

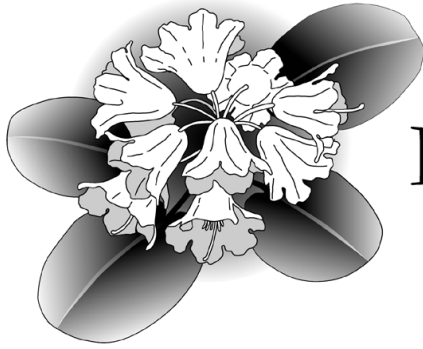
AtlanticRhodo

www.AtlanticRhodo.org

Volume 34: Number 1

February 2010





Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

Positions of Responsibility 2009 - 2010

President	Ruth Jackson	454-4681	Director - Horticulture	Audrey Fralic	683-2711
Vice-President	Vacant				
Secretary	Susan Boyd	835-8916	Director	Cora Swinamer	826-7705
Treasurer	Chris Hopgood	479-0811	ARS Rep.	Anitra Laycock	852-2502
Membership	Jim Drysdale	431-0223	Newsletter	Mary Helleiner	429-0213
Past President	Sheila Stevenson	479-3740	Website	Bob Pettipas	462-5654
Director - Education	Jenny Sandison	624-9013	Library	Jean White	477-2933
Director - Communications	Mary Helleiner	429-0213	Seed Exchange	Sharon Bryson	863-6307
Director - Social	Shirley McIntyre	835-3673	May - Pre-Ordered Plant Sale	Ken Shannik	422-2413
			May - Public Plant Sale	Duff & Donna Evers	835-2586

Membership (Please Note Changes)

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010, due September 2009. Make cheques payable to Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society. ARHS is a chapter in District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. For benefits see ARHS website www.atlanticrhodo.org

American Rhododendron Society

Combined ARHS and ARS membership cost is \$50.00 Canadian. For benefits see www.rhododendron.org

Cheques, made payable to Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society should be sent to **Jim Drysdale, 5 Little Point Road, Herring Cove, NS B3V1J7.**

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

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

Published three times a year. February, May and October.

Editor:

Mary Helleiner
834 Marlborough Ave.
Halifax, NS, B3H3G6
(902) 429-0213
cmhelleiner@ns.sympatico.ca

Cover Photo: 'Nancy Steele' [Photo John Weagle]



Calendar of Events

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

- Tuesday January 5** **Jeff Morton: Diseases of Ornamental Evergreens.**
- Tuesday February 2** **Jeremy Lund: Green Roofs, a Modern Alternative.** The idea of a roof, or even a wall, that provides a place for plants to grow is rapidly becoming an environmental icon. As the results of climate change become more apparent more buildings are being designed with this as an integral part of their structure.
- Tuesday March 2** **Bob Howard: Garden Design.** Bob is a member of the ARHS. He is a garden designer who recently moved from Colorado. His talk focuses on how he makes gardens and the challenges of moving to a new locale.
- Tuesday April 6** **Ken Timmons: Natural Stone Hardscape in the Garden.** Ken is part of the Stone Depot staff and is responsible for many award-winning designs in the Metro area. Natural stone is a most pleasing addition to the garden and lasts for generations.
- Tuesday May 4** **Members' Plant Sale** at the Gymnasium, LeMarchant-St. Thomas School. Watch for information on the new Members' Sale Table.

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



A very warm welcome to our new and returning ARHS members who have joined since the October Newsletter.

Helen & Ray Buckland
Thomas Kelly
John & Valerie Mason
Jill Mawdsley
Janis Muise
Cindi Palmer
Dennis Stuebing
Heather Spurrell
Dorothy Swift
David W. Veinotte
Anne Wilson (Assoc.)

Hammonds Plains
Williamswood
Halifax
Enfield
Eastern Passage
Hammonds Plains
Timberlea
NSAC (Passionate Plant Award)
Rhode Island, USA (Returning member)
Mahone Bay
Collingwood, ON



Special Notices

Pre-ordered Plant Sale - New Information!

This year for the first time the list of available plants will be placed on our website, <http://www.atlanticrhodo.org>, in late January, along with the order form. Members should download the order form. It will contain information about ordering and mailing. For those members who do not have access to a computer, paper copies of the list and the form may be requested from Mary Helleiner, 429-0213.

As usual the sale is limited to members only. Plants are to be picked up on Saturday May 8, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., at 5 Sime Court, Halifax.

Tissue Culture Pickup

Tissue culture plants will be available for pickup on Saturday, March 27, 2010, at St. Andrews Centre, 6955 Bayers Road, Halifax, at 2:00 p.m. If you have pre-ordered tissue culture plants please be certain to make arrangements to have them picked up if you are unable to do so yourself. Volunteers will be notified of the times when they are required. For information, contact Audrey Fralic, alfralic@yahoo.ca.

President's Report

By Ruth Jackson

The Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society (AHRS) had a successful 2008-2009 season. A total of 252 individuals and institutions are members. The members had the opportunity to enjoy the club's many activities such as the lectures at the monthly meetings between September and May. For details see the calendar of events included at the end of this summary. The 22nd Annual Steele lectures were given by Barry Starling on his travels in Yunnan province of China and ericaceous plants. The club also supported an additional special lecture on May 29 on Alpine Gardening – Lessons from the Wild, by Malcolm McGregor.

The Society provides several ways of obtaining plants including seed and cuttings exchanges. The tissue culture and plant sales are enthusiastically supported by the members. The club ordered and distributed 1200 tissue culture plants supervised by Audrey Fralic. Ken Shannik and Donna and Duff Evers provided the leadership for the members' and public plant sales. The ARHS is fortunate that the major fund raising activities these sales are of core interest to the club's members.

The members were able to participate in the Christmas Social and the June 6 garden tour. This year the tour was on the peninsula between Halifax Harbour and St Margaret's Bay. The six diverse gardens were an inspiration to all (listed at the end of the summary). The rain stopped early in the day and the pot luck supper was eaten outside.

