Azalea Blooms

The Newsletter of the Azalea Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

July 2019 **www.azaleachapter.com** **Visit us on Facebook**

R. 'Marge's Dexter' Joe Coleman

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 21, Pre-meeting luncheon 1:00 PM at Dreamland BBQ, 10730 Alpharetta Hwy, Roswell 30076.

Sunday, July 21, Chapter meeting, 2:30 PM. Double classroom, Chattahoochee Nature Center, 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, GA 30075. Hubert Jones will present a program on Bonsai. Hubert is a former Chapter member who renewed his membership at this year's plant sale. He has extensive experience with Bonsai, camellias and rhododendrons. Hubert will bring some Bonsai plants to the meeting for sale to those interested.

Sunday, September 22, 2:30 PM. Chapter meeting Chattahooche Nature Center. Lori Prosser. English Gardens. Her website: www.loriprosserphotos.com.

President's column

This year my husband and I again took a trip to Robbinsville, NC, and to the Native Azalea Festival. As part of the festival, tours are given to nearby Hooper Bald to see the *R. calendulaceum* in full bloom there. The reds, oranges, yellows, and those colors in combination are a delight! It is heart-warming to see an area that has had some attention and loving, providing an environment that is conducive to these beauties to flourish. Not only do azalea enthusiasts maintain this Bald, but several service organizations help as well. If only we had the manpower and resources to do this to all areas where the native azaleas and rhododendrons have been overgrown by other plants—

While we were there, we had planned to take the day-long hike to Gregory bald in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, but the weather didn't cooperate this year. I have yet to see the native azaleas and rhododendrons that others have enjoyed there in previous years. Maybe next year.
Stay cool during these hot summer days—

Jan Nicholson

Azalea Chapter Officers

President	Jan Nicholson (Janetkanicholson@gmail.com)
Vice President	John Kohli (Kohlmont@gmail.com)
Treasurer	Frank Tanner (FSTanner@bellsouth.net)
Secretary	Ken Gohring (KGohring@aol.com)
Past President	Charlie Andrews (CAndrews@mindspring.com)

Directors Term 6/2020

John Long (LongJohn1237@bellsouth.net)
Martha Morris (MarthaMorris@bellsouth.net)
Bob Schindler (R_Schind@bellsouth.net)

Directors Term 6/2021

Mike Bamford (MBamford123@comcast.net)
Joe Coleman (JColeazalea@hotmail.com)
Jane Moore (jamwtm@outlook.com)

Hurricane Creek 2019

Charlie Andrews filed the following report on field trips to the Hurricane Creek area this year.

This has been a very good spring at Hurricane Creek.

The wet fall and winter helped a good bud set form so there were plenty of flowers. The well-above normal temperatures in late April, however, pushed the opening, and the *R. canescens–R. calendulaceum* flower period was shortened but intensified. *R. arborescens* flowering will not begin for 3 weeks or so.

Our first trip was Thursday, April 25. *Canescens* was peak or a little past. *Calendulaceum* and hybrids were open but much was in finger stage or slightly earlier. We returned Tuesday, April 30. Most of what was not open on Thursday was open on the following Tuesday. Warm weather opened them quickly. I had mentioned to a few folks that I thought this year, in general, flowers were plentiful but somewhat smaller in size. After seeing quite a few two-and-a-quarter-inch corollas Tuesday at Hurricane Creek, I think I may not have been correct.

Overall the display this year has been special. The hills are alive.

Attached are some photos from the two days. While there are a large number of triploids on the property, probable results from *R. canescens* x *R. calendulaceum* interactions, some of the strong pinks with gold blotches, e.g., HC 018, HC 064, and HC 130, and probably HC 254 (untested), are tetraploid.

Photos Charlie Andrews.

***R.* HC 060.**

***R.* HC159.**

***R.* HC 241.**

***R.* HC 216.**

***R.* HC 029.**

***R.* HC 064.**

***R.* HC 059.**

***R.* HC 061.**

***R.* HC 254.**

***R.* HC 215.**

***R.* HC 149.**

(l - r) John Perkins, Ron Miller, Sally Perkins, John Kohli, Ralf Bauer.

***R.* HC 130.**

***R.* HC 068.**

***R.* HC 240.**

***R.* HC 215.**

***R.* HC 018.**

***R.* HC 176.**

Rhododendron Species are NOT Weeds to be Eradicated!

Mike Bamford

The U.S. Forest Service has established a new management policy that eradicates rhododendrons, mountain laurel and native azaleas. The Forest Service is currently burning the understory, including rhododendrons, then plan to herbicide regrowth. The Forest Service is under the misapprehension that eliminating these heath-family plants will result in a more healthy and "natural" forest. Cherished native rhododendrons have been misclassified as non-native and invasive understory, and revised Forest Service policy treats them as weeds.

Currently the Nantahala Forest Service in North Carolina has scheduled actions to burn and eradicate rhododendrons on over 40,000 acres. Rhododendron species within these burn-areas include the great laurel (*R. maximum*), *R. minus*, *R. calendulaceum (the flame azalea)*, *R. arborescens*, *R. viscosum*, *R. cumberlandense*, and mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) The Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy estimates hundreds of new species and variations are awaiting discovery, but, only if we preserve these areas. The American Rhododendron Society believes these plants, and their habitat, ought to be cherished and preserved.

