at the hybridizers' talks or ARS meetings. But then again, neither did our favourite lepidote species or the Taliensias. It wasn't until I signed on to the Rhodo-L, a rhododendron chat group on the Internet, that I realized these “quiet” strangers were alive and well. These thinkers in the rhododendron world were Scandinavians! Soon letters, snail and e-mail, flew back and forth along with cuttings.

I had never thought seriously about a Scandinavian trip aside from vague thoughts of visiting another friend, the *Shortia* guru in Denmark. In 1999, Ostrom, on my recommendation, visited him and came back raving about the plants in Danish gardens. Denmark was on the “to visit” list but the chances of a trip were remote. Then Lennarth Johnssen, who I have corresponded with since the 1970's, decided that I should speak at the Nordic Rhododendron Symposium in Bergen in June of 2003, my busiest time at work. Soon an invitation arrived followed by another from Finn Haugli to speak in Tromsø, followed by yet another to spend a few days at Jens Birck's in Copenhagen. My head was spinning, the mission was daunting but there was no question – I was going.

Denmark

In late May I left a cool, drizzly and foggy Nova Scotia and arrived in Copenhagen to a dry 27°C summer-like day. Now the first thing you notice stepping off the plane in Copenhagen is the Danish attention to detail – design, aesthetics, mechanical and systems; this extends to gardening as well. I was rushed through the Birck garden fully jet-lagged to drop off luggage and desperately wanting to stop and look. Many blooms were over but the symphony of new shoots was what I came to “hear”, I had not expected it to be of Mahlerian proportions. I was immediately whisked away some 70 km southwest of Copenhagen to the garden of Jørgen Nielsen in Vedde. Now in coastal Nova Scotia we are plagued with rocks, rocky soil or no soil at all, so it was a pleasure to drive through rich farmland with presumably deep, deep soil (alkaline though it is) with nary a stone in sight aside from copious use of flagstone and cobblestones. Where was Mr. Birck taking me? To perhaps the rockiest garden in Denmark and a big garden it was. Jørgen was in the stone business and had the machinery to move rock, and move it he did. There was rock everywhere, of all shapes and sizes – even one used as a bridge, weighing some 25 tonnes. The plants grew in full sun, wind, in pure peat, contrary to the recommendations of some well-known garden writers. The rhodos grew to absolute perfection – *strigillosum*, *wiltonii*, *adenogynum*, beds of c.w. *roxieanum* and *cucullatum*, still more beds of *trillianum* and *proteoides*. On high ground lodged in peat pockets grew Birck's own *aureum* and even the tender *parmulatum* ‘Ocelot’ – the latter having been damaged the previous winter in more protected gardens in Copenhagen. Two hybrids impressed me – ‘Barbarella’ and ‘Fantastica’ but the best I thought was ‘Golden Harmony’. Lilies grew like weeds forming huge, unrecognizable vigorous clumps. A pompomed *Nothofagus antarctica* was the first I'd ever seen but the crowning achievement was a mountain some 10 metres high made of huge rocks and packed with peat. To thoroughly confound me, close to the top in full sun and peat was a wonderful *Magnolia sieboldii*. Clever Birck, here he had a garden for the overload of species he and Svend Hansen had collected in NW Yunnan. And Jørgen Nielsen was more than happy to oblige. Jens at the same time was showing me a garden that embodied what took us years to discover in Nova Scotia – our best rhodo spots were in full sun amongst the rocks and close to the coast where the wind blows.

