
*Rhododendron Society
of Canada*



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RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF CANADA

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'V 61111', *R. Smirnowii* x *R. Lady Bessborough* "Roy Forster's most important cross" - Al Smith.

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Experiments with the Rooting of Rhododendron Leaves

By Nancy Halas

It is always more pleasing to report successful experiments rather than those which are not. However, in experimenting with just about every different type of combination, I decided to try rooting only Rhododendron Leaves. Why not?

My interest began in the attempt at the rooting of Rhododendron leaves when I spotted an unusual three-pointed leaf on a Rhododendron Haematodes. First, I thought that letting the bud next to the leaf grow would develop a three-pointed Haematodes. It did not.

I decided then to try and root the leaf by itself, without any bud, because I had already used the bud. I used rooting medium "Rootone F" on the leaf stem. This species has a very hairy underleaf and leaf stem structure. The leaf rooted. I was overjoyed because I was waiting for the bud to develop next. However, neither a bud nor a shoot every developed. The leaf was happy enough growing with its own root system, but it never set any buds or side shoots.

I tried other leaves and the more hairy stems had a tendency to root more easily. However, none of these ever set any buds or side shoots.

This was a little disappointing because I had hoped to be able to develop a Rhododendron plant from a single leaf. Unfortunately, here was a situation where a leaf lived by itself without any further progress.

Normally, experimental failures are never reported. However, because I thought that it was unusual to have only the leaf grow in a suspended state, I thought it worthy of mention. I couldn't think of any further changes that could be made to the experiment to modify it but did try a leaf with a bud. In that situation, the leaf and bud would not set a root.

I discontinued the experiment after exhausting the various ways in which to stimulate the leaf to set shoots.

Rhododendron Gardens

By Barbara Wilkins

In the middle of Ontario's most heavily-populated region is its best public collection of Rhododendron hybrids, unknown to most rhododendron fanciers. Given to this town by an eminent hybridizer, Dr. Joseph Brueckner, 'Rhododendron Gardens', Mississauga should soon receive the attention it deserves.

Joe's own garden in Mississauga has been a magnet for rhodo breeders and growers since its creation fifteen years ago. Joe moved to Ontario from New Brunswick in 1976, bringing with him many of the hybrid rhododendrons he had succeeded in breeding for the cold climate of that province. He has continued his work, making further crosses, then choosing and testing the resulting seedlings. A select few have proven themselves both beautiful and hardy, and have recently been named and registered.*

As he wished to make rhododendrons available for public viewing, Joe was put in touch with Rick Doyle, Director of Parks, who selected Cranberry Cove park as a suitable location for the donated plants. This choice was an excellent one, judging from the response of the rhodos through the years. Seventeen acres in area, the park's soil is a sandy loam, easily made suitable for rhododendrons by the addition of peatmoss, and a number of sheltering conifers were already growing there. Best of all, the park is bordered on the south by Lake Ontario; its humidity tempers both cold and heat on its shores and creates excellent growing conditions for broad-leafed evergreens - reminiscent perhaps of their ancestral mountain home.

In 1982, the first plants were moved from Joe's garden to the park, where they proved to grow twice as quickly as they had a kilometre or two back from the shore. Rhododendrons and azaleas have been added continually since then, and there are now perhaps a thousand plants in the collection.

During the ensuing years the plantation has received great support from Councillor Harold Kennedy, in whose ward the park is located, and from Councillor David Culham, as well as from a number of members of the Rhododendron Society, for which Joe is most grateful. Councillor Culham's enthusiasm for the project, shared by Councillor Kennedy, culminated in the park's recent change of name to 'Rhododendron Gardens.'

A visitor to the park walks up a sloping wood-chip path on the west side of the area. On either side are R. 'Lavendula', a wonderful low-growing German lepidote hybrid with scented leaves and large

lavender flowers. About thirty big evergreen azaleas, 'Hino Red', 'Helen Curtis', 'Guy Yerkes' and 'Rosebud' are flourishing on the slope, and at the top are many six-foot specimens of 'P.J.M.' The path continues south towards the lake, along a border filled with a glorious mixture of species and hybrids, many of them Joe's own crosses. R.

brachycarpum, maximum, metternichii and carolinianum are all represented. A deep yellow (R. brachycarpum x R. wardii) flowers at the park, though it did not do so in Joe's garden. A broad plant with heart shaped leaves is (R. orbiculare x R. catawbiense compactum). 'Caroline', ten feet wide and five feet tall, is in a bed by itself, and a huge R. dauricum sempervirens which came from Moscow via Peter Cox and David Leach is just as impressive.

Some plants are growing in island beds on the slope. Joe has used R. brachycarpum ssp. tigerstedtii x 'Pinnacle') seventeen years old and nine feet high fills one bed. In another is one that Joe describes as a 'good plant' ('Catalpa' x "Treasure"); the best clone of this cross has been named and registered as 'Tantramar.'

Down the hill and closer to the lake are numerous azaleas, including the lovely pink-flowered R. schlippenbachii, and many of Joe's lepidote crosses using R. dauricum and R. lapponicum. Toronto area growers routinely plant 'Scarlet Wonder', a low lepidote, with high hopes of glowing red trumpets, only to meet with inevitable disappointment; here the plants are flourishing and bloom well under the canopy.

Joe has noted the importance in his planting of protection from the sun, both in the park and in his garden. Here it is quite obvious that Rhododendrons sheltered from its rays are far happier than those that are exposed.

The lake at your feet, you suppose that you have reached the end of the plantings, but Dr. Brueckner leads along the shore to the east and you realize that you have hardly begun. Hybrids with R. arboreum, R. orbiculare and R. brachycarpum ssp. tigerstedtii abound. Many have not yet bloomed, but are well-budded and will do so next Spring. Early in April several large 'Audacious' (R. dauricum var. sempervirens open-pollinated seedling) will begin the show. Facing the lake in a sloping depression and growing as they would on the mountain heights are a quantity of lepidote hybrids, Joe's own crosses and 'Sarled' among them. This is the beginning of an alpine garden, which will be extended to the north as more sheltering conifers are put in place. We reach the eastern border of the park and the plantings finally end. Fenced for protection until they become larger are 500 small evergreen azaleas and numerous other hybrids, large and small. What a show they will make in years to come!

The collection is still increasing and will require on-going supervision. Joe hopes that some Mississauga rhodo grower will offer to assist

him in this - a wonderful opportunity for an interested member of the Rhododendron Society!

On Arbor Day, May 4, 1990, hundreds of school children watched as Dr. Joe Brueckner and Mayor Hazel McCallion planted first a large pine tree and then beside it one of Joe's rhododendron hybrids. With the announcement of the park's change of name to 'Rhododendron Gardens', the City of Mississauga recognized the immense contribution that Dr. Brueckner has made and continues to make to its beauty. Rhododendron growers will be impressed by his great achievement and appreciative of the opportunity to walk among so large a collection of unusual and beautiful plants.

* See B. Porteous, "Rhododendrons in a Cold Climate", American Rhododendron Society Journal, 44:2, Spring 1990.

Rhododendron Gardens is scheduled as part of the National Flower Show Tours, Sunday, June 2, 1991 - Editor-

Comments on the Hybrids of H.R.I.O.

By A.W. Smith

The main purpose of this article is to outline briefly the results of the work that was done by the various people associated with the Rhododendron program in Vineland.

Mr. R.A. Fleming, supervisor of ornamentals, planted the first iron-clad rhododendron varieties in 1954. Catawbiense hybrid seed was sown in 1958. Some excellent hybrids were obtained but the colours were similar to the common types that are readily available. A white selection, V-58015, did produce flowers that lasted much longer than usual. Many of these original seedlings are still in the plantings and produce a good show of flowers every season.

Roy Forster's breeding work began in 1959 and terminated in 1968, when he joined the teaching staff at Niagara College. Vinedale is from a cross made in 1960 - 'Scandinavia' x (Catalglia x Fortunei). There are several selections worth introducing. This cross was selfed in 1965 and produced a plant that was introduced in 1989 as 'Vineblanc', an excellent hardy white, but which is as difficult to root as 'La Bars White.' Tissue culture might solve the problem.