***R. maximum.* Most *R. maximum* blooms are solid white. This not-typical bloom shows how attractive the species can be.**

photo Charlie Andrews.

Conflict over how public lands ought to be managed is nothing new. Multiple organizations typically lobby for their own specific interests. Unfortunately, none of the stakeholders included in recent forest management decisions advocated for rhododendrons. That needs to change. The Wildlife Management Institute and timber industry tout the benefits of under-story eradication for improving some game species habitat and providing timber for toilet paper, both factually accurate. Unfortunately, all the many benefits from the

from the majestic 100-plus-year-old rhododendrons were ignored before instituting the eradication policy now in effect.

***R. minus*.** photo Ken Gohring.

Oddly, Forest Service support documents for this new policy directly contradicts the USDA's previous publish findings. Although rhododendrons were inventoried throughout this area in 1905, new Forest Service documents declare rhododendrons to be outside their natural habitat and preventing timber growth. While rhododendron provide beneficial wildlife habitat, recent Forest Service documents frame rhododendrons as impenetrable thickets hindering future timber growth and recreationalists, (where do they think the bears, songbirds and other fauna seek shelter?). The revised Forest Service plan will replace shallow rooted rhododendrons that have long prevented erosion on steeper slopes with larger trees that neither thrive on steep slopes, nor will they reduce silt into the nearby creeks. While previous USDA documents recognize the many benefits of evergreen rhododendrons as firebreaks, recent documents blame rhododendron and laurel for adding fuel to fires. Supporting Forest Service planning documents appear to ignore all benefits associated with rhododendrons and conclude their eradication to be without negative effects. The Forest Service review and planning process has overlooked the plants most identified with the aesthetics of our Southern Appalachian forests, and classified them with undesirable weeds and kudzu.

We hoped this was a simple oversight due to the lack of information, but have become aware that much effort is behind the current Forest Service management policies to which we would like reversed. In other words, the Forest Service has already downgraded rhododendrons classification to "undesirable understory" and "invasive". Our action is required in order to reverse the destructive policy.

Our active azalea and rhododendron organizations should work together to correct the erroneous information used to justify the 'burn and spray' management policy. We should provide a balanced perspective to forest management policy by providing a voice for the preservation of rhododendron species by highlighting their scenic, ecological and even fire retardant and erosion benefits. We are simply asking the Forest Service to make an informed decision based upon all the facts, including the beneficial aspects of the rhododendron species.

Several Azalea Chapter members have informed the Forest Service that we object to killing rhododendrons, but more support is needed. The national ARS board has agreed to advocate for rhododendrons and recently sent the letter below to the regional forester in Atlanta requesting the agency take action to preserve rhododendrons as national treasures.

What can we do?

Our chapter is encouraging members to send a letter to the Forest Service (address in Ann's letter) supporting the position of the ARS as soon as possible. Include why your feel native rhododendrons are important to and that they should be preserved not eradicated, pictures might be helpful. Correspondence should replicate the spirit and tone of Ann's letter and support the proposed solution to preserve and protect native rhododendrons, not attack the Forest Service.

We will notify members of future Forest Service policy changes and opportunities for public comments. Please be aware that your letters and emails at these critical times will help preserve the native rhododendron species in their natural habitat. Thank you!

Regional Forester Ken Arney
USDA Forest Service, Southern Region (R8)
1720 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30309

Dear Mr. Arney –

On behalf of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) we respectfully submit this request to establish a Forest Management Standard Policy to preserve native rhododendrons. Our society is an international horticultural organization of over 2500 members, with a mission to educate and encourage appreciation of the genus Rhododendron. Many rhododendrons are endemic to the Southern Appalachian area, which provides a unique opportunity for viewing and researching the numerous species and species variants – such as the Great Rhododendron, (R. maximum); R. minus; R. calendulaceum and R. cumberlandense), the Sweet Azalea (R. arborescens), etc. as well as Mountain Laurel (kalmia latifolia). The native range for rhododendrons includes the Region 8 National Forest, which is in the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service. Traditionally ericaceous flower shrubs have been protected and preserved by the Forest Service by management practices and policy without interference. The recent forest planning documents have included rhododendrons into a group labeled "undesirable understory" which can be, and are being, actively eradicated without the benefit of a complete Environmental Impact Statement.

The Final Environmental Assessment Southside Project, Nantahala District, supported a decision to eradicate cherished native azaleas, rhododendrons and mountain laurel using controlled burning and herbicides. Perhaps the inclusion of rhododendrons into "undesirable understory" was unintended, and that they can be removed from the list of weeds, briars and kudzu. The recent assessment did not consider the many benefits provided by native rhododendrons, although previous forest planning documents and USDA publications have recognized and valued their many benefits.

Rhododendrons provide a healthy environment for recreation, by participation with others in viewing blooms and plants, visiting and touring natural park areas, hiking on mountain trails surrounded by sounds of nature, coolness provided by shade from ericaceous plants, habitat for birds and small animals and as a therapeutic hobby where seeing, smelling and touching plants is cherished.

The Forest Service leadership and management has previously preserved rhododendrons, a policy we would like to see continue. The burn and herbicide policy puts rhododendrons at risk and has altered ecological conditions. Certainly unfavorable ecological conditions could justify placing rhododendrons into a Species of Conservation Concern, where the Regional Forester has discretion to make rhododendrons a part of that category.