The next day we made an all too short stop at the garden of E. Jespersen in Herlev. Jesper, as we know him, is a plantsman of the highest order. His sizeable garden is a myriad of the most interesting plants on the planet. We were greeted at the front door by Glendoick's ‘Arctic Tern’, some 1 meter or more tall and in glorious bloom. Small greenhouses at every turn were full of the most incredibly difficult and rare plants, even the intractable orchid *Disa cardinalis*. *Shortias* were planted throughout the garden in every conceivable position – *S. soldanelloides*, *galacifolia* and *uniflora* planted everywhere – and all grown from seed. Their vast numbers exhibited just about every leaf shape and size, tiny leaves, huge leaves and every flower colour the genus can muster. The very rare Chinese diapiensaceous *Berneuxia thibetica* also thriving here and there – there were more, I'm sure, than exist in all the gardens of North America! The Russian *Cypripedium x ventricosum*, *C. yatabeanum* and other cyps grew like weeds here and there. There were rhododendrons grown from various expeditions and a *Rhododendron wasonii* still lingers in my mind along with a vigorous dark pink Pogonanthum. The jaw-dropper was a

fine dark yellow (the colour appears ivory in the photo) *R. lepidotum*, again grown from wild seed. Jens reckoned it was the best he had seen and he and Jesper were in quiet deliberation over it as departure time approached. As we drove away I said to Jens – “you must get that *lepidotum* propagated”. His response was “Jesper would not give me cuttings”. How strange and atypical of this generous plantsman, I thought. Long silent (pause) in typical Danish fashion – “No, he told me to come round next week and dig the plant”!

Hansen Nursery

We were now headed to Kernehuset, the garden and nursery of Birgit and Svend Hansen in Danstrup, Fredensborg, some 45 km north of Copenhagen. Now I was warned about Svend before going, they cautioned: you may find him slightly abrasive. If you think you know everything about rhododendrons, blindly accept the “truths” in books and cannot laugh at yourself then you might be in big trouble with Svend. I found him full of ideas, a questioning mind and thoroughly entertaining; instead it was his wife Birgit I should have been warned about. The rural nursery of three hectares was impeccably and efficiently set up in rolling countryside. From the house the land sloped gently down to a pond edged in marginals including *Lysichiton americanum*. Beyond that the land rose rather sharply and the trees had been thinned heavily to accommodate the thousands of rhododendrons on the slopes. I was not so interested in the commercial hybrids but instead the countless collected wild seedlings that Svend and Jens had collected in their Chinese adventures – Svend’s five trips, Jens’ two trips. A bed of *bathyphyllum* from seed collected on wild *proteoides*, big leaf and small leaf selections of *clementinae*, scads of wild *proteoides* showing part of its scope, *wallichii* with its warm rusty shoots, true *adenogynum*, beds of *roxieanum* and *cucullatum* intermediates rounded out a show you will not see in eastern North America.

It was wonderful to at last see *R. x comisteum* (*proteoides x sanguineum*) which had recently bloomed a good red (!) and a plant of *williamsianum x proteoides* – I long wondered which of these two dominants would win the genetic tug-of-war in that mating. Just to make sure the climate would remain puzzling to me I was taken to the burn unit - a *campylogynum* bed and winter burnt they were, not so unusual with ours, but a burnt *aureum* – never. Probably the best *x nikkomontanum* in cultivation is a spectacle I am not soon to forget; it is now rooting in Halifax. We proceeded to the new rock garden where the marvellous construction was a perfect foil for what Svend called his “Taliense Forest”. The *traillianums* and one very good *haematodes* 96 CBH Cangshan from 3681m were highlights.

We then proceeded to a new state-of-the-art greenhouse that Svend had purchased for Birgit, obvious that if it is not done right it is not done at all here. In this new structure we had a lovely Danish lunch in the sun; beforehand Jens had told me I must follow customs ... Tuborg then herring, to be eaten first on this saucer, then egg, then sandwich, all easy enough. At the end Birgit produced the Aalborg Akvavit – why was I not warned? – and announced that it was traditional to have not one but two in rapid succession. I obliged, she did as well, Svend and Jens quietly observed. Two more plotters? What happened the rest of the day vanished in the ether but at least I was not asked to check for eggs in Svend’s new birdhouse.