The ARHS has a popular and well written newsletter that is sent to the members three times a year (February, May and October). It carries news on upcoming events as well as articles on gardens, plant portraits, book reviews and much more. The ARHS also has a website <http://www.atlanticrhodo.org/> with a variety of information including but not limited to: a calendar of the ARHS events, how to join, when and where the meetings take place, a list of proven performers and bloom dates for the region.

Our society has a number of outreach projects. It has refurbished a rhododendron planting at Regatta Point. The planting had been established by the late John Meagher, a dedicated member of our society, and a holder of the American Rhododendron's Society (ARS) Bronze Medal in 1999. A work party was also assembled to assist at one of our founding members Dick Steele's plant farm. In addition, the club was approached by Terese Delorme, a city planner, for help with the Stratford Way garden. It is our intention to provide plants when the garden site has been prepared. The slide show developed by Cora Swinamer on rhododendron culture and use in the landscape has been presented nine times since last report.

ARHS offers financial support to a student at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro called the Passionate Plant Person award. This year 2008 the award was won by Tara Ralph. A workshop in May was held at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College on rock gardening. The participants also got a detailed tour of the rock garden on site. More information on this garden can be found in the May 2009 newsletter.

The ARHS also maintains a library for its members. It purchases new books every year. The complete list can be found on the website.

Our society is working on a Geographic Information System to plot the location and success rate of the plants that we acquired through the society. This information will also be used to refine the plant hardiness zones for the province. Dr. Bob Maher of the Centre of Geographic Sciences is providing technical support and expertise for the project.

Our society, one of the three clubs (Niagara, Toronto and ARHS that also form the Rhododendron Society of Canada) that make up District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) is representing all of them for a term. This role will revolve through each of the clubs. Our club is looking forward to more direct ties and interactions with the ARS through Anitra Laycock.

Calendar of Events

Friday, August 29, 2008 at 7:30 pm, Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St Halifax

Part one of the annual Steele lecture: Barry Starling spoke on his trip to Yunnan in western China. Yunnan is a wild, spectacular region which continues to yield new and choice varieties of rhododendrons and other plants.

October 7, 2008, Walter Ostrom "Indian Harbour Part 1" Walter spoke on how the garden was developed. This is one of the great gardens in Nova Scotia.

November 4, 2008, The annual general meeting of the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society was held. In addition Chris Helleiner gave a talk on plant hunting in Bhutan: rhododendrons, primulas, arisaemas ...

December 2, 2008, Annual Christmas Party - wine & cheese party -, members brought in 10 slides and digital images for everyone to enjoy

January 6, 2008, Jenny Sandison Rhododendrons in the Landscape. Helpful ideas on where to put your plants and what to expect as time goes by.

February 2, 2009

John Brett and John Weagle, "The Brueckner Hybrids".

March 3, 2009, Larry Davidson from Lost Horizons Nursery in Ontario. Plant and placement, a plant hunter's dilemma.

April 7, 2009, Lloyd Mapplebeck "Container Planting". Lloyd is a lecturer at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and owns and operates Hill'ndale Nursery. He has great ideas for unusual ways to plant containers.

Friday, May 29, 7:30 p.m., Alpine Gardening, Lessons from the Wild, by Malcolm McGregor,

This talk was held at St. Mary's University and included some slides from Malcolm's trips to Tibet. He is a former editor of the Scottish Rock Garden Club Journal and the Saxifrage Society's Journal. His book on saxifrages was published in 2008 and has been highly praised. He has led many botanical tours and has traveled widely as a speaker.

Members Only Garden Tours and Potluck

Saturday June 6, 2009

Faye Brunet, Tantallon. A woodland garden featuring plants grown in the shade.

Cora Swinamer, Mason's Point. Cora's garden is on an oceanside slope, facing south with sandy soil. She has lots of plant variety and too many deer.

Anita Jackson, East Dover. Anita's garden is eight years old, with beds of acid loving evergreens, shrubs, perennials and bamboo nestled along curving lawns/paths carved out of native upland bog and white spruce forest.

Gwen Romanes, Prospect Bay

A garden with a collection of rhodos, trees and other oh, that's lovely plants, planted over 20 years.

John and Donna Silver, Prospect Bay. Bridges, ponds, walkways and roads meandering over approximately eight acres of relatively new (15 years) informal woodland garden are features that you will encounter on the Silver property.

List of locations for Rhodo 101 presentations:

Eastern Shore Garden Club
Haliburton Garden Club, Windsor
Fall River Community Centre
Mahone Bay Garden Club – Jenny Sandison
St. Margaret's Bay Gdn club

Dartmouth Garden Club
Lee Valley
Basin Gardeners, Chester/Western Shore
Probus Club Hfx (modified presentation)

□□□

American Rhododendron Society Annual Convention

May 14-17, 2010 - Holiday Inn at MacArthur-Islip Airport, Ronkonkoma, Long Island, NY.