The purpose of this letter is not to stop the Forest Service from eradicating invasive plants, but to make sure the desirable ericaceous plants are given space to flourish in their native environment. The American Rhododendron Society believes Forest Service policy should establish a new forest management Standard that will preserve rhododendrons, native azaleas and mountain laurel throughout Southern Appalachia and across the Cumberland Plateau. If that is not an option, to place Rhododendrons as a Species of Conservation Concern which could easily be an alternative.

Thank you for your interest and efforts in managing our beautiful National Forests for future generations of rhododendron enthusiasts.

Sincerely yours,

Ann W. Mangels, Immediate Past President
American Rhododendron Society

The Chapter picnic and cutting party 2019

This event was again held at the lovely mountain home of John Kohli and Teddy DuMont in the Achasta Country Club in Dahlonega. While the site is over an hour north of Atlanta, there was good attendance of Chapter members and guests. There were a few azaleas in bloom but most had already bloomed. A large daylily in bloom greeted attendees as they walked into the property. There were not many interested in getting cuttings. Joe Coleman who usually propagates a large number of cuttings indicated that he was taking a pass on cuttings this year.

Chapter president Jan Nicholson presided over the festivities. Charlie Andrews treated those present with pigs-in-the-blanket prior to the main meal. There was a large spread of salads, side dishes and desserts brought by attendees. Most of these were family favorites. The Chapter provided both pork and chicken BBQ and beverages. It was truly a feast enjoyed by all present.

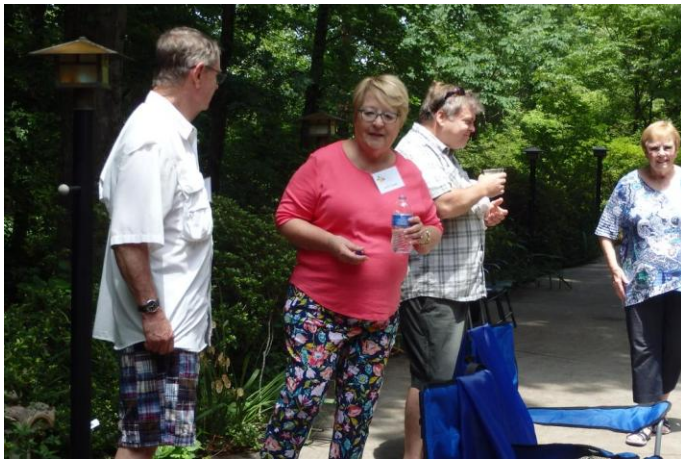
Frank Tanner presented a finance report. Hugh Denny indicated that Oak Grove Church had been generous in providing our annual sale site and moved giving the church a $500.00 contribution. Motion seconded and approved. Bob Schindler presented Jan Nicholson with a wood turned vase containing a floral arrangement. A large number of plants, contributed by Martha Morris, Bob Schindler and John Kohli, were raffled. Member Grace Howard of Hiwassee brought 2 friends and fellow Hamilton Gardens board members, Linda Jones and Anne Mitchell. photos Ken Gohring.

Picnic hosts Teddy DuMont and John Kohli.

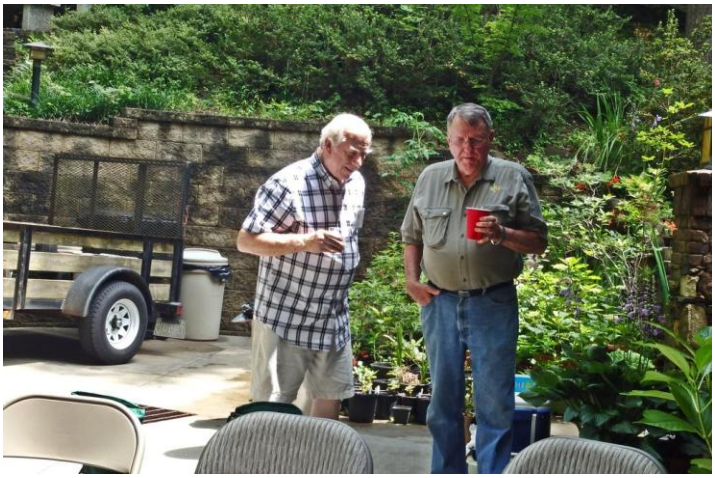
Daylily with large bloom along driveway entrance.

Unidentified red native azalea.

This lily, which appears to be an Asian lily, was growing in the Kohli/DuMont yard. It is quite large, measuring over 8 inches wide.



(l - r) Frank and Anna Tanner, Mike Bamford & Pam Schindler.



(l - r) John Kohli & Charlie Andrews.

(l - r) Anna Tanner, Charles Hunter & Jana Kicklighter.

Jan Nicholson & Frank Tanner.

Bob Schindler (left) presents Jan a wood turned vase with flowers. Others (l - r) Charles, Jana and Jan.

The raffle included an Asian beauty berry, oakleaf hydrangea, dawn redwood, azaleas and other plants.

Chapter Membership Roster

Copies of the 2019 Chapter membership roster were distributed at the meeting. Copies were mailed to those who were not at the meeting. Recipients are encouraged to check to see if there any errors in their listing. Check both the US mail address and email address. Over the years the Chapter has had errors in member listing, particularly with email addresses. If you find an error send Ken Gohring (KGohring@aol.com) an email with the correct information.

Botanical Names Charlie Andrews.