The Birck garden in Copenhagen skillfully combines the hardscaping of stone pathways and cobblestone edging with peat beds, peat walls and a bit of lawn. The plants are as well-behaved as the German shepherd, both equally intimidating. Does Jens train the rhododendrons and the dog? The plants are squeezed into the beds and yet not a single plant is over-growing its neighboring plant, not a single plant is reaching for light, food or in need of attention. Jens, the Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli of the rhododendron world, is simply the best grower of rhododendrons I have had the pleasure of meeting. The range of rhododendron species in his garden is astounding – only room for the best forms of the species and Jens does have the best. It is obvious that to be in this garden a hybrid or a species must, as the saying goes “pay its rent twelve months a year”; if it gets too big it goes to Kernehuset. Where else can you see beds of wild-collected *pronum* and *proteoides* grown to perfection? A living *camtschaticum* labeled “White Form” is the tell-tale sign of a master grower, but one that is in bloom and IS INDEED white is quite another matter. This was Nirvana, with a pyrotechnical display of new shoots – *taliense lanatum* Sikkim, *lanatum* Hooker, *wiltonii* Berg, *cucullatum*, *adenogynum*, *roxieanum* – lots of the latter; woolly, swirling, twirling, twisting multi-coloured shoots everywhere, and a stunning form of *bureavii*. It is obvious to me that a climate as mild as this one does not exist on the east coast of North America, at least one where winters are mild enough to pull some of these through; the summers are simply too hot and humid in similarly mild parts of the east. *Rex, sherriffii* Berg and *kesangiae* support the view and shouldn’t even be alive! Granted, our own Walter Ostrom bravely grows *kesangiae* in a lath house in cold coastal Nova Scotia. What a wonder this species is, covering as it does all the plants beneath in its flaking “aluminum paint”. P. Kristensen’s ‘Yellow Dane’ (a cross by P. Kristensen, *hanceanum* v. *nanum x rupicola* v. *muliense* with good habit and flowers as yellow as might be possible in a dwarf lepidote) figured in most gardens I visited.

Birck is a man on the move, always thinking ahead and well ahead of the pack. *Cinnabarinum* not hardy in Copenhagen? He selfs the best ones, crosses the best forms and years later has a handful of hardy, stunningly beautiful *cinnabarinums*; my first sighting of this species in bloom. Birck’s ‘What a Dane’ is perhaps the most shocking of his “Dane” series and very aptly named, (*ambiguum x concatenans*) Select *x cinnabarinum* ‘Nepal’ AM but surprisingly hardy to -23°C. ‘Baby

Dane' (*kiusianum* white form x 'Panda'), 35 cm wide by 25 cm high was so heavily flowered than not a twig or leaf was to be seen. *Bureavii* x *lanatum* and *repens* x *proteoides* in his seedling area are just a hint of the many good things to come from this all too modest gentleman. A sobering thought was that he was coming to Nova Scotia in October 2003 to give a talk; Nova Scotia to be measured against these standards was ridiculous. We mere mortals would have to plan a diversion – a hurricane might do.

Sweden

A quick and quiet train ride from Copenhagen and we were in Malmö, Sweden. We were met at the station by Börje Malmgren, the driving force of the Sydsvenska Chapter, and Anders Falkstig, then drove on to Börje's home. On either side of the drive were lepidote species, what seemed like the Glendoick catalogue lay before us. Anders and I were on hands and knees; it was at once clear that Anders had one amazing mind for *Rhododendron* species, collector numbers, collection sites and altitudes! What luck that he had decided to come from Hassleholm to join us. Börje stood back quietly watching us, trying to gauge the degree of our collective madness. The main garden was at the rear, a gateside *Davidia involucrata* announced a plantsman's garden. The design was astounding, a clever combination of peat block walls edging the beds and a close-cut lawn for the cool look of the peat garden. It was reminiscent of Scotland and the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (RBGE) in particular – peat walls, generously curved beds, everything done right and the plants grown to perfection. Had Börje ordered every plant the Coxes offered? The garden was a cornucopia: *rupicola* JN588 considered to be the best and darkest, *recurvoides* Keillor with thicker indumentum, *recurvoides* Chas. Richmond Brown with a wider leaf, the fabled *tsariense* 'Yum Yum', *tsariense* Timoense Group & Polunini Group which on casual glance one would mistake for some *lanatums*, *tsariense* x *proteoides*, *balangense* EN#3520 or 3530, *hodgsonii* aff. CHM3093A, *galactinum* CCH4023 with larger leaves and pink flowers, *leucaspiis*, *ochraceum* CH7052, *longesquamatum* 'Glendoick', *wasonii* aff. McL AD106, *roxieanum*, *cucullatum* CNW 1243, *faberi* KR193, *ungernii* ACH 119, *prattii* Corsock form, *nigroglandulosum* H.Smit 13979 ex Goteborg, *cephalanthum* *Platyphyllum* possibly JN304, *sargentianum* W1208 and Berg's *mallotum* x *proteoides*. An *aureum* x (are you sure that's what the label says?) yes, it's *rex*.