This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the biggest annual gathering of rhododendron aficionados from around the globe and a lovely time to visit this area. The Long Island convention is readily accessible by air and by road, using the ferry from Connecticut to the North of Long Island. ARHS will look into hiring a bus to take people down there if there is sufficient interest. The plant sale is huge and This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the biggest annual gathering of rhododendron aficionados from around the globe and a lovely time to visit this area. The Long Island Convention is readily will offer an amazing range plants from the preeminent East Coast hybridizers including many of the plants we saw in Ron Rabideau's Steele Lecture this year. The last time the Convention was held on Long Island, in 1992, I brought back many wonderful plants some of which, like Wintonbury, the Society has since brought in for our membership. Plants will range in size from 4" pots to 2 gallons. So whether you are traveling by air or road there will be room for a few. The necessary phytosanitary inspections will be provided so your new acquisitions can cross the border back to Canada. Major highlights of the Convention will be the full day garden tours on Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday the first visit will be to Dick Murcott's informal 3 acre woodland garden in East Norwich which is planted with thousands of rhododendrons some of which are now more than 30 years old. Take a look at his website to see what is in store for you there (<http://garden.murcott.com/gardentour/>). Dick invites visitors to explore freely and to help themselves to pollen. He will also provide cuttings upon request. Then it will be off to the garden of the Waldmans who for many years ran Roslyn Nurseries. Here, in a woodland setting, together with mature rhododendrons and azaleas, there are a number of unusual conifers and perennials. A large *Trochodendron aralioides* (Wheel Tree) is of particular note. The destination of the Saturday tour will be a unique opportunity to visit Erchless, the privately owned Gold Coast property of the Howard Phipps family. The estate's incomparable collection of rhododendrons and mix of formal and natural landscapes is only rarely on view to the public. Covering over 100 acres, this grand old estate, which dates to the early years of the last century, has been designed in the tradition of the great English garden. A Japanese garden, meadow garden, pinetum, rhododendron hill and sweeping vistas to the south are some of the estate's features. Following an early interest in peonies and magnolias, Mr. Phipps Sr. developed a lifetime passion for hybridizing and growing rhododendrons. His extensive hybridizing activities, using primarily plants from Dexter and pollen from Exbury Gardens in England, resulted in many fine introductions including 'Martha Phipps' and 'Mrs. Howard Phipps'. For the past 28 years the head gardener of the estate, George Woodward, has continued this hybridization programme to produce a range of new hybrids some of which will be available in the plant sale, including the very tempting sounding 'Consolini's Windmill' x 'Unique Marmalade'.

The visit to Erchless will include a tour of the trial gardens. Here also the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Phipps Jr., will host a tented luncheon for tour participants.

Sunday's tour takes us to the mature hillside gardens of noted hybridisers Werner Brack and Bud Gehrlich. In these gardens the native ericaceous flora forms a perfect natural setting for hundreds of rhododendrons and azaleas, under a natural canopy, predominately oak. The youngest garden visited on tour is that of the Fellers, Bruce and Marianne, where in addition to a beautiful planting of rhododendrons, azaleas, and Japanese maples, there is also a wonderful conifer collection.

The final stop on the day's tour will be at Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay. This former Gold Coast Estate consisting of over 400 acres of woods, spacious lawns, magnificent trees and gardens was bequeathed to the State of New York in 1949. Massed *kaempferi* and Kurume azaleas and *R. carolinianum* will greet you along the main drive. Follow the magnolia walk to arrive at an extensive collection of the rhododendron species and hybrids flourishing under the shade of evergreen conifers, including redwoods. A very fine holly collection with over 100 different types of evergreen hollies occupies its own beautiful dell and a dwarf conifer garden features dozens of new varieties. For more on the horticultural delights that await see the Planting Fields website (<http://www.plantingfields.org/index.html>).

– Anitra Laycock

ARHS Website Update

For all of us who lost labels or just cannot remember what plants they may have purchased I am compiling a yearly list of plants and descriptions offered at the various sales. The information was sourced from our newsletter team and sales committee chairpersons.

I have updated the website archives section for plants offered at the May and Tissue culture sales. It is incomplete as some years are missing. The current list contains information from most of the years between 1995 to 2009. I will add additional information when it is available.

I thought the information might be of interest to our members.

The information is located in the Kiosk section of our website, http://www.atlanticrhodo.org/kiosk/archives/a_index.html

- **Bob Pettipas**

Plant hardiness and Rhododendron Distribution Project - Launched

At the December 1, 2009 meeting, Dr. Robert Maher presented **Citizen Science, GIS and You** (ARHS) in order to provide background information, the rationale and the initiation point for the plant hardiness project. He demystified the technology related to mapping the distribution of rhododendrons. A Geographic Information System (GIS) captures, stores, analyzes, manages, and presents data that is linked to location. Technically, a GIS is a system which includes mapping software and its application to remote sensing, land surveying, aerial photography, mathematics, geography, and tools that can be implemented with GIS software. His significant skills, a student and the technology are available to our club if we act in a timely fashion. Bob's entire talk can be down loaded at <http://agrg.cogs.nssc.ca/event/2009/12/01/day>. The power point presentation includes interesting work from other citizen based science projects that he has been involved in. This talk shows maps of the province that portray the regional variation of sunshine for the month of July for three years and the differences in the intensity of the winds. This information could be useful in determining where to buy a cottage for example.

At the same meeting we circulated paper copies of the form with the list of rhododendrons ordered by the club over a five year period. An instruction sheet was also handed out. The form and instruction sheet were also included in the email to all club members with the notification of the January meeting. If you require additional help please arrive at the winter meetings early or contact me. Remember it is important to put your civic address on the form so that the location of your garden can be plotted accurately. It would be convenient for the student and the project if your forms were completed and delivered by the first of March.

I encourage you to take part in this survey. It is not necessary to have a vast number of plants to report on. The inclusion of your garden is important so that we have the greatest possible geographic distribution of data. The records that you kept will be an important asset to our club, will contribute to attractive maps and will enable a more concise hardiness zonation for the province/ Canada. ☐

- **Ruth Jackson**

Passionate Plants Person Award

Heather Spurrell, Truro, a second year Environmental Horticulture Technology student was the 2009 recipient of the \$500 Passionate Plants Person Award, presented by ARHS president Ruth Jackson. The award is presented to a second year student in the Environmental Horticulture diploma program. Preference is given to students whose passion for plants is infectious and who will most impact the way we regard and understand plants in both public and private environments. Other criteria include communication and leadership abilities and financial need. ☐



The award winner, Heather Spurrell with ARHS President Ruth Jackson.