In 1961, the cross V-61081 was made, ('America x Dr. Ross') which produced an outstanding red rhododendron introduced in 1976 as 'Vivacious.' This plant was originally listed as being hardy to -5°F and is not an H-1 as some catalogues list. It does become hardier with age. The cross V-61101 ('Catalglia' x 'Lady Bessborough') of that year produced a beautiful shell pink that blooms ten days earlier than other elepidotes. Its earliness could be a feature for introduction.

In my estimation, the cross V-6111 (R. Smirnowii x 'Lady Bessborough'), was the most important cross made by Roy during his time at Vineland. About five selections of this cross were kept under observation. Roy won awards with the number one and it was entered in the yellow class. This selection proved difficult to propagate also, and has not been introduced. Upon close examination the flare gives a yellowish cast to the cream background. The colour charts did not reveal any yellow.

The outstanding plant is number three - terrific white with a deep red eye-zone, R. Smirnowii x 'Lady Bessborough.' This plant was registered as 'Vinebrook.'

Only two lepidotes have been selected - 'Veesprite' (R. impeditum x R. racemosum) an excellent rock garden variety. And 'Vinstar', a cross of (R. racemosum x R. Keiskei) made in 1962, a good hardy yellow.

The cross 'America' x R. Yakusimanum was also made in 1962 and as many as 25 selections were under observation. Number V-622515 was introduced as 'Vineblush.' Plant habitat is dwarf, barely a meter high and wide in 27 years.

V-6238 - 'Mars' x 'America' - produced reds of various shades. The most outstanding was introduced as 'Vinerouge.' Plant habitat has to be improved by pinching.

The cross V-6239 'Robert Allison' x R. Yakusimanum also produced some excellent plants with outstanding foliage. Selection number ten was introduced as 'Vinebelle'; see A.R.S. Vol. 39-1985 #4 for description.

During 1964 pollen of R. Williamsianum was applied to cv. Sham's Ruby. The resulting hybrids favoured the plant habit of R. Williamsianum and maintained the hardiness of cv. Sham's Ruby. Flower habit varies from nodding bells to upright open-faced form - shades vary from white to deep pink. V-64081 - nodding bell type has not been registered yet. V-64082 - open type has been registered as 'Vinewood.' ('Sham's Ruby' x R. Williamsianum)

I firmly believe both selections are excellent additions to any rhododendron collection desiring hardy plants with R. Williamsianum characteristics.

In 1965 R. Forster laid a keystone in the foundation of breeding for hardy yellow rhododendrons. He crossed cv. - 'La Bars White' x (Fortunei x croceum) 6510. From a population of over 200 seedlings, one produced a hardy primrose yellow. The blooms on this dwarf grower are about the size of cv. Boule de Neige, but the flowers are lacking in texture. The gene pool in this plant is priceless from the viewpoint of a hybridizer. More will be mentioned in other hybrids.

The most complex cross was made the following season. V-6609 ('Hassan' x scyphocalyx x Kyawii) x 'Catalgla' x 'La Bars White.' Many hardy pinks and rose colours were produced from this union, and selection V-66092 was registered as cv. Vinemount - see ARS Journal Vol. 39 1985 #4, for detailed description.

The last hybrid to be considered in Roy Forster's period is V-67061. As far as I know this was the only time that open pollinated seed was used. for some reason or other, a seed pod was taken from a selection of V-6225 ('America' x Yakusimanum). Even the bee worked in Roy's favour, producing a deep purple hardy hybrid, very leathery convex leaves and colour fading to pale lavender rather than white.

Roy left Vineland in 1968-69 and his position was filled by Ken Begg, a recent graduate of Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. Begg only worked at numerous crosses that produced some good reds - V-71271, 'Vivacious' x 'Nova Zembla' is the hardiest. 'Vivacious' x 'Pin-nacle', V-71274, and 'Vivacious' x R. Smirnowii, V-7122, produced some

excellent pinks. Using cv. Vivacious as a parent did not create the hardiness desired for the area.

Begg's greatest contribution was the cross V-7223. (V-65101 x R. litiense). When I joined the staff in 1974, I planted out hundreds of container plants in the nursery to eliminate the weaklings and test for hardiness. One seedling of this cross produced an excellent large yellow which bloomed two years in a row after -16°F. It seems to have inherited the hardiness of 'La Bars White.' This plant was named 'Vinecrest', which I now realize was a mistake. Everyone associates 'Crest' as being yellow, so it was thought 'Vinecrest' would be suitable for a Vineland yellow hybrid. However, many breeders believe it is a seedling of 'Crest.' 'Vinecrest' is not an easy grower. The original plant has been transplanted several times and continues to perform well.

I believe it must have perfect drainage and does not appreciate stress as a young plant. This hybrid is available in tissue culture. Give it T.L.C. to get established. The flowers produce very little pollen, so it is used as a seed parent.

In closing I would like to state that it has been an honour to evaluate the work of each of these men. I hope they forgive me for any error in judgment, but there are many plants at Vineland that will never be useful to commercial growers, but are priceless to plant breeders. Financial restraints and priorities have changed greatly at Vineland. I believe the administration is doing its best to hold the line, but it was much more enjoyable to work with plantsmen than cool calculating research scientists. Plant breeders have a natural bond with nature that produces such outstanding results.

Supplement to Article:

Comments on the Hybrids of HRIO
by A.W. Smith
Rhododendron Society of Canada
by Jim Lounsbury
Ornamentals Technician
*HRIO Vineland Station

Even before Al Smith's retirement the emphasis on the Rhododendron Breeding Program was being changed and its phasing out had begun.

What has not been neglected is the on-going evaluation of the rhododendrons which Al and his predecessors have left behind. It might be noted that many of the cultivars introduced have been sent to tissue culture establishments in a bid to get them onto the commercial market. In 1989, six more releases were made through HRIO, Vineland Station, four being deciduous azaleas and two being broad-leaved rhododendrons.

Rhododendrons released 1989

Vineblanc - V-65061

Vinemax

Deciduous Azaleas

Vineland Delight

Vineland Orange

Vineland Pimpernel

Vineland Peach

At the moment, several more plants, particularly the broad-leaf rhododendrons have possibilities as future releases.

The number of rhododendrons and azaleas which have been released over the years from HRIO or through affiliated breeders e.g.:

Les Hancock - Vineland Sensation

Rudy Behring - Vineland Fragrance

is quite large, 32 in all, and should be looked upon as a definite asset to the Rhododendron establishment, grower and collector alike.

It might be noted that HRIO probably still contains and has the largest and oldest established rhododendron and azalea in Ontario.

*HRIO - Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario



Vineland Station Planting



Fortunei Hybrid: Vineland 1988



V61081: America x Dr. Ross. Is R. Vivaceous



V6225-6: Holds its red better than most Yakushimanum hybrids.

New Findings With Azaleas

By Fred C. Galle

Reprinted with thanks from "the Rhododendron", Official Journal of the Australian Rhododendron Society

Azaleas are still one of the major landscape plants in the nursery industry in the USA despite the several years of summer droughts and several winters of very low temperatures. One winter was described as a cold hardiness test when really it was a test of environmental stress. A very mild autumn and early winter weather in many areas not below 32°F (0°C) was followed around 25 December with a temperature drop to -5°F (-21°C) in some areas and to -15 to -20°F (-29°C) in others. Plants were not hardened off prior to this sudden drop in temperature and excessive cold damage was experienced on many woody ornamental plants including Azaleas.

Hardy evergreen azaleas are still a high priority among hybridizers and introducers. Many of Joe Gable's early hybrids of *R. kaempferi* x *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanese* are parent plants of the present introductions, i.e. 'Rosebud' ('Louise Gable' x 'Caroline Gable') and 'Clarent' (*R. y. poukhanese* x 'Hexe'). The Girard Hybrids by the late Peter Girard of Geneve, Ohio and the Shammarello Hybrids by the late Tony Shammarello of South Euclid, Ohio were developed and selected for -10° to 0°F. Girard's hardy selected seedlings are still being named and introduced by Peter Girard Jr.