Was this cold Sweden or Zone 8? Leaving the rear garden, the streetside garden was a planting of inter-specific hybrids – I was in heaven and several hours examining the plants could have been spent. I was happy to at last see Birck's hybrid 'Great Dane' (*yak* x *rex*) and his newest 'Spider Dane' (*yak* x *longesquamatum*), white with a smashing red eye. I know of only one other *longesquamatum* hybrid, Steele's ('Catalglá' x *macrophyllum*) x *longesquamatum* but no match for the Spider. The hybrids included *yak* x *fulgens* with crisp foliage set off by red new shoots and beautiful indumentum, *bureavii* x *tsariense*, *clementinae* x *bureavii*, *bureavii* x *elegantulum*, *bureavii* x *pseudochrysanthum*, *clementinae* x *bureavii* and Birck's *fulvum* x *elegantulum*; all garden worthy for foliage alone.

Sofiero (pronounced So-feer'-oh) in Helsingborg, our next stop, was the garden of King Gustav VI Adolph, started in 1910. This garden has been nicely described in a recent article by Börje. The very large clumps of rhododendrons were reminiscent of some in Halifax planted in 1893 but it was hard to determine the identity of these, not the same mix of ironclads and *catawbiense*. We proceeded down the woodland path through the *Rhododendron* Valley amongst old species, some of which I had no idea would grow anywhere in Sweden. This section was in need of rejuvenation – increased spacing by the simple removal of unimportant rhodos or hard but judicious pruning. In Nova Scotia this appears to be a difficult concept for non-rhodoholics – and even some rhodoholics – garden management and bureaucrats to grasp. Is this a problem in Sweden as well as in Canada? Nevertheless a most magical planting and setting.

Norway

From Copenhagen Jens and I flew to Bergen and as we approached we soon saw rocky islands, very reminiscent of coastal Nova Scotia. We were to stay at the Fana Folkehøgskule at the Milde Arboretum just a few kilometers from Bergen. Bergen itself is reminiscent of the area around St. John's, Newfoundland but the surrounding rocky slopes here are steeper and covered in sizeable trees – reforested with difficulty in recent times we were told. The Arboretum was vast open forest and the range of material staggering. With so much space it did seem as if the species collection was rather cramped. Still the plants were beautifully grown; in Nova Scotia we could never get such fine sturdy growth in woodland conditions and here we are at the latitude of Milan and Eugene. In softer climates do rhododendrons have a greater ability to produce multiple breaks from bark and growing tips with weaker though longer summer light? In the woodland a worker seemed to be methodically checking plants for labels and re-labeling for the meeting. It was a treat to see *nipponicum* and *quinquefolium* bark on old plants, the new shoots on big plants of *pachytrichum* and *barbatum*, the prickly new shoots of *longesquamatum*, *galactinum* in flower (pollen collected), an outstanding collection of *bureavii* and a very good form of *ambiguum* in flower. The high point was unquestionably the biggest and best *aureum* I have ever seen, three meters wide and twenty cm high. The habit and foliage was flawless, not what we would expect from *aureum* growing in open woodland, in our conditions we recommend full sun for *aureum*. Lepidotes – hybrids and species – in a sunny spot were not faring so well at all, planted as they were at the bottom of a very poorly drained slope in a dense and soupy soil; a point Kenneth Cox did not fail to point out to all tending the garden. They paid attention to his recommendations and I am sure