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society Balance Sheet

As At August 31, 2009

Cash In Bank	48,082.84
Total Assets	48,082.84
Equity / Surplus	48,082.84
Total Equity	48,082.84

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

Income Statement

For The Year Ended August 31,2009

<u>Cash Inflows</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2008-2009 Budget</u>	<u>2009-2010 Budget</u>
Memberships	3,826.91	2,400.00	4,000.00
ARS-CDA Rebate	500.00	375.00	500.00
May Plant Sale	27,963.00	26,000.00	27,000.00
Tissue Culture	5,844.80	6,000.00	6,000.00
Seed Exchange	932.64	1,000.00	1,000.00
Workshop	940.00	1,300.00	1,200.00
Miscellaneous	63.55	100.00	100.00
Interest	-	-	-
Total Cash Inflows	40,070.90	37,175.00	39,800.00
<u>Cash Outflows</u>			
May Plant Sale	21,934.15	22,000.00	22,000.00
Tissue Culture	3,852.31	3,800.00	3,800.00
Seed Exchange	200.14	200.00	200.00
Workshop	600.40	1,000.00	1,000.00
Social	471.13	200.00	500.00
Christmas	128.74	300.00	300.00
Auditorium	247.50	400.00	300.00
Administration	173.15	25.00	200.00
Subscription	-	-	-
Memberships	298.17	100.00	300.00
Website	-	342.00	400.00
Newsletter		-	
Printing	2,080.78	2,100.00	2,100.00
Postage & Envelopes	1,117.87	1,000.00	1,200.00
Programs	1,540.01	1,500.00	1,500.00
Steele Lecture	2,021.61	1,500.00	2,000.00
Library	323.39	300.00	300.00
Student Award *	-	1,000.00	1,400.00
Donations	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	113.35	500.00	500.00
RCS/ARS	1,791.73	-	2,500.00
Out Reach	-	-	1,000.00
Rhodo 101	-	-	200.00
Total Cash Outflows	36,894.43	37,267.00	42,700.00
Net Cash Inflow(Outflow)	3,176.47	(92.00)	(2,900.00)

* \$500 paid Oct./09

Rhododendron 'Nancy Steele'

By John Weagle

At long last that famous hybrid we all know as 80-5, Bayport's yellow or (*chrysanthum* x 'Prelude') has been formally named and registered by Captain Dick Steele. We are also pleased to learn that Dick chose to name the plant after his wife Nancy.

The cross of *aureum* x 'Prelude' dates back to 1968 or 1969. (*R. aureum* in those days was known as *R. chrysanthum*). A few of us had the good fortune to see it in the early 1970's. 'Nancy Steele' made her debut at a meeting of our Atlantic Chapter in May 1983 when the Captain gave a talk on his hybridization programme for yellows. We were all terribly excited about that forthcoming talk but no one was quite prepared for the show. Dick brought in about a dozen plants of various yellow hybrids; these included most of the selections made in 1978, 1980 and 1982 of the *aureum* x 'Prelude' cross. The plants were in full flower. It was this talk and display that really set our hybridizers into a frenzy of activity. Our budding young hybridizers were generously given pollen the night of the debut. I cannot recall a talk or display that caused so much excitement.

I'm certain the staff at Bayport Plant Farm was nearly driven mad by the countless visitors requesting this plant over the years; a few keeners were given plants to trial. Captain Steele was reluctant to release the plant prematurely, he wanted good data proving it was reliable over a reasonably wide area of Nova Scotia. It was quite a few years later that sufficient numbers were propagated and offered for sale at the nursery.

With luck that memorable talk was recorded by the late John Meagher and I transcribed the tape for publication in our Chapter Newsletter. Here are a few excerpts from the talk that reveals Steele's strategy to produce this good yellow.

Rhododendron 'Prelude' was deemed good for our purposes as it was a primary hybrid of R. wardii x R. fortunei. R. wardii could contribute the yellow genes we were looking for and R. fortunei would give insect resistance, vigour and a certain amount of hardiness. We ... realized we could get R. aureum from Kochiro Wada in Japan. I'd write to him and not hear anything back for months. Then he sent three different seed lots of R. aureum. More followed from Vladimir Vasak and from England. On our return to Nova Scotia the aureum plants were sufficiently mature to use in breeding. ... some really nice ones came from the Vasak seed collected wild near Lake Baikal and from the Wada seed. We started breeding out of these best ones.

We bred 'Prelude' into R. aureum in either 1969 or 1970, trying for a nice intermediate sized plant.

On the table you see ('Catalpa' x aureum) and hybrid plants of (aureum x 'Prelude'). These very compact plants of ('Catalpa' x aureum) range from white and ivory. The plants of (aureum x 'Prelude') surprised us as they range from white though light yellow, good clear yellow, to orange/yellow.

Slide: This was the yellowest ... of our (aureum x 'Prelude'). Some are quite yellow and some quite clear yellow . . . about as yellow as you will find in a clear yellow. Of our aureum x 'Prelude' plants the clearest yellows are #80-3 and #80-5 while the softest yellow so far is #80-2. #82-1 is a nice clear yellow with an orange bud.

Slide: This is 'Frisled Ivory' from the same cross. #78-3 . . . I like off-whites and this one is quite ruffled as the name suggests. It grows quickly and seems to be a robust plant but may not be as hardy as we think though we have given it very rough treatment. (As of 2001 the plant seems quite reliable.ed.)

In my experience 'Nancy Steele' requires full sun and exceptionally good drainage, especially as a young plant. After a few years it settles in nicely and performs reliably in our coastal Zone 6. It is a compact and very early flowering hybrid blooming with *R. mucronulatum* and *R. dauricum* - a time of the year when we doubly appreciate the show.