The Eden Hybrids by the late W. David Smith of Spring Grove, Pennsylvania were started in 1947, his main objective being plants hardy at Spring Grove such as 'Trudy Alcott' and 'Hersh Eden.' Dr. Henry R. Schroeder of Evansville, Indiana began breeding evergreen azaleas in the early 1970's. His objectives were plants hardy in the Midwestern States and his plants are hardy to -15°F. Thirty-eight plants were introduced in 1984 after his death by his wife and son. 'George Hyatt' ('Purple Splendor' x 'Vuyk's Scarlet'), 'Eliza Hyatt' ('Elsie Lee' x 'Frosty') are two examples.

The Glenn Dale Azaleas developed by B.Y. Morrison are unquestionably the results of the largest hybridizing program in the USA. B.Y.'s contributions will long be remembered, his plants are very popular and the progeny of many present day hybrids including 'Martha Hitchcock' x 'Yozakura', 'Fashion' (*R. indicum* x 'Momozono') and 'B.y. Morrison' (parentage unknown). Mr. Morrison continued after his retirement to develop the Back Acres Azaleas in Pass Christian, Mississippi and introduced over fifty selections in 1964-65. 'Margaret Douglas' (*R.*

indicum x 'Hatsushimo') x 'Shinsei'), 'Elsie Norfleet' ("Kagetsu" x 'Warai Gishi') being worthy of note.

Following Morrison's introductions many dedicated azalea enthusiasts and nurserymen began hybridizing and selecting new azaleas. It is impossible to list all, but a few should be highlighted.

'Ruth May' ('Pink Pearl' x 'Mucronatum' (Indica Alba)) was introduced by the Oliver Nursery in Fairfield, Conn. in the early 1950's.

'Delaware Valley White' a large white, possibly a seedling of 'Mucronatum' from Delaware Valley Nursery is still popular and used in many crosses.

The Robin Hill and Linwood Hybrids are both from New Jersey and hardy. The Robin Hills by the late Robert Gartrell have the characteristics of Satsuki Hybrids flowering in early May. 'Nancy of Robin Hill' ('Vervaeneana' x 'Lady Louise') and 'Watchet' ('Amagasa' x 'Lady Louise') are two of note.

Al Reid took over selecting hardy Linwood Hybrids from a project that started in the late 50's to produce hardy greenhouse plants.

Many evergreen azaleas common in the eastern USA are not adaptable to the temperate, moist climate of the Northwest. The Greenwood Hybrids starting in the 1960's by Bill Guttormsen of Canby, Oregon are now popular landscape plants in Oregon and Washington States and are now being grown in the east.

Dr. August Kehr, retired geneticist for the USDA, continues his hybridizing in Hendersonville, North Carolina. His double flowered azaleas are very popular and hardy to at least -5°F. 'Great Expectations' released in 1985 is a low growing plant with double reddish orange flowers.

The Beltsville Dwarfs selected by Robert Pryor and introduced in 1959-60 were ahead of the times when large fast growing plants were in demand. Now the demand is for small slow growing plants for the small gardens, facing plants in front of taller plants and as container plants. Unfortunately, the twenty plants originally introduced are not readily available but are coming back into production.

The Kyushu Azalea *R. kiusianum* is now gaining recognition due to its low dense twiggy habit. The purplish pink flowers of the species are being replaced by the named cultivars. The forty plus named cultivars introduced from Japan in 1976 by Dr. John Creech and Sylvester March of the USDA National Arboretum are now being evaluated in test gardens throughout the USA. The Kyushu Azaleas may be hardier than originally believed.

The low prostrate shrub *R. nakaharae* from Taiwan is a good dwarf and also used in hybridizing. 'Mount Seven Star', a seedling selection is one of many North Tisbury Azaleas introduced by Mrs. (Polly) Julian Hill of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

'Koromo Shikibu' the strap-like petalled azalea has always been a popular novelty plant. Now there is a white seedling 'Primitive Beauty' with strap-like petals selected by Tom Dodd of Semmes, Alabama. In the late 1970's Mr. W. David Smith had an odd seedling with linear foliage and strap-like petals first called 'Odd Ball' but soon changed to 'Joy of Paradise.' In the '80's six more linearfolium plants were named but descriptions are not available since his death.

Cascading azaleas are in demand as basket plants and 'Pink Cascade' (R. nakaharai x 'Bunka') is known throughout the Azalea World. The Harris Hybrids developed by James Harris have changed his profession from a mechanic to a skilled hybridizer and nurseryman.

'Maggi Powell' ('Saint James' x 'Red Slipper') a cross of two Back Acres Azaleas by A.j. Boike of Decatur, Alabama was registered in 1986. This attractive plant has received many favorable comments since its release. 'Germanique' syn. Emile Deckert ('Geisha' x 'Mitsu no Yamabuki') was introduced by Emile Deckert, Hampstead, Maryland. This has all the characteristics of the Satsuki Hybrids.

Variiegated and colourful leaved azaleas are good conversation plants in the garden. The Japanese have recognized the importance of variegated plants including azaleas but the variegated azaleas were slow to be accepted in the USA. It was not too many years ago that nurserymen were roughing out variegated azaleas as not being attractive. 'Keitetsu' a fine yellow lined and available until the late 1970's, 'Silver Sword' a sport of 'Girard's Rose' was introduced in 1980 by Cottage Gardens, Perry, Ohio and was put into wholesale production in 1987. The variegated foliage has a fine whitish margin and is very attractive in the winter when the foliage takes on a reddish colour. 'Girard's Variiegated Gem' a sport of 'Border Gem' was selected in the early 1980's. It is a dwarf compact plant with attractive variegated linear foliage with a yellowish white margin and deep pink flowers.

Colored foliage azaleas were not common until the report of 'Little John' a second generation sport of 'Rays Ruby' (a sport of 'Formosa'). This sport was found and developed by Germaine Jones of Longwood, Florida. Unfortunately it is less hardy than many Southern Indica Azaleas but is popular in Florida and in California where it is available as a standard.

A large number of Satsuki cultivars are being grown by azalea enthusiasts but the 'Gumpo' selections are usually the only ones found in large wholesale production.

The Belgian Indica Hybrids are popular in Southern California and many new hybrids have been introduced. 'Easter Parade' a Mosshold-Bristow Hybrid was developed for florist forcing but is a good garden plant in the Southeast. Howard Kerigan of Howard, California, developed over forty hybrids primarily for florist forcing. Most are border-

line hardy but are excellent container plants in the colder areas. Two outstanding plants are: 'Starlight' ('Perle de Saffelaere' x 'Ballerina') a beautiful light yellowish pink semi-double flowering plant and 'Gay Paree' ('Albert & Elizabeth' x 'Captain Blood') with large hose-in-hose flowers, white with dark red irregular edges.

Nuccios Nursery is known throughout the world for their work with Camellias and equally important, Azaleas, and have introduced over one hundred and twenty of their own azalea hybrids. 'Nuccio's Mamma Mia' is a beautiful semi-double white released in late 1986. Many of their miscellaneous hybrids such as 'Nuccio's Sunburst' (Belgium Indica x 'Hexe') are hardy outdoors in the east. Julius and Joe Nuccio started the nursery in 1935 in Altadena, California and have now turned over the hybridizing to their sons. A few years ago they introduced from Japan two beautiful scalloped fringed azaleas (probably a Belgian hybrid from Belgium or Holland). With these two plants, 'Pink Joy' & 'Aztec Joy' as parents they are producing fringed seedling hybrids. They are also working of persistent flowering hybrids using the Satsuki cultivar 'Chujuho', none of these new hybrids have been released.

Azalea Petal Blight is now in many areas of the US and a major problem in wet springs. Bayleton, if applied when flower colour is first observed and repeated at weekly intervals, gives good control.

Roundup or Glyphosate is a good herbicide but must be used with caution near azaleas and any thin barked plants should be protected with a shield when applying spray. The reaction is slow, often narrow leaved plants show up the next year. The narrow leaf plants look like a new mutation only to die slowly.

Interest in native flora is on the increase in the US and native azaleas are becoming very popular. For many years, the native deciduous azaleas were only available as collected plants or seedling grown. Asexual propagation is still difficult with some species and very few species are commercially propagated in vitro or by micropropagation. Root cuttings offer some possibilities but not for mass production. Plants that are stoloniferous in habit are generally easier to propagate by division and by softwood cuttings. Likewise hybrids of a stoloniferous plant such as *R. atlanticum* x a non stoloniferous plant are easier to root.