they were promptly moved. A newly dedicated section in full sun boasted hybrids from various sources and I was particularly pleased to see some Canadian Brueckner hybrids that I had sent to Glendoick some 20 years or more ago – ‘Isola Bella’ and ‘Charme La’. ‘Vater Bohjle’ was good to see at long last – a German hybrid with the same parentage of the Nova Scotian hybrid ‘Minas Grand Pré’ – *catawbiense* v. *compactum* x *williamsianum* from the Kentville Research Station. Its flower appears to be closer to *williamsianum*. The new Scandinavian section featured a ‘Great Dane’ and ‘Yellow Dane’.

Nights were unusually warm and it was hard to duck out of the late night activities when the beer and music flowed – both egged on by those rowdy Finns and Faroeseans - to see the beautifully conceived and executed new rock garden and the Nothofagus collections,.

On our way to the final banquet we stopped by the Muséahagen, newly renovated thanks in part to Per Magnus Jørgensen. As Jens Birck pointed out the *bureavii*s used as corner anchor points in the formal garden (when have you seen *bureavii* used as one would clipped box or yew?) were one of the best forms he had ever seen. A *calophytum* nearby boasted a trunk more than 30cm in diameter. A massive x Loderi type flanked one side of a formal marble staircase to the Victorian greenhouses above the parterre; to the other side *decorum* and *insigne* – the warm night air filled with fragrance.

The banquet via funicular was held on the mountain overlooking Bergen. Such a great pity the Symposium was not held jointly with the ARS, the latter’s great missed opportunity.

Tromsø

From Bergen I flew on to the Tromsø Botanic Garden. Though some 1200 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle the climate is a mild one. Their cultivational problems with rhododendrons are very similar to those in St. John’s, Newfoundland. Summers are extremely cool but winter here comes in October and snow lasts until late May. I was warned that in early June there would be nothing in bloom and that snow would still be about. They had also warned me to take an umbrella to Bergen so I was optimistic and so it was that Tromsø was having the earliest spring in years. Finn Haugli, head of the Botanic, and I ventured off to the gardens – what a sight! My mercifully brief religious schooling had neglected to tell me that there was more than one Nirvana. Here were *Meconopsis quintuplinerva*, *M. grandis*, *M. lancifolia*, *M. punicea*, *M. betonicifolia*, Primula species, the ungrowable *Rheum* spp., *Gentianas*, *Cassiope*s and *Phyllodoce*s everywhere, and growing with wild abandon. Sounds like a perfect climate for rhododendrons; it may very well be for some. There were rhododendrons not looking happy at all, rot setting in from the winter burial. The challenge is to find out which rhododendrons will tolerate the eight month covering and flattening effect of heavy, wet snow. Luckily Glendoick can supply them with a wide range of species to try. The Hobbie *repens* hybrids, Reich’s ‘Frosthexe’ (a *lapponicum* hybrid), a few Brueckner hybrids and ‘Myrtifolium’ looked very promising; the best looking plants were the most difficult: *rufum*, *prunum* and *beesianum*. Now you know what to give your *beesianum*! Finn’s own private garden and that of his friend Dagfinn Brønlunn Nilsen were at the very pinnacle of plantsmanship, beautifully designed and both full of delectable plants. We sent them some Atlantic rhododendrons and hopefully we will be able to send more material for trial shortly.