Some 40 years later the book on this cross is not quite closed. Talking to the Captain this afternoon we recalled a yellow even deeper than 80-5 but it was deemed not quite hardy enough. He suggested we take a look at that plant after this winter to check on its performance. This plant along with its siblings are still growing at Bayport Plant Farm and have now reached about 2 meters in height by about the same in width. While the original plant of 'Nancy Steele' has been eaten by the deer there is still a very old plant just outside the Bayport header house that has been there as long as I can remember. It is a bit more compact than normal as it was used for cuttings over many years.

Briggs Nursery tissue cultured 'Nancy Steele' under 80-5 and lately has renewed their interest in it now that it has been named. The Captain says 'Nancy Steele' is probably his best all-round performing plant. ☺

2009 ARHS Seed Exchange

By Sharon Bryson ... Seed Exchange Chair

Welcome to the 2010 Seed Exchange for the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society. We again wish to thank the many contributors who have made this possible. The overall success of our Seed Exchange depends upon seed contributions by our members, so please make a “mental note” to save some interesting seeds for next years’ Exchange. There is always an interest in the Companion Plant section as well as the Azalea and Rhododendron sections.

Plant enthusiasts outside of our regional society have again made valuable contributions to our annual exchange. We were pleased to receive an interesting selection of seeds from Patricia Walton. She has been making crosses for many years. Many of her crosses are seeking good, compact reds. There are also some lots which are seeking improved yellows. Ron Rabideau, who gave us one of the 2009 Steele lectures, has also sent along seeds from several of his crosses. Both of these donors live in New Jersey, so strive for a good degree of hardiness which is useful for many Atlantic region growers.

There are quite a number of deciduous azalea species and hybrid seed lots available this year. Do give these interesting, easy, and beautiful plants a try. Another contributor from the USA, Jim Willhite, has included some of these. Jim has both purchased and contributed seeds to our Seed Exchange for the last few years. His Pennsylvania climate is also quite similar in hardiness issues to ours here in Nova Scotia.

The deadline for submitting the members-only orders is Feb 28, 2010.

Please remember that the seeds go out on a first-come, first-served basis dependent on seed quantity. Get your orders in early and you have a very good chance of getting everything on your list. It is VERY helpful to list second choices on the order form. If none are listed, we have to make a small “editorial decision”. We are again anxious to encourage people to try growing rhododendrons and azaleas from seed. Anyone who needs information on growing rhododendrons from seed is encouraged to check out the CD from the ARHS library. Online information is available at both the Atlantic Rhodo and the Willow Garden websites.

To this purpose we are offering a FREE package of seed to anyone interested, whether or not you order any other seeds. This is noted in the seed list. Please send the order form and \$2 to cover postage in the usual way. If you need further planting instructions, please ask.

At the end of each Seed Exchange there are inevitably left-over seeds. We still have found no predictable or useful method to make good use of these seeds, but welcome suggestions.

Once again we will post the Seed List on the Internet and insert many images and links to help in your decision-making. Check this out at <http://www.willowgarden.net>

Follow the links for ARHS Seed Exchange. A link to the list will be inserted on the Atlantic Rhodo site. www.atlanticrhodo.org.

The Seed Exchange will be open to the world at large after our Feb. 28 members-only deadline, and last until April 30, 2010. Stories of your past successes and/or failures with seed growing are most interesting and welcome. Comments or suggestions regarding the Seed Exchange are also encouraged. You can send a note with your order or email sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca

ARHS 2010 seed exchange

Seed packets are \$2.50 CDN each for collected wild, \$2.00 CDN each for hand-pollinated and \$1.50 CDN each for open-pollinated seed. One packet per lot per person. More may be ordered but are subject to availability. **All orders must be on the form provided and should be received by February 28, 2010.** Save this seed list for some of the footnote information.

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

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

DONORS: **BIR** - Jens Birck, Copenhagen, Denmark **CLY** - Bruce Clyburn, New Waterford, NS **CLA** - Chris Clarke, Liverpool, NS **COR** - Wendy Cornwall, Halifax, NS **HAU** - Finn Haugli, Tromso, Norway **MAC** - Philip MacDougall, Vancouver, BC **RAB** - Ron Rabideau, Camden, NJ, USA **SHA** - Ken Shannik, Halifax, NS **STA** - Barry Starling, Exeter, Devon, England **THE** - Kristian Theqvist, Finland **WAL** - Patricia Walton, Mahwah, New Jersey, USA **WEA** - John Weagle, Halifax, NS **WEI** - Barbara Weinz, West Bath, Maine, USA
WIL - Bill Wilgenhof, Antigonish, NS **WIH** - Jim Willhite, West Chester, Pennsylvania, USA