Selecting the better colour forms of the natives and the many natural and man made intraspecific hybrids is now in vogue.

Many of the Knap Hill and Exbury cultivars are not heat tolerant but when crossed with the southeastern natives are producing heat tolerant plants with fragrant larger flowers. The new Northern Lights Series introduced from the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum are bud hardy to -35°F to -45°F. The crosses involve *R. prinophyllum*, *R. atlanticum* and *R. canadense* x *Mollis* hybrids and Exbury hybrids and Exbury hybrids. The new hybrids are selected for good

foliage, mildew resistance and later flowers. The trend is producing new and better azaleas for the future.

(The above article is a paper read at the Fourth International Rhododendron Conference held in Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia in October, 1988 and is reprinted from the published proceedings of the Conference with the permission of the National Council of the Australian Rhododendron Society (Inc.).)

Notice From the Editor

Your Bulletin is in need of articles that describe **your** experiences with rhododendrons. If you have pictures, reports, evaluations, humiliations or exhilarations about rhododendrons, your fellow members would love to hear them.

The Rhododendron Collections of Ludlow and Sherriff

By H.R. Fletcher

This article appeared in the 1975 issue of the Royal Horticultural Society's Bulletin and the R.H.S. is delighted that the R.S.C. is publishing this work.

At the end of May 1933, George Sherriff and Frank Ludlow crossed the Bhutan frontier on the first of their joint plant collecting expeditions in Bhutan and south-east Tibet. For the next three months they botanized in Bhutan, especially in the north-east end of the country in the region of the Trashiyangsi valley and of the Me La 1, the appropriately named 'Pass of the flowers.' At the end of August they crossed the main Himalayan range into Tibet and by way of the Yamdrok Tso2 journeyed to the famous town of Gyantse which stands halfway between the Indian frontier and Lhasa at an altitude of 13,260 ft. When they reached Gyantse in the third week of September their first expedition was virtually at an end. Of the 537 beautifully preserved plant specimens they gathered, including several species previously unknown to science, only 21 were of rhododendrons. Possibly the most interesting rhododendron was *R. camelliiflorum* which they collected twice: L&S was a splendid form with deep wine-red fleshy flowers, whilst 253 had much paler pinkish-red flowers. These two gatherings illustrate an important point which Ludlow & Sherriff's collections were to emphasize time and again: the immense variability of rhododendron species in the wild.

The great significance of this first expedition was not so much the number of plants they collected, not indeed the 750 valuable bird skins they prepared, but the fact that it spurred the two friends on to greater efforts. They decided on an organized plan of campaign for the future and planned a series of journeys during which they would work gradually eastwards through Tibet along the main Himalayan range; each succeeding journey would overlap, to some extent, its predecessor, until the great bend of the Tsangpo was reached. Thus proceeding methodically eastwards, Ludlow & Sherriff hoped to obtain valuable information regarding the distribution of plants, to make collections of plants for herbaria, and to introduce to British gardens by means of seeds and living plants as many desirable plant species as possible.

Towards this end, in 1934 they botanized intensively in the basins of the Tawang Chu3 and Nyam Tang Chu in Tibet and then revisited the Trashiyangsi valley in East Bhutan. Of the 600 plant specimens they prepared for the herbarium, many of which were new

records for Bhutan or Tibet and thus threw new light on the distribution of previously known species whilst at least a dozen and a half were of plants quite new to botanical science, 31 were of rhododendrons. Once again, these illustrated the variability of well-known species. For instance, the summit of the Nyuksang La (c. 14,000 ft.) in south-west Bhutan, was rhododendron jungle with numerous forms of the immensely variable *R. lepidotum* (634) in hues of pink, crimson, purple, yellow, greenish-yellow and white, as well as many forms of *R. campanulatum* (605, 616, 619, 622, 624), some with white flowers tinged with pink, with or without a purple blotch, others with rose-pink flowers with or without dark crimson spots, and all showing variation in foliage. That these two rhododendrons should be so variable in the wild is not surprising in view of their wide geographical range, the former from the north-west Himalaya to south-west China, and the latter from Kashmir to Bhutan. And being so variable in the field no one should be surprised to find them equally as variable in cultivation. On this expedition one particular gathering of seeds of *R. anthopogon* (1091) proved to be a very lucky one. Many plants have been raised from these seeds, and one seedling grown by E.H.M. & P.A. Cox in Perthshire, and one named 'Betty Graham' after Mrs. Sherriff, received the Award of Merit in 1969.

In 1936, with Dr. Kenneth Lumsden as their companion, Ludlow and Sherriff concentrated their efforts in that part of south-east Tibet which includes the districts of Chayul, Charme & Tsari - the upper reaches of the Subansiri river, the area which Kingdon Ward had visited the previous year. This expedition was one of the most outstanding of the 20th century, and from the point of view of new species of rhododendron was easily the most successful of the L&S expeditions. Though Kingdon Ward forestalled them in discovering one or two new taxa, 15 new species were represented in the 234 gatherings of some 70 species of rhododendron. During the rest of their journeys, L&S discovered only three other new rhododendrons; in 1938 *R. trilectorum* (L&S Taylor 5582) a prostrate shrub only a foot tall with fleshy flowers of the palest yellow and named to commemorate the partnership on this expedition of Ludlow, Sherriff and Dr. George Taylor, as well as a more or less prostrate form of *R. chaetomallum* known as *chamaephytum* (3786); and in 1947 the pink-flowered *R. pomense* (L.S. & Elliot 13177). Ludlow and Sherriff were always thrilled to find new taxa and it was the discovery of so many new rhododendrons in 1936 which really stimulated their interest in this great genus, their knowledge of which at this time was not very great. This is very obvious from their diaries. On 26 April they camped on a grassy flat at Natrampa (10,000 ft.) in the Chayul Valley and spent the following, and immensely profitable day exploring the surrounding country. Sherriff wrote in his diary on the evening of the 27th: "We went along the Lung road to the first cascade about a mile

downstream. There we found a most unusual red rhododendron, 1352 [neriiflorum]4, a beautiful mauve one 1354 [cinnabarinum var. purpurellum], an unusual yellow one 1353 [triflorum]. Also a small pink one 1355 [glaucophyllum]. Then we followed up the stream which came down in a series of waterfalls, as far as we could. Here, above us, was an impassable cliff with two streams coming down fine falls, close together. This was an excellent place as we found numerous rhododendrons, some of which 1357 [fulvum] and 1358 [arizelum] were particularly fine. The latter has a most striking leaf covered with a thick bright rusty-red indumentum. I marked trees 1352, 1353, 1354, 1357 with tin labels." Few readers of *Rhododendrons* 1975 would describe *R. neriiflorum* and *R. triflorum* as "unusual." Both have been in cultivation for many years although the true *R. triflorum* appears to be none too common in gardens. Though not an unusual plant *T. neriiflorum* is certainly an interesting one from a geographical point of view in that it forges a link between the floras of western China and the Himalayas. So do *R. fulvum* and *T. arizelum*, as well as the low-growing, glistening yellow-flowered *R. megeratum* (1361) which was also gathered on the same day at Natrampa; all are found in Yunnan as well as in the Himalayas.

If *R. neriiflorum* was not very unusual, several other rhododendrons at Natrampa, all growing in the rhododendron and bamboo jungle at 11,500 feet, most certainly were; in fact they had never been collected before and they were described as new to science. L.&S. 1359, with deep crimson, magenta-blotched bells was named *R. populare* (ss. Thomsonii) and 1360 and 1365, both with flowers of a bright lemon-yellow, were named *R. dekatanum* (ss Boothii) and *R. amandum* (ss. Ciliicalyx) respectively. Rather more exciting, and certainly rather more beautiful, were 1364 and 1354. The former which was appropriately called *R. tsariense* were procured from the Nyingsang La under the number 2858 and from these seeds it was introduced into gardens in Britain. The seedlings have been rather variable in habit - some very dwarf, others up to five feet tall - as well as in flower colour, from white to pink. One seedling, under the name of *R. tsariense* 'Yum Yum' with exquisitely pink-flushed flowers, received the Award of Merit in 1964. In cultivation *T. tsariense* has proved to be one of the finest, perhaps the finest new rhododendron Ludlow and Sherriff introduced.