Reason for Botanical Names

Understandably, mankind has a desire to categorize and give a name to all living things, plant or animal. Naming them allows us to communicate with others about them, at least theoretically. The first names were common names that the local folk used. Miscommunication can occur when the same common name is used for different plants. In Scotland, corn can refer to rye (*Secale cereale*) or barley (*Hordeum vulgare*); in England, it can refer to wheat; in most other places, it refers to maize (*Zea mays*). A given plant could be called by more than one name. *Rhododendron periclymenoides* has been called pinxterbloom azalea, election-pink, Mayflower, and swamp-apple, among many other names. We are also faced with language barriers. Common names are in the local language. For 'azalea', 'tsutsuji' is the general term (transliterated) in the Japanese language. Early naturalists began to solve this confusion problem by using Latin. Though Latin was a single, dead language that could be used universally for botanical names, the first efforts had their own set of problems. Latin phrases used for names tended to become long and cumbersome. Different authors used different Latin phrases.

Latin phrase by John Banister or Leonard Plukenet for the first documented North American azalea, *Rhododendron viscosum*: Virginia rockrose with flower and fragrance of honeysuckle, D. Banister.

Eventually, the scientific community settled on a simple concept, a two-word name for every species (the binomial). The most important classification is a **species**. Each species belongs to one and only one **genus**. Think in terms of generic and specific. The name for a genus must be a single Latinized word. To identify a species, one has to add a unique one-word species epithet to the genus. Each species can have only one valid name, based on rules defined in the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (ICN). The species epithet does not have to be descriptive. Linnaeus called it the trivial epithet, meaning that its function is simply to be unique for the genus. Yes, epithets can be descriptive, but not necessarily accurate. It can indicate a supposed characteristic. It can indicate a resemblance to some other plant or object. It can commemorate or refer to a person, real, fictional, or mythological. It can refer to a place, location, or habitat. It can be meaningless word. The plural of genus is genera, but species is both a singular and plural word. Specie is a coin form of money and has no botanical meaning.

In the *Rhododendron* genus, botanists have placed almost 1,000 species. One of these species is named *Rhododendron maximum*. The species epithet is *maximum*, and the species name is *Rhododendron maximum*. Note that this species is far from the largest or tallest *Rhododendron*. When no ambiguity exists for the genus being identified, authors often abbreviate the genus, e.g., *R. maximum*.

Problems With Botanical Names

A single, Latinized binomial for every species can allow for universal communication regardless of one's own language. Still, many, if not most, gardeners and nature lovers prefer common names to botanical names. Common names are often easier to remember and often much easier to pronounce. Most of us can more readily understand what a flame azalea is than a *R. calendulaceum*. At least one source incorrectly stated *calendulaceum* had to do with looking like candles.

Authors of genera and species sometimes ignore the difficulty people will have with the Latinized words they create for their new taxa. *Rhododendron prinophyllum*, *Rhododendron periclymenoides*, *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, *Amorphophallus titanus*, *Scutellaria galericulata*, *Anigozanthos flavidus*, *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*, *Warszewiczella cochlearis* (now *Cochleanthes flabelliformis*), *Ornithogalum adseptentrionesvergentulum*, *Crepidiastrixeris denticulatoplatyphylla*, and *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*, are not names that easily roll off one's tongue. There are hundreds and hundreds more examples like these. Such multi-syllabic binomials tend to discourage us non-professional plant people.

However, if one has some basic knowledge of Latin, breaking down the words into Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes can sometime help make botanical names more understandable. Yet, not many of us know any Latin. Even fewer know how these often difficult names should be pronounced. We should realize that no one knows exactly how ancient Romans pronounced Latin. In all probability, in the Roman Empire were many Latin dialects such as we have in English. Botanical Latin is essentially a written, not spoken, language, often taking non-Latin words and putting them in a Latin syntax. William T. Stearn (Stearn, 1992) estimated that about 80 percent of names for genera and 30 percent of names for species epithets are based on languages other than Latin or Greek. Stern goes on to say that "How they are pronounced really matters little provided they sound pleasant and are understood by all concerned."

Eether, eyether, pyjamas, pyjahmas, vanilla, vanella, oysters, ersters. Pronunciation was the theme of George and Ira Gershwin's 1937 song, "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off."

You like potato and I like potahto
You like tomato and I like tomahto
Potato, potahto, Tomato, tomahto.
Let's call the whole thing off

which ends in compromise:

For we know we need each other so we
Better call the calling off off

Pronunciation Guidelines

Using some basic rules for Latin pronunciation can assist with accenting the syllables and pronouncing the vowels and consonants. In English, two main methods of pronouncing Latin consonants and vowels for botanical names exist: traditional English pronunciation and the restored academic pronunciation used by classical Latin scholars. Either is acceptable, and anyone who tells you differently is an elitist. In America, botanical names have become Americanized, and vowels are usually pronounced in an American style. There is no need to worry excessively about Latin vowel pronunciation. Just follow your natural inclination. In the United States and also in England, English vowel sounds are most often used. This primarily affects the sounds of the long "E" and long "I". A long 'E' in English is generally pronounced EE as in **e**vil, where in Continental Europe it is pronounced AA as in th**e**y. A long 'I' in English is most often pronounced EYE as in k**i**te, where in Continental Europe it is pronounced EE as in mach**i**ne. In the United States, pronouncing *Lupinus* as loo-PIE-nus is as acceptable as a French person who pronounces it as loo-PEE-nus. What naturally English-speaking person would pronounce the genus *Pinus* as PEE-nus, though that is the classical Latin and Continental Europe pronunciation? Liberty Hyde Bailey (Bailey, 1933) notes, "There is no standard agreement of rules for the pronunciation of botanical binomials. Even in the best practice, there may be variations in pronunciation of a given word; this is unavoidable, and no more to be regretted than similar variations in pronouncing many English words." In comparing published and online pronunciation guides, one will find significant disagreement. Relax and take comfort in that fact.