Rhododendron Species – Collected Wild - \$2.50		019	BIR	('Bambi' x <i>R. proteoides</i>) #17 x <i>R. citriniflorum</i> v. <i>horaeum</i>
001	MAC			<i>R. pachysanthum</i> Taiwan, 2009
002	MAC	020	BIR	('Bambi' x <i>R. proteoides</i>) #17 x <i>R. haematodes</i> cw (best)
003	MAC			<i>R. rubropilosum</i> Taiwan, 2009
Rhododendron Species - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00		021	BIR	('Bambi' x <i>R. proteoides</i>) #17 x <i>R. huianum</i>
		022	WEI	<i>R. bureavii</i> x <i>R. degronianum</i> <i>heptamerum</i> var. <i>hondoense</i>
004	WEA			<i>R. camtschaticum</i> 'Murray Lyons'
005	THE	023	CLY	'Capistrano' x 'BPT 80-5'
		024	CLY	'Catalgla' F2(Steele's) x <i>R. catawbiense</i> 'Ken's Find'
006	WEA	025	BIR	'Cunningham White' x <i>R. fortunei</i> will be extremely vigorous & suitable for understock
Rhododendron Species - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50		026	THE	'Dagmar' †4 x 'Mikkeli' †5, cp
007	WEA	027	WAL	'Delp's Ghost' †6 x 'Phipps32'
008	WEI	028	WIH	'Delp's Sunsheen' x 'Saffron Silk' †7
		029	WEI	'Dexter's Orange' x 'Hardgrove's Deepest Yellow'
009	WIH	030	THE	<i>R. dichroanthum</i> 'Böhmen' †8 x 'Goldprinz' †9, cp †10
010	WIL	031	THE	<i>R. dichroanthum</i> 'Böhmen' x 'Mikkeli', cp
011	WEA	032	WAL	'Firestorm' †10 x 'Barbara Cook' †12
012	WIL	033	WAL	'Firestorm' x 'Very Berry' †13
013	SHA	034	WAL	'Frühlingansfang' x 'Rougemont' †14
014	WEI	035	CLY	'Gables's Peaches' x <i>R. vernicosum</i> , Rock#18139 'Kulu'
015	WEI			<i>R. yakushimanum</i>
Rhododendron Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated -\$2.00		036	WAL	'Genevieve Schmidt' †15 x 'Very Berry'
016	WAL	037	RAB	[(('Goldbucket' x Weston 89-220) Best foliage x 'Orange Ruffly') (Tom Ahem hybrid)]
017	WIH			'Apritan' †3 x 'May Moonlight', aim-fragrance
018	BIR	038	BIR	'Goldprinz' x ('Bambi' x <i>R. proteoides</i>) #16
		039	WEI	'Haaga' x (<i>yak</i> x 'Mars')
		040	WIH	'Haag's Fabulous' †16 x <i>R. decorum</i>
		041	CLY	'Janet Blair' x 'Babylon'

042	CLY	'Janet Blair' x <i>R. vernicosum</i> , Rock#18139	075	WIL	Unnamed azalea seedling from RS2001#539, Late blooming pink, very fragrant
043	WIH	'Janet Blair' x 'Extraordinaire' †18			
044	WIH	'Janet Blair' x <i>R. diaprepes</i> , pollen from RSF	076	WIL	Unnamed seedlings from 'Homebush' OP, peach or dark pink with golden blotch
045	WAL	'Laurago' †19 x 'Firestorm'			
046	WAL	'Laurago' x 'Henry's Red'	077	WIL	Unnamed seedling from ('Narcissiflora' x 'Harvest Moon') yellows, chance of doubling.
047	WAL	'Love Child' x 'Trude Webster'			
048	BIR	'Nancy Evans' x ('Bambi' x <i>R. proteoides</i>) #16			
049	WAL	orange/peach hose-in-hose †20 x 'Firestorm'	078	WIL	Unnamed azalea seedling small yellow florets vivid fall foliage (likely luteum mix)
050	WAL	orange/peach hose-in-hose x 'Paula' †21			
051	RAB	'Pressy's Peachy' (from NH, very hardy) x 'Orange Ruffy'	079	WIL	Deciduous azalea, mix - FREE
052	WAL	(<i>R. hyperythrum</i> x 'Boule de Neige') x 'Graf Zeppelin'			
053	WEI	<i>R. pseudochrysanthum</i> (hardy) x <i>R. degonianum heptamerum</i> var. hondoense			
054	BIR	<i>R. praeevernum</i> SHH x <i>R. calophytum</i> (pink ex Hobbie)	082	WIL	<i>Allium christophii</i> Compact(~18"), multi-starred purple flowers in June - Bulb
055	CLY	'Sandra Hinton' x 'Hardy Giant' †22	083	MAC	<i>Arctericia nana</i> CW, Sept'09 Hokkaido
056	WEI	'Summer Cloud' x 'Besse Howells'			Ericaceous, low growing, white bell-like flowers - Sub-shrub
057	RAB	'Turquoise and Gold' x 'Washington State Centennial'	084	MAC	Asteraceae <i>Senecio</i> sp? CW, Sept'09 Taiwan - Per
058	CLY	<i>R. wardii</i> x <i>R. everestianum</i> #2(Steele) x 'Babylon'	085	CLA	<i>Campsis x tagliabuana</i> 'Madame Galen' (Trumpet Vine) Red flowers, vigorous - Vine
Rhododendron Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50					
059	WIL	'Calsap', hardy <i>R. catawbiense</i> hybrid with distinct dark purple flare	086	MAC	<i>Cardiocrinum cordatum</i> v. glehnii CW, Sept'09 Hokkaido - Bulb
060	WIH	'Deep Blue' (lepidote, <i>R. russatum</i> hyb.)	087	WEA	<i>Cardiocrinum cordatum</i> v. glehnii - Bulb
061	WIL	'Maxecat' Very large buds; pink flowers, blooming late; very hardy. Gable	088	WEA	<i>Cardiocrinum giganteum</i> - Bulb
062	WIL	'Mist Maiden', yak hybrid, very floriferous and hardy	089	SHA	<i>Clematis flammula</i> - masses of fragrant white flowers in fall, vigorous - Vine
063	WIL	'Red River', very late red, <i>R. maximum</i> hybrid	090	SHA	<i>Clematis ochroleuca</i> - hairy urn-shaped creamy-white flowers flushed violet.
064	RAB	(<i>R. maximum</i> x <i>R. macabeantum</i>) Ring			clump-forming herbaceous species. 12" high - Per
065	WIL	seedling from ARS92#608, Best Yellow (complex 'Big Deal' / <i>R. wardii</i> cross)	091	SHA	<i>Clematis viorna</i> - small thick purple-pink urn-shaped flowers, herbaceous - Vine
066	WEI	yak x <i>R. insignne</i>	092	MAC	<i>Clintonia udensis</i> CW, Sept'09 Hokkaido - Per
Azalea Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00					
067	WIH	'Don's Fuchsia' †23 x Red Cavender's †24 <i>R. occidentale</i> / <i>R. cumberlandense</i> hybrid #1	093	SHA	<i>Crocsmia</i> 'Star of The East' Perennial with an erect habit. Green, narrow, sword-shaped leaves ; in summer it bears sprays of light orange, pale-centred flowers - Bulbous Per
068	CLY	'Gibraltar' x 'Balzac'			
069	CLY	'July Jester' †25 x (<i>R. cumberlandense</i> x 'Cream Puff')	094	SHA	<i>Crocsmia aurea</i> - Bulbous Per
070	CLY	'July Jester' x (<i>R. cumberlandense</i> x <i>R. luteum</i>)	095	WEA	<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i> , long arrowhead leaf form - Per
071	CLY	'July Jester' x <i>R. mollis</i> ssp. <i>japponicum</i> (orange)			
072	WIH	'Summer Lyric' x 'Weston's Lemon Drop', cross of two late blooming <i>R. viscosum</i> hybrids	096	WEA	<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i> , mixed strains, mix of pinks, Tina Turner, Fairy Rings & Rosenteppich -Per
073	WIH	yellow <i>R. atlanticum</i> hybrid x 'Clear Creek' (Aromi)	097	SHA	<i>Diphylleia cymosa</i> , bold foliage plant for moist part shade. Small white flowers followed by dark blue berries held above foliage - Per
Azalea Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50					
074	WIL	ex 'July Jester', †25 vivid reddish-orange flowers, medium height - late blooming	098	WEI	<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i> , ericaceous shrub, brilliant fall colour - Shrub