L.&S. 1354, which particularly impressed the collectors, was not a new species but a new colour form of the well known *R. cinnabarinum* and was named *purpurellum*; growing to a height of 12 feet, the slender branches were bending under the weight of the bright pinkish-mauve bells. This very distinct plant is now well-established in cultivation and received the Award of Merit in 1951.

Some seven miles from the Natrampa at the deserted village of Lung (9,200 ft.) where the now well-known *Paeonia lutea* var. *ludlowii*

was very common, they discovered more rhododendrons as Sherriff recorded in his diary on April 29: "we found eight more rhododendrons some of which are particularly fine. The prettiest I thought were 1383 [fulvum] with a nicely spotted upper half of the blush-pink flowers, each on a long pedicel and with a magenta patch at the base, 1385 [hodgsonii]; an almost equally big one, rather mauve-pink when fully open, 1386 [puderosum]; a beautiful deep crimson tree 1387 [erosum] which looks like a barbatum series, and the most delicate of the lot 1390 [sherriffii], a bell-shaped flower, with umbels of 3-4 flowers, of a very deep carmine colour." The other three rhododendrons were the white or pink vellereum (1392); a form of the pale yellow lanatum which has been given the name luciferum (1389) because the thick tawny wool on the lower surface of the leaves is made by the native Lobas into a wick which is widely used in oil lamps and goes by the name of Bané; and the crimson, dark-spotted populare (1391) once again. Rhododendrons puderosum, erosum and sherriffii were all new species and are now in cultivation, the latter having received the Award of Merit in 1966, grown from seeds of L.&S., 2751 collected from this same locality in October 1936.

May found the travellers in the region of the Le La (17,100 ft.) a knife-edge pass or almost so, where the hillsides were covered with rhododendrons. "I don't think I have ever seen them so thick" wrote Sherriff on May 8; "The north face is covered with Abies [delavayi, 1572] but here are a number of pale lemon-yellow rhodos too [lanatum var. luciferum, 1557], also any number of pink ones which all seem the same though they show different forms...This area must be wonderful later on when everything comes out. The rhododendrons themselves must be a sight worth seeing." On the edge of the rhododendron forest, the dwarf R. anthopogon (1565) was in great profusion and showing considerable variation through many shades of pink to pure white. Variable too, and of tree-like habitat, was another rhododendron in the fir forest. Sometimes (1564) the flowers were of varying degrees of pink, blotched and spotted with magenta, and at others (1566) cream with a pronounced basal magenta blotch. They were both forms of a new species later designated as R. dignabile. Another species which impressed Sherriff was R. aganniphum (1567) with trusses of pale pink funnel-shaped flowers. This species again illustrates the influence of western China on the flora of south-east Tibet, for numerous collections made by Forrest and Rock have shown that it is a common rhododendron in Yunnan and Szechwan. The Tsari valley was another profitable rhododendron hunting ground, and a marvelously beautiful one. Most of the rhododendrons which had impressed the collectors in the Chayul Valley were here also, some, such as the bright pink R. puderosum in even greater abundance. But there were others which were quite new to them, two indeed which were new

to science: *R. miniatum* (1627), a tree or shrub up to 15 feet tall with deep rose, rather fleshy bells, and the much lower-growing deep crimson *R. lopsangianum* (1651) which was named in honor of Nga-Wang Lopsang Tup-Den Gyatso, the late Dalai Lama of Tibet. *R. campylocarpum* (1628), one of the best pale yellow rhododendrons which has been in cultivation since the early 1850's and has been one of the parents of many fine hybrids, was much in evidence, as indeed were two species which once again demonstrated the link between the floras of the Himalaya and of western China; another yellow-flowered species *R. caloxanthum* (1656) and *R. calostrotum* (1649) the flowers saucer-shaped and grape-purple or a bright rosy-purple in colour.

At Migyitun, in Tsari, at the end of May they made two gatherings (1798 and 1730) of a 6 to 15-foot rhododendron which was clearly allied to the well-known dark red *R. thomsonii*, but with a loose truss of copper-red or blush-pink fleshy bells and with a glandular lower surface to the leaf which was sticky to the touch. It was growing in the rhododendron forest at 11,000-15,00 ft. Ludlow and Sherriff met with the same plant again in 1938, in the Pachaksheri district of south-east Tibet (3750) and in October gathered seeds under the number 6567 from which this rather strange and striking plant was introduced into cultivation. Plants were raised and flowered in the garden of Messrs Gibson of Glenam, Rhu, Dunbartonshire and for several years bore the name of *R. thomsonii* var. *pallidum*. It is now realized that these plants represent a new species which has been named *R. viscidifolium*.

By June the flowering season was almost at its height and Ludlow and Sherriff were tortured with the thought of the prizes, elsewhere, which might be eluding their grasp: it was tempting to want to be in several places at once, and this they decided to do. Thus on June 12 Sherriff with a small party returned to the Chayul Valley to collect on the main Himalayan range above Natrampa and Lung, whilst Ludlow and Lumsden with their small party moved eastward into the Pachakshiri district before visiting the Tsangpo valley. By the end of the month Ludlow and Lumsden were in the Lo La Chu valley and from the alpine zone of the Lo La, from 13,500 feet upwards, they took a rich harvest of prostrate or low-growing rhododendrons most of which must have been covered with 4 or 5 feet of snow in the winter. That which impressed Ludlow most was a form of *R. campylogynum* (1882), no more than 2 feet high, the small bell-shaped flowers which had the colour and bloom of a muscatel raisin "an astonishing colour." He also enthused about the prostrate *R. forrestii* var. *repens* (1883) with its large fleshy crimson bells, and about the precocious *R. mekongense* (1890, 1896), whose flat fleshy flowers were of golden-yellow, sometimes with a tinge of pink. All three rhododendrons are links between the floras of the Himalaya and Yunnan. One dwarf species, no more than a foot tall, was something quite distinct

and quite new; the large saucer-shaped flowers, borne singly or in pairs, were a beautiful shade of primrose-yellow and spotted with reddish-brown at the base within. Very appropriately it was named *R. ludlowii* (1895) and under this number was introduced into cultivation. Without any question *T. ludlowii* is a most charming dwarf shrub especially suitable for the peat garden. However it is not a very vigorous grower and two of its hybrids probably will prove to be better garden plants. They were both raised by E.H.M. and P.A. Cox in Perthshire. One of them, 'Chiko' (*chryseum* x *ludlowii*) has received the Award of Merit in 1962 as well as a First Class Certificate in 1969 after trial at Wisley. The other, 'Curlew' (*ludlowii* x *fletcherianum*), gained a First Class Certificate in 1969. Undoubtedly *R. ludlowii* will be in the parentage of many another fine hybrid.

Of course not all the rhododendrons in the alpine zone of the Lo La were dwarf. The form of *R. cernasiunum* (1873) with the lower part of the flowers white and the edges of the lobes bright rose, which Kingdon Ward had discovered in upper Burma in 1926 and had called "Cherry Brandy", was a handsome shrub of up to 10 feet tall in the conifer forest at 12,000 ft. Of similar stature and in the same situation and elevation was the pinkish-red *R. Keysii* (1904), differing colour forms of which Ludlow & Sherriff had collected in 1933 (184) and 1934 (588). And another reminder of these earlier expeditions and inhabiting rocky hillslopes on the north face of the pass at 13,000 ft were the pale lemon-yellow *R. campylocarpum* (1893) and a form of *R. cinnabarinum* (1894) with clusters of orange-pink pendulous bells.

For his part, Sherriff discovered two new species. One of them *R. laudandum* (2160), a two-foot shrub with tight heads of the palest pink and narrowly-tubular flowers, covered the hillsides at 15,000 ft. at Lapu in Tsari. The other, *R. igneum* (s. *Cinnabarinum*) (2334), 4 miles below Lung, was an 8 to 12-foot shrub with an abundance of bright salmon flowers.