Syllables

1. Generally, every syllable of a Latin or Latinized Greek word is pronounced, and every vowel represents

one syllable. A diphthong (two vowels producing one sound) counts as one vowel.

2. Each consonant, vowel, or diphthong is a separate sound.

Vowel, Diphthong, and Consonant Sounds

3. Vowels are sounded long or short, depending on the relative time saying them.
   Long vowels: c**a**ke, f**a**ther, **e**vil, th**e**y, k**i**te, mach**i**ne, v**o**te, br**u**te.
   Short vowels: c**a**t, **a**part, **e**gg, k**i**t, p**o**t, t**u**b, p**ut**.
4. All diphthongs are considered long:
   '**ae**' as the ai in aisle '**au**' as the ou in house '**ai**' as in lair (English, not Latin diphthong)
   '**ei**' as in rein (rare) '**eu**' e+u, as in you '**oi**' as in loin (English, not Latin diphthong)
   '**oe**' as oi in oil '**ui**' u+i, as in gooey or oui (French) or muy (Spanish)
5. When two vowels come together without forming a diphthong, each is pronounced separately, and in a Latin word the first vowel is short. In words of Greek origin, the first vowel is long.
6. The Latin letter 'I' can be a vowel or a consonant. As a Latin consonant, it has a soft y sound as in the word 'yellow'; *maior* = major. While Latin did not originally have a letter 'J', scholars added the letter 'J' in the Middle Ages to sometimes signify the letter 'I' as a consonant; *Iulius* = Julius.
7. A single consonant following a vowel goes with the following syllable.
8. Two consonants in the middle of a word are usually split between preceding and following syllables. Exceptions are when the second syllable is l, r, or h and the two consonants are commonly kept together in English: bl, cl, gl, kl, pl, tl, br, cr, dr, gr, kr, pr, tr, ch, ph, th.
9. Some consonants are silent when followed by another consonant (e.g., cm, cn, ct, gm gn, mn, tm, ps, pt, etc.).
10. 'Ch' is pronounced as a hard k.
11. 'G' and 'C' are usually pronounced hard (guh and kuh) when followed by a, o, and u, but soft (gee and cee) when followed by e, i, y, ae, and oe. E.g., kuh-NESS-cenz (*canescens*).
12 'X' is considered two consonants (ks). E.g., MACK-sih-mum (*maximum*).

Stress

13. If a word has only two syllables, the stress is always on the first. The vowel is short if followed by two or more consonants, otherwise it is long. E.g., SĬS-tus (*Cistus*), RŌE-zah (*Rosa*).
14. If the word has three or more syllables, then where the stress is applied depends upon whether the syllable next to the last has (a) a long vowel or (b) a double consonant.
    a. In words of three or more syllables, the stress falls on the next to last syllable when that vowel syllable is long. The syllable is long when it ends in a long vowel or a diphthong. E.g., al-PIE-nus (*alpinus*).
    b. In words of three or more syllables, the stress falls on the next to last syllable when two consonants (e.g., ll, nn, ns, ss) separate the last two syllables, making the stress vowel short. E.g., ca-nah-DEN-sis (*canadensis*).
    c. Otherwise, in words of three or more syllables, the stress should be on the third syllable from the end of the word, and the stressed vowel is usually short, with exceptions, of course. E.g., CLĔH-ma-tis (*Clematis*), SĬCK-lah-men (*Cyclamen*), but roe-SĀY-key-ai (*rosaceae*).
    d. These rules are not easy to follow in practice because it is not simple to determine whether a particular vowel should be short or long.

Endings

15. Typical Latin endings for the genus, species epithet, and lower taxa (variety and forma) include **'-us'** (us), **'-a'** (ah or uh), **'-um'** (uhm), **'-ans'** (ahnz), **'-e'** (ee or ay), **'-ens'** (enz), **'-se'** (see or say).

'-ana' (ay-nuh) indicates position, connection, or possession by, e.g., *caroliniana*.
'-ense' (en-see) indicates country, place of growth, origin, or habitat, e.g., *canadense*.
'-escens' (ess-enz) indicates the process of becoming but not fully achieved , e.g., *canescens*; similar to '-ish' words in English.
'-i', **'-ii'** (eye, ee-eye) both '-i' endings indicate commemoration of a person, e.g., *vaseyi* (Vasey), *eastmanii* (Eastman).
'-icum' (ihk-cum) Greek word suffix indicates belonging to, e.g, *lapponicum*.
'-inea' (eye-nee-uh) Greek word suffix indicates color or material, resemblance or possession, e.g., *ferruginea*.
'-ium' (ee-um) characteristic of, e.g., *parvifolium*.
'-oides' (oy-deez) Greek word suffix indicates resemblance, e.g., *periclymenoides*.