- 099 SHA *Gentiana lutea*, whorls of yellow flowers on stems ~5' high about large pleated foliage. -Per
- 100 MAC *Hydrangea serrata*, CW, Sept'09 Hokkaido - Shrub
- 101 MAC *Ligularia* sp. CW, Sept'09 Taiwan - Per
- 102 WEA *Lilium candense*, red form -Bulb
- 103 MAC *Lilium formosanum*, CW, Sept'09 Taiwan - Bulb
- 104 SHA *Lilium henryi* - Bulb
- 105 WIL *Lilium martagon* White drooping recurved blooms, earliest lily - Bulb
- 106 HAU *Lilium lophophorum* - Bulb
- 107 HAU *Lilium oxypetalum* v. *insigne* (long stalks) - Bulb
- 108 HAU *Lilium oxypetalum* v. *insigne* (short stalks) - Bulb
- 109 WEA *Lilium sachalinense* Rare. Native to the island of Sakhalin (E Russia) with recurved intense yellowish orange flowers above fine foliage. Plant in humus rich, peaty soil in partial shade ~100cm, - Bulb
- 110 WEA *Lilium taliense* ex GS - Bulb
- 111 WEA *Lilium taliense* var. *kaichen* - Per
- 112 COR *Magnolia acuminata*, large fast-growing tree to 20m, spread 10m. Large pale green leaves, bluish-green flowers/ red fruits. (It is a parent of many yellows.) - Tree †26
- 113 COR *Magnolia* hybrid ("Girls" series ? 'Betty') Pale pink ~3m after 20 years - Tree †26
- 114 COR *Magnolia* hybrid(Harvey) mid-size ~4m after 20 years. White flowers. - Tree †26
- 115 WIL *Magnolia loebneri* hyb. ex. 'Leonard Messel', pink, - mid-sized Tree †26
- 116 CLA *Magnolia macrophylla*, huge leaves and blooms - Tree †26
- 117 WEA *Magnolia sieboldii* 'Colossus' - Tree †26
- 118 SHA *Magnolia sieboldii* Halifax hardy, white with pink stamens, vigorous - Tree †26
- 119 COR *Magnolia soulangeana* (Saucer Magnolia) Pink, tulip-shaped flowers - Tree †26
- 120 WEA *Magnolia* sp 'Spectrum' - Tree †26
- 121 WEA *Magnolia sprengeri* 'Diva' - Tree †26
- 122 COR *Magnolia stellata* (Star Magnolia) white blooms, early spring - Tree †26
- 123 WIL *Magnolia stellata* (Star Magnolia) Dwarf form white blooms, early spring - small Tree †26
- 124 CLA *Magnolia virginiana* selfed - Tree †26
- 125 STA *Menzesia* (best hybrids) Ericaceous shrub
- 126 WEA *Menzesia ciliicalyx* v. *purpurea* h.p. - Ericaceous shrub
- 127 STA *Menzesia multiflora*, 15% come with good blue leaves - Ericaceous shrub
- 128 MAC *Menzesia pentandra*, CW, Sept'09, Hokkaido - Ericaceous shrub
- 129 WEA *Nomocharis maire* Heavily spotted, summer flowering. - Bulb
- 130 HAU *Nomocharis* (mix spp. & hybrids) - Bulb
- 131 HAU *Nomocharis pardanithina* ex KGB#660 - Bulb
- 132 MAC *Parasenecio farfarifolius*, CW, Sept'09 Hokkaido - Per.
- 133 MAC *Pennelianthus frutescens*, CW, Sept'09 Hokkaido
- 134 SHA *Podophyllum emodi*, A curious Himalayan perennial, 6-12 in. high, with deeply lobed leaves marbled with purple, and white flowers followed by bright coral-red berries Sow as soon as possible - Per
- 135 MAC *Primula miyabeana*, whorls of bright, rich pink flowers and unusual leafy bracts. CW, Sept'09 Taiwan - Per
- 136 MAC *Ranunculus* sp., CW, Sept'09, Hokkaido - Per
- 137 MAC *Sedum morrisonense*, ~5-10 cm., yellow flowers in late summer. CW, Sept'09 Taiwan - Per
- 138 WEA *Soldanella montana* (Alpine Snowbell) Mound-forming perennial with toothed, bright green leaves that are violet beneath. Bell-shaped, lavender to blue flowers bloom in spring <1 Ft. - Per
- 139 COR *Styrax japonica* Slow growing, ~ 2.5 metres after 18 years, white bell-shaped flowers in the summer - Shrub
- 140 WEA *Vaccinium praestans* (Kamchatka bilberry) produces edible berries - Ericaceous Sub Shrub
- 141 SHA *Viburnum betulifolium*, spectacular red fruit, appears to be self-fertile - Shrub
- 142 MAC *Weigela middendorffiana*, CW, Sept'09 Hokkaido - Shrub