Summary

The problem with alkaline soil has been entirely solved by planting directly in pure peat or peat blocks. I am not so sure this will work in our wet climate, especially as our local peats are home to *phytophthora* and *pythium* (fungal root rots) though it would be well worth a few trials given steam sterilization. The climate was far milder than I had ever imagined – *kesangiae* in Copenhagen and a Grandia section in the Milde Arboretum. Nowhere in Scandinavia – Tromsø with its unique problems included – did I see signs of the relentless biting cold, stinging wind and extremes of climate we face in eastern North America. While the record colds in Copenhagen are similar to that of Halifax, one day of -23°C is quite different than the same followed by two more months of freezing night time temperatures.

It would seem that gardens vary in size just as they do here but in Scandinavia small space is skillfully and aesthetically designed to maximize growing space. In eastern North Americas we are hopeless when it comes to designing small gardens for rhodos and intimidated by large spaces. The comprehensive collections of species in gardens were far beyond anything I have seen in Canada and a visit to these gardens is almost prerequisite for the novice rhodophile. Many of the species might be grown in coastal Nova Scotia. The growing abilities – by plant & seed – of those I met were phenomenal. I have never seen such perfectly grown rhododendrons anywhere and I am willing to live with the consequences of such a statement. Labelling was deadly accurate. The people were as friendly, forthright and generous as you will find, full of ideas and with the determination of northerners. The whole experience inspired me to return home with a renewed determination to try more species and concentrate on beauty twelve months a year. It will not be long before I make a return trip.

Post Script

Jens Birck came to Nova Scotia in October of 2003. Jens’ thoughts seems to concur with mine. In Nova Scotia we may do

better with lepidotes, especially the Lapponicas and the potential of the Taliensias is very promising given full sun and exposure. The full sun requisite for Halifax at latitude 44°38' N is rather puzzling as Bergen grows beautiful rhododendrons in filtered sun at latitude 60°18' N. While both are frequently cloudy and rainy, Halifax has 100 days of fog per year; perhaps the long summer days in Bergen have more pronounced effect than we reckoned. Hurricane Juan (Jens in Danish) arrived as planned, 9 hours before Jens arrived. Landfall winds were clocked at 202 km/hr and yet no rhododendrons were wind-damaged much to Mr. Birck's disbelief. Juan removed countless trees and the rhododendrons will be ever grateful for the increased sunlight, just the theme of Jen's talk to our Atlantic Chapter.

This article has appeared in the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society and in the journal of the South Sweden branch of the ARS. ☞

A Garden in Hammonds Plains

By Donna Evers



A ditch of Marsh Marigolds (*Caltha palustris*) and Double Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) in the Evers garden . [Photos D. Evers]

Duff and I moved to Sime Court in Hammonds Plains near Halifax in the summer of 1993. Our house was newly constructed and the only landscaping was the sod the builder was required to throw over the construction waste. The lot, an acre in size, sloped steeply ending at the edge of a small lake. A natural berm ran across the width of the property a few feet before the lake. With the exception of some lovely old hemlocks, the trees were twisted maple, scruffy spruce and diseased beech. All that land and I just wanted a little bit of a garden! Gardening in New Brunswick had not prepared us for the rocks and roots in this part of Nova Scotia!

Our garden began with two truckloads of compost and five of shrubs and perennials from our previous home in New Brunswick. They were dug up mid-season and transplanted into a hastily prepared patch of soil at the back of the new house. We broke a lot of gardening rules but somehow everything survived and bloomed. I credit the success to dumb luck and the compost.

Since that first year we have greatly increased our garden area. The biggest challenge has been getting the right plant in the right location. We have areas that are wet and others that are bone dry as well as areas of both deep and filtered shade. The areas of full sun would be the easy part, or so I thought. Then it was the soil or the lack thereof but after loads of costly garden soil, bags of mulched oak leaves and manure we can call it soil. We continue to add leaves and/or manure each year. There are actually parts of our garden where the shovel now sinks effortlessly into the soil!