16. **'-ātus'**, **'āta'**, **'-ātum'**; **'-ōsus**', **'-ōsa'**, **'-ōsum'**; **'-īnus'**, **'-īna'**, **'-īnum'** endings all have long penultimate vowels, so that syllable is stressed. **'-ĭcus'**, **'-ĭca'**, **'-ĭcum'**; **'-ĭdus'**, **'-ĭda'**, **'-ĭdum'**; **'-ĭmus'**, **'-ĭma'**, **'-ĭmum'**; **'-ŭlus'**, **'-ŭla**', **-'ŭlum'** endings all have short penultimate vowels, so the third syllable from the end is stressed when three or more syllables.

Many botanical names are derived from individuals and geographic names. Such names have nothing to do with Latin except the Latinized endings. Here it is permitted to follow natural pronunciation and stress, e.g., VAZ-ee-eye rather than vah-ZEE-ee-eye for *vaseyi*, koal-MAHN-ee-eye rather than koh-luh-MAHN-ee-eye for *colemanii*, chap-MAHN-ee-eye rather than kap-MAHN-ee-eye.

North American Rhododendrons

Below are suggestions for pronunciation of North American rhododendrons along with information on what each Latinized name means. More botanical pronunciation details and references are given in Pronouncing Biological Latin from Latinata. Also, Dave's Garden Botanary has over 21,000 botanical words with meaning of words and suggested pronunciations. The website Native and Naturalized Plants of the Carolinas & Georgia has audio pronunciations of many botanical names.

Rhododendron: roe-doe-DEN-dron

From Greek: 'rhodon', meaning rose and 'dendron', meaning tree; thus rosetree or rose-colored tree. In the first century AD, both the Greek Dioscorides and the Roman Pliny use the Greek term *rhododendron* in referring to oleander (*Nerium oleander*).

Azalea: ah-ZAY-lee-ah or uh-ZAYL-yuh

From Greek 'azaleos', meaning arid; Linnaeus erroneously thought azaleas grew in dry, arid places. All *Azalea* species except one were moved into *Rhododendron*. That species now *Kalmia procumbens*.

Ledum: LEE-dum

From Greek 'ledon', for the plant now known as *Cistus*, which is not related to *Ledum*. Genus merged into *Rhododendron*.

Menziesia: men-ZEEZ-ee-ah or men-ZESS-ee-ah

Honoring Archibald Menzies. Genus merged into *Rhododendron*.

Therorhodion: theh-row-RHO-dee-on

Genus created by John K. Small, who thought several Kamchatka species should be removed from *Rhododendron*. Name comes from one of Carl Johan Maximowicx's eight *Rhododendron* sections;

etymology not clear. Maximowicx's note (in Latin) for the section name mentions summer blooming of rose flowers. Though often included with *Rhododendron*, DNA evidence leads some botanists to keep it as a separate genus.

R. alabamense: ah-luh-bah-MEN-see or ah-luh-bah-MEN-say
Pertaining to the state of Alabama, USA.

R. albiflorum: al-BIH-flow-rum
White flowered.

R. arborescens: ar-bo-RESS-cenz
Becoming tree-like.

R. arborescens var. *georgiana*: jorg-ee-AA-nuh
Pertaining to the state of Georgia, USA.

R. atlanticum: at-LAN-tih-kum
Pertaining to the Atlantic Coast of North America.

R. austrinum: oss-TRY-num or aus-TRY-num
Southern.

R. calendulaceum: kah-len-dew-LAY-see-um
Like a marigold, *Calendula officinalis*.

R. camtschaticum: cam-SHAY-tih-kum
Pertaining to the Kamchatka Peninsula, Siberia.
(syn. *Therorhodion camtschaticum*)
R. camtschaticum subsp. *glandulosum*: glan-du-LOW-sum
Gland-bearing; glandular.

R. canadense: kah-nuh-DEN-see
Pertaining to Canada.

R. canescens: kuh-NESS-cenz or kah-NESS-cenz
With very short hairs that give a whitish appearance; becoming greyish.

R. catawbiense: kah-taw-bee-EN-see
Pertaining to the Catawba River region of North Carolina (headwaters).

R. colemanii: koal-MAHN-ee-eye
Honoring Stephen Daniel (S. D.) Coleman.

R. columbianum: koh-lum-bee-AA-num or koh-lum-bee-AH-num
Pertaining to British Columbia, Canada.
(syn. *Ledum columbianum*, *L. glandulosum*, *R. neoglandulosum*)

R. cumberlandense: kum-ber-lan-DEN-see
Related to the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains, USA.

R. eastmanii: east-MAHN-ee-eye
Honoring George Eastman.

R. flammeum: flam-MEE-um
Flame-like in color.
(syn. *R. speciosum*): spee-cee-OH-sum
Showy; good-looking.

R. groenlandicum: green-LAN-dih-kum
Related to Greenland.
(syn. Ledum groenlandicum)

R. lapponicum: lap-PO-nih-kum or lap-PAH-nih-kum
Related to Lapland.
R. lapponicum var. *parvifolium*: par-vuh-FOH-lee-um or par-vee-FOH-lee-um
With small leaves.

R. macrophyllum: mack-roe-FILL-lum
With large leaves.

R. maximum: MACK-sih-mum or MAHK-sih-mum
Greatest; largest.

R. menziesii: men-ZEEZ-ee-eye
(syn. *Menziesia ferruginea*): fer-roo-GUY-ne-ah or fer-roo-JIN-ne-ah
Rusty; light brown; with a mixture of red; iron-colored; rust-colored.