In 1937 Ludlow had commitments in Kashmir and thus Sherriff had to travel without him for four months exploring in Bhutan mostly in the region of the high peaks known as Dungshinggang, or the Black Mountain. Of the 660 gatherings he made, some 60 were of rhododendrons most of which by this time were not unfamiliar to him except for the strange habitat of some and the enormous size of others. For instance at the end of April in the Gale Chu valley in southern Bhutan, the forests were so thick at 5,000 to 6,000 ft that it was quite impossible to botanize in them. Occasionally a fallen bloom on the track would tell of flowers overhead in the tall trees. Thus a few creamy-white petals which Sherriff picked from the ground as well as a strong pervading fragrance revealed huge 100-foot specimens of the magnolia-like *Michelia doltsopa*. Whilst gazing in admiration at one of these splendid trees Sherriff spotted, what

seemed to him, a rhododendron growing epiphytically on one of the michelia branches a full 70 feet from the ground, in, he thought, a completely inaccessible place. But Tsongpen, Sherriff's collector, thought otherwise and to prove his point climbed the tree and secured specimens of a rhododendron of poor scraggy habit with almost naked 8 to 12 foot branches but bearing terminal clusters of 2 to 4 huge flowers pure white or sometimes faintly tinged with pink and most magnificently scented; it was *R. edgeworthii* (2952). From similar habitats and of similar habits Tsongpen also collected the rich cream red-striped flowers of *R. rhabdotum* (2940, 2944). In the Mara Chu valley of central Bhutan Sherriff found both these species to be very common, on oak and other trees at 7,000-8,000 ft, some young plants of *R. rhabdotum* (3136), barely a foot tall, carrying a couple of flowers. Here too, were *R. polyanthum* (3164), the pinkish young flowers fully expanding to pure white funnels, and the fragrant pink-flushed *R. maddenii* (3147).

It was the number and size of the rhododendrons, especially those of southern Bhutan, which impressed Sherriff most. For instance, from 8,000 - 10,500 ft in the Jirgang Chu valley they were an astonishing spectacle. *R. grande* (2977), *R. falconeri* (2983), *R. hodgsonii* (2987) and *R. eximium* (2989) were not only growing in vast profusion, but all averaged between 40 and 50 feet in height and one particular specimen of *R. grande* at 8,000 ft, was at least 70 feet high with a girth 5 feet from the ground of 9 feet. Between 9,000 and 10,000 ft., *R. falconeri* literally covered the hillside with its great flower trusses and handsome bright brown-backed leaves, some as much as 18 inches long and 9 inches broad. At the lower elevation the bell-shaped flowers were of a beautiful lemon-yellow with a large basal magenta blotch and darkened in colour, with age. But at the higher elevation the colour was paler and the basal blotch smaller. At 10,000 ft, *R. falconeri* gradually gave place to a dull dark wine-red form of *R. eximium* which was, above 10,000 ft in the bamboo zone, the dominant rhododendron along with the bright pale magenta *R. hodgsonii*.

Ludlow as free again in 1938 to rejoin Sherriff and the two friends, with Dr. (now Sir) George Taylor, spent a most memorable ten months travelling further eastwards into Tibet, through the provinces of Takpo and Kongbo and along the main Himalaya to the neighbourhood of the great mountain Namcha Barwa (24,445 ft) which with the rather less impressive albeit more massive Gyala Peri (23,460 ft) forms the portal of the tremendous gorge which the mighty Tsangpo cuts through the Himalaya. During these ten months of 1938 the three friends amassed over 4,000 magnificent gatherings of dried plants of which close on 250 were rhododendrons. As has been said already, only two new rhododendron taxa were represented, *R. trilictorum* and *R. chaetomallum* var. *chamaephytum*.

In the Pachakshiri district towards the end of April they came upon their first really exciting rhododendrons; trees 20 feet high of *R. grande* (3663) carrying huge trusses of pale lemon-yellow flowers; trees equally as large with lovely smooth light brown bark and with fine dark crimson bells of *R. hookeri* (3676); magnificent forms of the straggly, sometimes epiphytic, and always marvelously fragrant *R. lindleyi*, some with the great trumpets pure white save for the golden base (3665), others delicately or sometimes more strongly flushed with rose, and the sticky green-bristly, bright rose-flowered *R. rude* (3670). They were all gathered on the Nyug La, were first records for south-east Tibet, and this was the first time *R. rude* had been found outside Yunnan.

In the third week of May, in order to cover as much ground as possible, the expedition divided into two. Sherriff decided to work the main Himalayan range concentrating on the Lo La, Pa La and Tsari Sama passes. Ludlow and Taylor on the other hand, decided to explore the main range to Gyala at the head of the Tsangpo gorge and the last Tibetan village on the Tsangpo, as well as to visit Pemako and the passes in the vicinity of the Doshong La which had been a happy hunting ground for Kingdon Ward.

It was at Tsari Sama that Sherriff found the finest rhododendrons in the greatest profusion. There was the purplish-pink, or apple-blossom-pink, rather shallowly cup-shaped-flowered *R. charitopes* (5565) which was one of Farrer's discoveries in upper Burma, was known also from Yunnan, and now was found for the first time in south-east Tibet. There was an abundance of Ludlow's new species from the Lo La, *R. ludlowii*, creeping along the moss-covered rocky soil of the hillsides at 13,000 ft its flattish primrose-yellow flowers being flushed and spotted with pink. In October, Sherriff collected seeds (6600) and introduced the lovely plant into cultivation. Another prostrate species, higher up the hillsides, was by no means common; it was rather a remarkable form of *R. forrestii* (5572) with fleshy, slightly orange-pink bells instead of the usually brilliant scarlet ones. And obviously closely akin to this, and of much the same height - no more than a foot - covering rocks on the hillside with an admirable blending of dark green foliage and the palest of yellow flowers, was the new species, *R. trilactorum* (5582). These rhododendrons apart, some of the rock ledges at 14,000 ft. at Tsari Sama were clothed with the pale yellow form of *R. tsariense* (5581), the lower sides of the leaves plastered with a thick fawn or pale greyish-brown felt, whilst in large groups on the stony hillsides were two of Forrest's Yunnan discoveries; *R. callimorphum* (5584) one of the most charming species in the entire genus with its trusses of half a dozen soft rose, often crimson-blotched, cup-shaped flowers, much darker rose when in bud, and a form of *R.*

erythrocalyx (5568) which tended to hide among the oval leaves the pale pink flower-trusses.

For their part Ludlow & Taylor found many rhododendrons to catch the eye in the rhododendron zone of the Lusha Chu valley. There were acres of dwarf plants no more than 2 feet tall forming a thick colourful and aromatic undergrowth; *R. forrestii* (4751) sometimes a prostrate creeper, sometimes more or less erect, with bright red scarlet bells varying much in size; *R. calostrotum* (4711) with its flattish magenta-purple flowers; *R. paludosum* (4784), a very dominant carpeting shrub no more than 12 inches high with its usually solitary flowers in all shades of magenta to lilac-purple; these are all representatives of the Yunnan mountain flora above 12,000 ft. Co-dominant with *R. paludosum*, and of the same habit, was *R. fragariiflorum* (4785), its shallow pinkish-purple or purplish-crimson or even crushed-strawberry flowers in clusters of up to six, whilst the dwarf *R. anthopogon* (4781) clothed the north aspect of the hillside with sheets of all shades of pink as well as of cream and *R. pumilum* (4765) stained the avalanche slopes with pink and rose. These are fairly common Himalayan species. Amongst the taller growing species there was a pale form of *R. wardii* (4747) another Yunnan and Szechwan plant, the saucer-shaped flowers of ivory-white blotched at the base with claret; the white-flowered form of the new species, *R. dinabile* (4808), forming dense thickets on the hillsides, still another new species conspicuous on the broad rock ledges, *R. tsariense* (4757), the leaves cinnamon-felted below and the reddish flower-buds maturing to trusses of white, delicately pink-flushed and slightly red-spotted cups. Kingdon Ward had called the Doshong La "a rhododendron fairyland" and even he, so fluent of pen, had confessed to the difficulty of describing the rhododendrons as he saw them in June: "...the valley, flanked by grey cliffs, roofed by grey skies, with the white snowfields above spouting water which splashed and gurgled in a dozen babbling becks and everywhere the rocks swamped under a tidal wave of tense colours which gleam and glow in leagues of breaking light. The colours leap at you as you climb the moraine; "Scarlet Runner" [*R. forrestii* var. *repens*] dripping in blood-red rivers from the ledges; "Scarlet Pimpernel" [*R. forrestii* var. *repens*] whose fiery curtains hang from every rock; Carmelita [*R. chamae-thomsonii* var. *chamaethauma*] forming pools of incandescent lava; Yellow Peril [*R. campylocarpum*] heaving up against the foot of the cliff in choppy sulfur seas breaking from a low surf of pink 'Lacteam' [*R. doshongense*] whose bronzed leaves glimmer faintly like sea-tarnished metal."⁸

From this 'rhododendron fairyland' Kingdon Ward had gathered at least a dozen fine species. But he had by no means exhausted the

treasures of the pass for, from the inextricable dwarf thicket-tangle of the rhododendrons which in places dominated the boggy hillsides, Ludlow & Taylor collected two which Ward had not taken; the small, greenish-yellow tight-trussed *R. cephalanthum* var. *nmaiense* (5240) and the deep magenta-pink *R. charitopes* (5237).