The gardens now surround the house, a far cry from what we initially planned. You would think Duff would have caught on to me by now. What I lack in expertise I make up for in contagious enthusiasm, to which he seems particularly susceptible. The ugly drainage ditch is now filled with marsh marigolds, irises and skunk cabbage. *Primula*, *corydalis*, *arisarum* and *asarum* do well in the moist spots. In the wooded areas we have experimented with *trillium*, *cypripedium* and *sanguinaria canadensis*. Hellebores have become favourites and I tuck the seedlings in everywhere. *Hosta* and *Hemerocallis* help with weed control and I need all the help I can get in that department. One sunny spot is home to a heather bed to which we have

added dwarf conifers and several colourful *berberis*. Each autumn I have been under-planting with bulbs and the results are beginning to show. The colchicum species are a new addition and my favourite is *Colchicum agrippinum*. The leaves are grayish-green and relatively small. The flowers are pink with a darker checkered pattern. And they don't flop over in the autumn rain! The pink and white of fall blooming anemones extend the season. *Anemone* 'September Charm' is rather rambunctious, the white *A.* 'Andrea Atkinson' and the double 'Whirlwind' are better behaved. The main perennial beds are large and something is always in need of division, dead heading or relocation but there is constant bloom. I try to remember that when my back aches.

The Real Story

Now for the real story, Duff has dug metres of drainage ditches. He picked stone, built and rebuilt the many walls. He has built arbors and trellises to support the latest clematis or honeysuckle that I couldn't resist. Chickadees nest in his birdhouses. I have lost count of the stumps he has pulled and the stones he has dug. Guest speakers at ARHS have used the term "a good doer". Duff is the "good doer" in our garden and no he can't be cloned!

The biggest change to our garden has been the result of joining ARHS in 2000. As our bank account will attest, we have taken advantage of the plant material offered at ARHS sales. Many wonderful plants have found spots in our garden. At last count there were over two hundred rhododendrons and at least thirty-five magnolias. *R.* 'Fantastica' is truly fantastic! The blossoms improve as they age, as does the habit. Wouldn't we all like to do that? I love *R.* 'Consolini's Windmill' when it blooms! *R.* 'Tantramar', a Brueckner hybrid ('Catalga' x 'Treasure') is new to our garden. It is quickly becoming another favourite. It does not have many buds for the coming year but this year beautiful bell-shaped blossoms of a day glow pink covered the glossy leaves of this compact little plant. The evergreen azaleas are smothered with blossoms in late June and then perform again in autumn with wonderful leaf colour.

The magnolias are in Duff's care. He has nursed a reticent *M.* 'Hattie Carthan' back to health and he has been known to pick the leaves off the large leafed *M. sieboldii* x *tripetala* and *M. obovata* (ex.Goteborg Botanic Garden) if there is a threat of early wet snow. *M.* 'Butterflies' finally bloomed for us. We are holding our breath in anticipation of bloom on some special crosses entrusted to our care. They have reached three meters in as many years. We shall have to have a party when they bloom!

Viburnums thrive in the damp areas of our garden. *Viburnum plicatum* 'Shoshoni' and *Viburnum plicatum* var. 'Mariesii' were a feast for the eye in the spring and a feast for the robins in the fall. *Disanthus cercidifolius* also likes the same moist conditions. If you purchased this plant through the Members' Sale I am preaching to the converted; it is glorious with its burgundy red autumn foliage.

More Light

All this collecting has meant more work for "the doer". Despite the initial thinning more trees had to come down. This summer with professional help 30 large trees were cut. To say that it was nerve wracking would be an understatement! Some days I left rather than watch, especially when the tree to be dropped was in the middle of plantings. I need not have worried. We had a good man for the job. No damage was done. New light conditions will bring change, yet again. The removal of the huge roots has opened up new planting areas. Our ARHS treasures will not have to compete with maples and scraggly spruce. It is too soon to sing the praises of many of our ARHS purchases but for the most part they are still alive and doing reasonably well.