R. minus: MY-nus
Less; smaller.
(syn. *R. punctatum*): punk-TAY-tum or punk-TAH-tum
Dotted; marked with dots, spots, etc.; with a pocked surface.
R. minus var. *caroliniana*: kair-roe-lin-ee-AA-nah or kair-roe-lin-ee-AH-nah
Related to the Carolinas, southeastern United States.
R. minus var. *chapmanii*: chap-MAHN-ee-eye
Honoring Dr. Alvan W. Chapman.

R. occidentale: ox-sih-den-TAY-lee or ox-sih-den-TAH-lee
Western.
R. occidentale var. *paludosum*: pa-loo-DOE-sum
Marshy; swampy; boggy; marsh-loving; found in wet areas.
R. occidentale var. *sonomense*: so-no-MEN-see
Of Sonoma County, California, USA.

R. periclymenoides: per-ee-kly-meh-NOY-deez

Like *Lonicera periclymenum*, European honeysuckle or woodbine.

(syn. *R. nudiflorum*): nu-duh-FLOW-rum or nu-dee-FLOW-rum
Flowering on bare branches (before emergence of leaves).

R. pilosum: pih-LOW-sum or pie-LOW-sum
Pilose; hairy with distinct long ascending hairs; shaggy.

(syn. *Menziesia pilosa*): pih-LOW-suh or pie-LOW-suh

R. prinophyllum: pry-no-FILL-lum or preh-no-FILE-lum
With leaves like winterberry, *Prinos verticillata*, now *Ilex verticillata*.

(syn. *R. roseum*): roe-ZEE-um or ROE-zee-um
Rosy-colored.

R. prunifolium: proo-nee-FOE-lee-um
With leaves like *Prunus* (plumb, cherry, apricot).

R. tomentosum: toe-men-TOE-sum
Densely wooly; thickly and evenly covered with short and more or less appressed curled or curved matted hairs.

(syn. *Ledum palustre*): pah-LUSS-tree or pah-LUSS-tray
Swampy; marshy.

R. tomentosum spp. *subarcticum*: sub-ARK-tih-kum
Growing below the arctic region; nearly arctic.

(syn. *Ledum palustre* spp. *decumbens*): day-KOOM-benz or deh-KUM-benz
Decumbent; prostrate with tip rising upward; trailing on the ground with tips up.

R. vaseyi: VAY-zee-eye
Commemorating one or both of the George Vaseys: George R. Vasey, the discoverer of the species, and his father, George S. Vasey, chief botanist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

R. viscosum: viss-KOH-sum
Sticky.

R. viscosum var. *aemulans*: ih-MYOU-lanz or eh-MYOU-lanz
Rivaling; more or less equaling. Named by Alfred Rehder, who did not say what this plant was similar to.

R. viscosum var. *montanum*: mon-TAN-num or mon-TAY-num
Pertaining to or growing on mountains.

R. viscosum var. *serrulatum*: ser-you-LAY-tum, ser-roo-LAH-tum, or sur-you-LAH-tum, etc.
Somewhat serrate; finely serrate (leaves, but not a reliable identification character).

Further Resources

The Latinized names will become more friendly (and teach you more about the plants) if one knows what the words mean. In addition to Stearn's *Botanical Latin*, There are other books that explain many of the words used in botanical names. Bill Neal's *Gardener's Latin* (Neal, 1992) is a small book of alphabetized Latin descriptors, along with horticultural facts and fables. Chicheley Plowden's *A Manual of Plant Names* (Plowden, 1972) has chapters on generic names, species epithets and botanical terms. More I have not seen are *Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners* (Stern, 2002), Sara Mauritz's *Fearless Latin* (Mauritz, 2011), and Lorraine Harrison's *Latin for Gardeners* (Harrison, 2012).

References

Bailey, L. H. (1933). *How Plants Get Their Names*. New York: The MacMillan Company.

Botanary, The Botanical Dictionary. <https://davesgarden.com/guides/botanary/>. Accessed 17 May 2019.

Harrison, Lorraine. (2012). *Latin for Gardeners: Over 3,000 Plant Names Explained and Explored*. University of Chicago Press.

Mauritz, Sara G. (2011). *Fearless Latin: A Gardener's Introduction to Botanical Nomenclature*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. An on-demand publishing service, now part of Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) service.

Native and Naturalized Plants of the Carolinas and Georgia. <http://www.namethatplant.net/>. Accessed 17 May 2019.

Neal, Bill. (1992). *Gardener's Latin: A Lexicon*. Chapel Hill NC: Algonquin Books.

Plowden, C. Chicheley. (1972). *A Manual of Plant Names*, 3rd ed. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd.

Pronunciation of Botanical Latin. <http://www.latinata.com/PronunciationOfBiologicalLatin.pdf >. Accessed 17 May 2019.

Stearn, William T. (1992). *Botanical Latin: History, Grammar, Syntax, Terminology and Vocabulary*. 4th ed. Newton Abbot, Devon, England: David & Charles.

Stearn, William T. (2002). *Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners: A Handbook on the Origin and Meaning of the Botanical Names of Some Cultivated Plants*. Portland OR: Timber Press.