During the years of the war both Ludlow and Sherriff were occupied with important war duties, for a time in Lhasa, and the former also in Ladakh in Kashmir, and in Sikkim, the later also in Gangtok, and in Kalimpong where, in 1942, he married the youngest daughter of the remarkable Dr. John Anderson Graham who, through his organization of the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes for children of European and mixed parentage, has made the name of Kalimpong more familiar to many English speaking people than it otherwise would have been.

The war over, Ludlow met the Sherriffs in Kashmir in 1945 and in October of the following year the three of them, with Colonel Henry Elliot of the Indian Medical Service, set out once again for south-east Tibet, this time for the almost unknown province of Pome and the great gorge of the Tsangpo. Unfortunately in the spring of 1947 Sherriff began to suffer from an over-strained heart and in April he and his wife had to leave their two companions in the Tsangpo gorge to return to lower altitudes in India. On this expedition Ludlow and Sherriff made their biggest haul of rhododendrons, some 350 gatherings; and although only one new taxon was represented, *R. pomense* (s. *Lacteum*) L.S. & Elliot (13177), their specimens threw a good deal of light on the natural variability, and distribution, of well known species.

As Kingdon Ward had visited the Tsangpo gorge in 1924 it was to be expected that several species found by Ludlow, Sherriff & Elliot would have been previously found by him. One such was *R. scopulorum* (12264) which on the Lower Po Tsangpo valley was unfolding its fragrant apple-blossom-pink trusses as early as the end of February. Ward had discovered it in the Tsangpo valley in 1924, growing, as the specific name implies, on boulder screens and on steep rocky slopes either in full sun or in thickets. Ward collected seeds and introduced the lovely species into cultivation as a plant for the cool greenhouse; as such it received the Award of Merit in 1936 when exhibited by Mr. Lionel de Rothschild. Sherriff gathered seeds under the number 12231. Another Kingdon Ward discovery, this time in eastern-upper Burma and the adjoining part of western Yunnan, was the deep crimson-flowered *R. tanastylum* (12280) which Sherriff found in the gorge country. (to be continued.)

1990 Convention Report

By Charlie Sale

It is a pleasure to report to you that our 1990 convention was a great success. The sixty registered members were treated to fine hospitality by the Botanical Garden, Memorial University of Newfoundland. It all started at the airport where as each of us arrived, we were greeted and driven to our hotels. This warm touch set the tone for the conference.

Dianne McLeod, the driving force behind our 1990 Conference provided a full and varied agenda for us. The Friends of the Garden acted as our hosts and we were much indebted to President Janet Story for the care taken by the "FOG's" to ensure that our stay was pleasant and that everything proceed smoothly. Bernard Jackson, Director of the Botanical Garden went out of his way to see that the facilities at the Botanical Garden were at our disposal and we all enjoyed the tour we had of the Garden with its fine collection of plants of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Our guest speaker was U.K. nurseryman Barry Starling. Barry's talk, "The Peat Garden - Rhododendrons and their Companions" was extremely well received. It was a treat too to have Barry along with us during the weekend, and especially so on the post-conference tour.

There were a surprising number of entries in the Flower Show, and thanks go out to all who brought trusses. Very few entries arrived travel weary.

The plant sale gave members an opportunity to purchase a variety of ericaceous plants native to Newfoundland as well as some tissue cultured rhododendrons not previously offered to most members.

We had interesting tours and walks during our stay including a "birding" boat trip where we saw a wide variety of birds including puffins and an eagle, and walks at Cape Spear and in the Hawk Hills where we tried to keep up with Dianne and Barry.

At the business meeting Barbara Hall was elected Vice President. My term was extended to next year. There was a vigorous discussion about the merits of affiliation with the American Rhododendron Society which should lead to further healthy discussion among our members.

My thanks go to all who made this event a success, especially to Dianne McLeod, the "FOG's" and John Weagle.

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF CANADA

Minutes, Annual Meeting, 1990

Oxen Pond, St. John's, Newfoundland
June 7-10

Before outlining the minutes, we wish to record the excellent preparation for the annual show and the follow-up tour made by Dianne McLeod, and the generous and hospitable receptions, luncheons etc. arranged by Dianne and provided by B.S. Jackson, curator, and by the volunteer Friends of the Garden. Presentations by Dianne, Mr. Jackson and Barry Stirling were superb.

Most participants in the conference were pleasantly surprised by the number and quality of the trusses entered in the competition, from Newfoundland, the Atlantic Region, Ontario and the United States.

The follow-up tours to the Bird Islands, Cape Spear and the western peninsula are described in literature accompanying the conference notes. The two dozen participants in the week-long tour agreed that this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The annual meeting was called to order by President C. Sale at 3:30p.m. on June 9. He welcomed visitors from Australia, England and the United States. Ralph Sangster from Australia spoke briefly about the International Rhododendron Union.

Minutes of the 1989 annual were approved as distributed (Hedges, Hansen).

The treasurer's report was presented by the president and approved (Birkett, Muntz).

The auditors, W. Jeffery and Associates, were re-appointed (Dodds, Edwards).

The president paid tribute to the organization of this year's conference, commented on the support of the executive and the bulletin committee, and pointed out the need for younger members and offers to relieve long-standing workers of some of their duties.

The nominating committee reported that approval was received to re-appoint C. Sale as president, with Barbara Hall as Vice-President (Birkett, Schiff).

It was announced that next year's meeting will be held in Toronto May 31-June 1, 1991.

Approval was given to executive actions of the past year, along with thanks to the president for his strong leadership (Hedges, Hansen).

A lengthy discussion was held on the question of affiliation with the American Rhododendron Society. Several suggestions were pre-

sented but no action was taken other than a direction for the executive to continue to study the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m.

Announcements

1. The International Floral Exposition 'AMERIFLORA' '92 will be held April 3 to October 12 with 30-40 nations participating.
2. The Great Lakes Chapter of the A.R.S. will hold its Annual Flower Show on the 4th weekend of May, 1991 in Columbus, Ohio.

Proposal for Affiliation of the Rhododendron Society of Canada with the American Rhododendron Society

It is proposed that the Rhododendron Society of Canada affiliate with the American Rhododendron Society, thereby increasing in a major way the benefits provided to the members of the Rhododendron Society of Canada by adding those offered by the American Rhododendron Society, while at the same time enhancing the international aspect of the American Rhododendron Society.

The Rhododendron Society of Canada would continue to function within the terms of its existing constitution, with the exception of membership fees. There would be no change in organizing and holding such key events as the Annual Meeting and the National Flower Show. The R.S.C. awards and trophies would be given as in the past, and the Society would continue to operate a seed exchange, (if this was the wish of the membership), in addition to the A.R.S. seed exchange. Membership fees in the Rhododendron Society of Canada would increase to the level of the American Rhododendron Society and members would receive the American Rhododendron Society Journal, as well as an amended format Rhododendron Society of Canada Bulletin. Members would enjoy all the privileges of membership in the American Rhododendron Society. The Rhododendron Society of Canada would enjoy the same status as a district of the American Rhododendron Society, thereby ensuring representation on the A.R.S. Board. It would continue to issue Canadian Income Tax receipts for contributions to the Rhododendron Society of Canada. Arrangements would be made to strike from time to time a Canadian funds membership rate for deposit in Canada to avoid currency transfer charges to all members. Arrangements would be made to accommodate current Life members of the Rhododendron Society of Canada in a way equitable to the American Rhododendron Society, the Rhododendron Society of Canada and current life members.