An added bonus in belonging to ARHS has been the generosity of the membership. They have shared their expertise, encouraged our efforts and overlooked our mistakes, with the exception of *R.* 'Nova Zembla' and our other grocery store rhodies. They have shared their gardens with us and have entrusted us with gifts from their gardens. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the folk who so willingly help us with the plant sales. Thank you.

After an autumn of dividing and transplanting, I am grumbling about this "blooming garden" being too big! The deer have found us and the doe we saw showing her triplets around the neighbourhood has us nervous. The raccoons ate the grapes and we have been waging war with voles. It keeps a gardener humble.

My resolve is to improve my Latin over the winter and to show some restraint at the plant sales. Duff's is to say, "No dear." Winter is a dangerous time in our household for I have time to dream. So in all honesty only one resolve is a possibility. Come spring we plan to be in the garden at Sime Court and you are welcome.☺

Forcing Flowering Shrubs

By Mary Helleiner

In the March 5, 2006 issue of the Halifax *Chronicle Herald* there was an article on forcing flowering shrubs, probably not by a local writer. It listed a large number of shrubs that could be cut, brought into the house and forced into flower; the list included forsythia, witch hazel, magnolia, rhododendron, pieris, amelanchier and a good many others. I had tried unsuccessfully to force some of these in the past, but after reading the article I thought I would try again.

On March 6 I cut small sprays of *Pieris japonica*, *Corylopsis spicata*, *Corylopsis pauciflora*, *Magnolia stellata*, *Rhododendron mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink', *R. schlippenbachii* and *R. 'Ramapo'*. I did not bother with forsythia and witch hazel because they are no-brainers; forsythia cut after about late January always opens perfectly in water. I particularly like to force some of the old varieties of forsythia, with smaller and often paler flowers. Witch hazel can be picked earlier than forsythia, even before Christmas in some cases, and, depending on the year, opens very quickly. The dark red and copper witch hazels seem to show up better indoors than they do in the garden. I have never had a failure with either of the two.

The twigs I picked on March 6 were placed in a jug with deep water up to level of the buds. The stems were lightly smashed. No additives were placed in the water. The jug was put on a north facing windowsill where the day temperature was steady at 15 or 16 C.; the night temperature was a couple of degrees lower. The buds were misted with water almost every day; the water was changed from time to time and a small amount of stem was snipped off occasionally.

To my surprise the first to open was the pieris; it took only six days and the flowers were perfect, just as they would have been outside. After eleven days in the house the *Corylopsis spicata* opened; the drooping racemes were shorter than they would have been outdoors and the flowers a little paler. The following day (twelve days) *Corylopsis pauciflora* opened; the flowers were somewhat small and pale. 'Cornell Pink' came into bloom after thirteen days; the blooms were almost the same as outdoors except that they were an extremely pale pink, not their usual strong pink. After fourteen days the magnolia opened. The flowers were smaller than normal and not as wide open, but not bad. 'Ramapo' took 24 days to open its flowers; they were a very pale mauve and not wide open. *R. schlippenbachii* never quite opened fully; its half open buds were a nice soft pink. I had not had the heart to cut the big buds of an elepidote for forcing.

Out of all these I would say that the pieris was the hands down winner (not counting, of course witch hazel and forsythia). If one could bring oneself to cut a big bunch of pieris it would make a lovely decoration. 'Cornell Pink' was also very successful. *Corylopsis spicata* was attractive as a bouquet, but not as good as outdoors. The magnolia would also be acceptable. The other rhodos were not worthwhile.

Of course this was only one experiment; under different conditions many of these shrubs might have forced beautifully: who can say. ☞



ARHS members at work on the Kentville Research Station plantings. [Photo Chris Hopgood]

Photo Album



R. vaseyi. [Photo Don Craig]



'April Mist'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Calsap'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Blue Ridge'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Ginny Gee'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Dora Amateis'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



R. thomsonii "Sofiero form". [Photo Jens Birck]



'#B-15-01'. [Photo Dr. J. Brueckner]