Occidenatale Project Status Report

Reports from Mitch Mortvedt and Rick Edwards

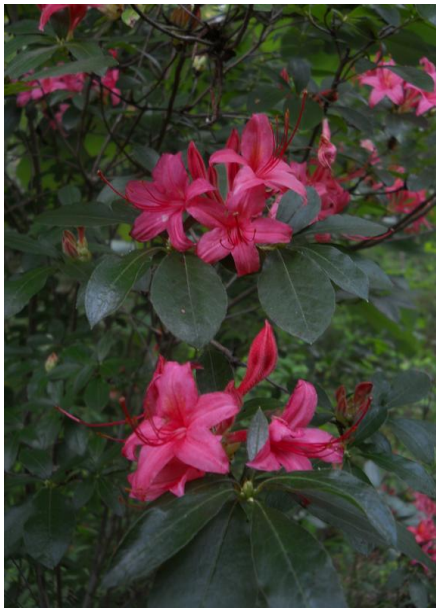
Mitch: Here is a picture of occidentale from Flynn Creek. The seedlings are in front of 2nd year R. maximum and 2nd year canescens. The enclosure is to keep armadillos out. I've replaced most wooden enclosures with 18" 2/4 wire.

Rick: I thought it was time to update you on my progress with occidentale. The rain has played havoc with many of the seedlings (10 inches last Thursday/Friday). The ones most adversely affected have been those from Low Divide. All but three of over sixty seedlings died from excess moisture. Cuyumaca, Palomar, Siskiyou, Thunder Bay, and Azalea State Reserve have all suffered a thirty to forty percent loss. Biotic and abiotic stressors both may be having an impact. Stagecoach Hill and Flynn Creek on the other hand are both suffering less than a ten percent loss. All are planted in composted pine bark fines and receiving the same 10-8-8 fertilizer. Toward the end of the month I will give them all a foliar spray with urea, potassium chloride, Epsom salt, and manganese for heat stress. I will send pictures soon. Hope things are continuing to improve for you and yours!

Member and friend's photographs

Ted Meredith

R. calendulaceum.



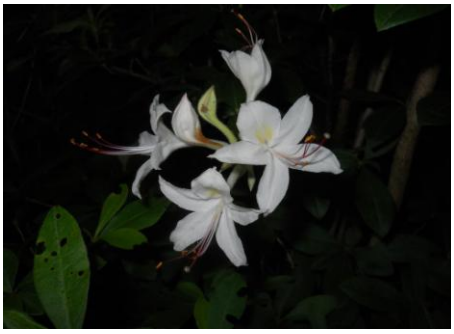
***R.* 'Parade'.**

***R.* 'Ribbon Candy'.**

***R.* 'Choptank Rose'.**

***R.* 'Cinnamon Sandy'.**

R. cumberlandense.



R. eastmanii.

***R.* 'Ed Stephens'.**

***R.* 'Hooper Pumpkin'.**

Late *R. calendulaceum.*

***R.* 'Pink Butterflies'.**

R. cumberlandense.

Native azalea - cutting from Hurricane Creek.

Red *R. calendulaceum.*

R. 'Grand Slam'.

Reddish *R. calendulaceum.*

R. 'Vulcan's Flame'.

R. 'Mountain Ruby'.

R. 'Bloodworth'.

R. 'Fragrant Hot Pink'.

R. colemanii 'Nancy McFadden'.

Clethra acuminata.

Stewartia rostrata.

Dogwood - *Cornus florida* 'Venus'.

R. 'Yellow Cloud'.

Climbing milkweed - *Matelea decipiens*.

R. 'Hot Spur Orange'.

John Kohli

***R.* 'Anna Rose Whitney'.**

R. alabamense.

***R.* 'Conversation Piece'.**

R. calendulaceum.

***R.* 'Lee's Dark Purple'.**

Red Exbury.

Azaleas, lilies, hydrangea, & iris

Glendale azalea - *R.* 'Eros'.

Species azalea - *R. Amagianum*

Flathead iris.

Pink hydrangea.

***R.* 'Brandy Mint'.**

Earl Sommerville

Six petal native azalea.

George Evans

Unidentified broadleaf rhododendron.

Charles Hunter

Wedowee *R. cumberlandense.*

Ken Gohring

Japanese snowball.

***R.* 'Wissahickon'.**

Mountain laurel - *Kalmia latifolia.*

Remember to use ARSStore.org for all purchases.

The ARS has received over $3,500 thanks to people using online ARS affiliate stores, primarily Amazon. Now it is important to keep using an ARS online affiliate store such as **Walmart.ARSStore.org**, or at least **AmazonSmile.ARSStore.org**.

Every purchase, no matter how large or how small, contributes at no additional cost to you. Please remember to use the ARSStore.org.

Azalea Chapter

American Rhododendron Society (ARS)

Membership Application

Azalea Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

http://www.azaleachapter.com

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Interests _____

Check New or Renewal, circle membership type desired and mail with check payable to Azalea Chapter ARS

to _____ ☛

New memberships received after April 1 are good through following year.

Date: _____

New ☐ **Renewal** ☐

Membership Type

Student	**$10.00**
Individual/Family	**40.00**
Sustaining	**75.00**
Commercial	**90.00**
Sponsoring	**150.00**
Life Single	**1,000.00**
Life Family	**1500.00**
Associate (already in ARS)	**10.00**

Azalea Chapter ARS
5877 Gretna Court
Rex, GA 30273