Expected Benefits

1) To individual members:

- Receipt of the very professional ARS Journal
- access to the ARS seed exchange
- opportunity to participate in the ARS National Convention with its traditional fine Plant Sale
- greater opportunities for discussion of all aspects of the genus Rhododendron through the greater contact provided

- enhancement of meeting content through sharing of information and speaker lists

2) To the R.S.C.

- greater opportunity to have our voice heard through participation on the ARS Board
- enhanced programme activity through idea sharing and through speaker exchanges
- opportunity for research in Canada through funding of programmes by ARS research grants
- reduced burden of producing a glossy Bulletin and a consequent redirection of the energy and time consumed to other activities.
- potential for reduced administrative burden
- potential for increased membership by providing greater member benefits and by sharing membership recruitment ideas.

Rhododendron and Azalea Introductions From The Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station

#	Cultivar	Type	Registration and Morphological Information
	Veesprite	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 21, #2, 1967
61081	Vivacious	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 30, #2, 1976
62061	Vinestar	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 32, #1, 1978
6023A	Vineland Flame	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 32, #1, 1978
6042A	Vineland Flare	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 32, #1, 1978
6016A	Vineland Glow	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 32, #1, 1978
623910	Vinebelle	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 39, #4, 1985
72231	Vinecrest	Rhodo	
60051	Vinedale	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 39, #4, 1985
66092	Vinemount	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 39, #4, 1985
62381	Vinerouge	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 39, #3, 1985
79332	Vineland Carousel	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #2, Spring 1989
82821	Vinecourt Duchess	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 41, #1, Winter 1987
79331	Vinecourt Jester	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 41, #1, Winter 1987
61113	Vinebrook	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 41, #2, Spring 1987
622515	Vineblush	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 41, #2, Spring 1987
67061	Vinemark	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 41, #2, Spring 1987
6006	Vineland Fragrance	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 40, #3, Summer 1986
	Vineland Sensation	Dec. Azalea	
	Vinecourt Troubador	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #2, Spring 1989
	Vinecourt Duke	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #2, Spring 1989
	Vinecourt Queen	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #2, Spring 1989
	Vinecourt Moonlight	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #2, Spring 1989
	Vineland Dream	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #2, Spring 1989
	Vineland Gold	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #2, Spring 1989
64082	Vinewood	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 43, #2, Spring 1989
	Vineland Pimpernel	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #4, Fall 1989
	Vineland Delight	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #4, Fall 1989
65061	Vineblanc	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 43, #4, Fall 1989
	Vineland Peach	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #4, Fall 1989
	Vineland Orange	Dec. AzaleaA.	R.S. Vol 43, #4, Fall 1989
	Vinemax	Rhodo	A.R.S. Vol 43, #4, Fall 1989

A.R.S. - American Rhododendron Society Journal

Dec. Azalea - Deciduous Azalea

Rhodo - Rhododendron

In Memoriam

On January 15, 1991 the Rhododendron Society of Canada lost a friend when Barbara Hall passed away at her home in Boulderwood, Halifax. Barbara was a charter member of the Society and was an active and hardworking member up until the very end of her life.

Members of the Rhododendron Society have some wonderful reasons for remembering Barbara with love and gratitude. She was the gracious lady who made members and visitors feel welcome at our meetings and a part of the Society. Every June, she opened her home and garden to us. Barbara allowed us all to share in evenings of good food and good wine with good friends in a garden filled with wonderful rhododendrons. Her garden was a place of beauty and tranquillity: it was a reflection of Barbara. She was an active member of the Society at the national level; whenever Barbara was in Toronto, she always took the time to meet with the national executive. Through her, we were all able to maintain vital links within our Society and her death leaves a void which will be very difficult to fill. We will truly miss Barbara, but she left us a legacy of kindness, hospitality and hard work.

Our very warmest thoughts go out to Kay, Kathy and Debby

Carol Dancer

The Book Corner

The Book Corner is a service to members, offering publications at good savings, resulting from only slight mark-ups on discounted rates, plus exchange and mailing. Many titles are hard to locate and slow to arrive; as a result, we often run out of the limited inventory. Thus, you may trade delay for value. With prices rising frequently and sometimes sharply, our quoted rates are approximate. Please use these rates and I'll bill or remit any minor variation.

- Davidian Rhododendron Species: Volume II: Lepidotes. The second volume in this monumental work, to accompany the earlier edition on elepidotes. Generously illustrated \$60.
The Rhododendron Species. Vol.1. Thorough, excellent, \$70.
- Street Rhododendrons. A beautifully illustrated introduction to the subject. A bargain at \$22.
Step by Step Plant Propagation. Treats every form of propagation with detailed drawings, including the forms that apply to rhododendrons. Good value at \$12. Refer to pp.22-23 of Vol. 18, No.1.
- Greer Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons. An encyclopedic introduction of rhododendron species and important hybrids. Is an excellent shopper's guide in paperback. Best value at \$18.
- Leach, David Rhododendrons of the World. Still the classic, the authority; complete, handsome, illustrated. \$85.
- Cox, Peter Smaller Rhododendrons. Excellent treatment of the subject. \$40.
Dwarf Rhododendrons. Thorough, good value, hard to obtain. \$30.
The Larger Species of Rhododendron. Comprehensive, hard to obtain. Mostly black and white photos. Expensive. \$50.
- Salley, H.
& H. Greer Rhododendron Hybrids. Beautiful, detailed. Data on thousands of hybrids. Good value. \$70.
- Livingston, P.A.
& F.W. West Hybrids and Hybridizers. Strong treatment of a special subject. Popular, illustrated. \$40.
- Kraxberger, M. American Rhododendron Hybrids. An A.R.S. publication. Informative. Becoming outdated. \$16.
- Van Veen, T. Rhododendrons in America. One of the beautiful classic books on the subject. Large format. Soft and hardcovers. \$35 and \$40.
- Phillips
& Barber The Rothschild Rhododendrons. Unrivalled as a large-format publication; data on the outstanding Exbury collection. A collector's item. We sold out at \$125. Prices went to \$150. We are still endeavouring to get the new printing at about \$60. A bargain. \$60.
Rhododendrons of China, an A.R.S. and R.S.F. publication. Beautiful illustrations. A bargain. \$30
- Place orders or enquiries with: *Dr. H.G. Hedges, R.R.2,
St. George, Ontario, N0E 1N0*
-

R.S.C. Awards 1990

JOHN E. BRENT AWARD

Yakushmanum

Best in Show

Smirnowii x

D.M. Hatherley

Rose Bay, Nova Scotia

BEST SPECIES AWARD

R. roseum

D. Hinton

Orono, Ontario

ROBIN DUNCAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Best Deciduous Azalea Species

R. roseum

D. Hinton

Orono, Ontario

W.E.P. DUNCAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Best Deciduous Hybrid Azalea in Commerce

'Norma'

A. Edwards

Oakville, Ontario

M. LESLIE HANCOCK AWARD

Best Lepidote Rhododendron

Carolinianum hybrid

J. Meagher

Halifax, Nova Scotia

NIAGARA REGION AWARD

Best Evergreen Azalea hybrid

Kaempferi hybrid

A. Muntz

Clementsport, Nova
Scotia

ARTHUR OSLACH AWARD

Best New Deciduous Azalea hybrid

99 x ('Persil' x Red
Seedling)

D. Hinton

Orono, Ontario

SONJA OSLACH AWARD

Best Floral Arrangement

S. Bishop

Bridgewater, Nova
Scotia

E. FRANK PALMER AWARD

Best Canadian Produced

Hardy Rhododendron

5801 P (Dr.

Dresselhuys x

Smirnowii)

Agriculture Canada

Fredericton,

New Brunswick

A.H. SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD

Yakushmanum

Best New Elepidote Hybrid

First Time Entry

Smirnowii x

D. M. Hatherley

Rose Bay, Nova Scotia

BLANCHE E. SNELL MEMORIAL AWARD

Best Smooth-Leaved Rhododendron

in Commerce

'English roseum'

A. Edwards

Oakville, Ontario

**THE THOMAS HOUSTON WILSON AWARD AND THE KINTYRE
AWARD** were not awarded in 1990.