FOOTNOTES

- †1. 'Amber Mist' = 'Janet Blair' x 'Ice Cube' Large trusses of beige-to-flesh-colored flowers, with a golden blotch. Plant of medium size, compact, well-foliaged.
- †2. 'Double Eagle' = 'Bump's Orange' x 'Skipper' Excellent plant with superb rounded trusses of butter yellow flowers, with red flare. 1.5m. Yak hyb.
- †3. 'Apritan' (parentage unknown) Compact Dexter hybrid. Pink, late mid-season.
- †4. 'Dagmar' is a hardy and fragrant *decorum* hybrid
- †5. 'Mikkeli' aka 'St. Michel' is a hardy Finnish hybrid.
- †6. 'Dexter's Ghost' - aka 'Ghost' (R. maximum/yak parentage) Flowers white with strong yellow green spotting; leaves with tan, wooly indumentum.
- †7. 'Delp's Sunsheen' aka 'Sunsheen' Flowers light yellow and pale greenish yellow, with strong reddish orange spotting. 'Saffron Silk' = (hardy yellow x Frank Fujioka yellow)
- †8. 'Böhmen' is pretty hardy and probably a form of *dichroanthum* ssp. *scyphocalyx*.
- †9. 'Goldprinz' aka 'Goldschatz' is one of the best yellows from Hachmann.
- †10. cp = Controlled Pollination, where stigmas have been protected before and after pollination.

- †11. 'Firestorm' = ('Vulcan' x 'Chocolate Soldier')
Deep red, unmarked, dome-shaped trusses Plant of
dense, spreading habit.
- †12. 'Barbara Cook' = 'Mary Belle' x 'Goldsworth
Yellow'
- †13. 'Very Berry' = 'Trude Webster' x 'Jean Marie de
Montague' Deep, rose-red.
- †14. 'Rougemont' = 'Princess Elizabeth' x 'Cindy Lou'
(Delp) Tom Ring hybrid.
- †15. 'Genevieve Schmidt' = 'America' x *yak* (Delp)
3ft x 3ft Buds cardinal red and strong.
- †16. Hardy, fragrant pale cream with a great truss and
vigorous constitution; cross unknown.
- †17. A hardy form that grows well in PA.
- †18. 'Extraordinaire' marginally hardy in PA. West
coast hybrid with huge yellow/purple blend flowers
and bronze new foliage.
- †19. 'Laurago' = 'Moser's Maroon' x *yak*
4ft(1.2m) Flowers of Neyron rose, dark olive
green dorsal spotting, fragrant. Plant wide as
tall; leaves have golden buff indumentums.
- †20. From Hank Shannen's Rarefind Nursery, no
parentage available.
- †21. Compact, pale yellow. Parentage unknown.
- †22. *R. fortunei* x *R. fictolacteam* is the Knippenberg
hybrid registered as 'Hardy Giant'
- †23. Don Hyatt hybrid of two white flowered Gregory
Bald plants; fragrant, bright fuchsia flowers;
grown from seed.
- †24. Rose flowers with a blotch.

- †25. 'July Jester' = (*R. prunifolium* 'S. D. Coleman' x
R. cumberlandense 'Scarlet Salute')
- †26. Magnolia seed has been stratified. Store in
fridge in plastic packet as received until
March/April then sow in warm soil.

NOTES

1. Open-pollinated species, with the exception of a very few, may not come true from seed. Cultivars, with the exception of a few perennials do not come true. Plants from these seeds should be labelled as being "ex" that species or cultivar.
2. The 2010 Seed List will be posted on the Internet with insertion of images and links to help in your decision-making. <http://www.willowgarden.net> Follow the links for ARHS Seed Exchange. A link to the list will be inserted on the Atlantic Rhodo site. www.atlanticrhodo.org
3. Also see the ARHS website for an article on growing rhododendrons from seed.
4. When sowing rhododendrons on peat we recommend you sterilize it first. Microwave it for 15 minutes or pour boiling water through it several times. Allow to cool.
5. We would like to thank the seed donors for their time and effort making crosses, collecting and cleaning seeds. We would also like our membership to take note of the types of seeds donated this year. We highly encourage members to attempt their own hybridization of rhododendrons. Seed of uncommon trees, shrubs and perennials is always most welcome. ☐

Book Review

Dogwoods

**Paul Cappiello and Don Shadow. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2005. 224 pages.
Publisher's price, hardcover: \$39.95.**

This new acquisition to the ARHS library is a must-read. Gardeners already interested in this wonderful group of woody plants will explore further with relish. Anyone previously unacquainted with the genus *Cornus*, to which the plants covered in this book belong, will find a treat in store for them. Rather surprisingly, given their popularity, this is first book specifically directed to looking at dogwoods in the garden. All the dogwoods currently available in horticulture are described, accompanied by more than 200 colour photos to help you identify and select your plants. The book is organized into six chapters, beginning with an overview of plants in the dogwood family in general. Each of the remaining chapters is devoted to a specific sub-group of related plants: the familiar bunchberries of the *C. canadensis* group, the bright red- or yellow-stemmed members of the *C. alba* group, the *C. alternifolia* group to which belong the pagoda dogwood and the spectacular 'wedding cake tree', the *C. florida* group which includes its Asian counterpart *Cornus kousa* with its familiar eye-catching bracts, and finally the *C. mas* group, the Cornelian cherry, prized for the profusion of yellow flowers that brighten early spring. For each species there is a full description including cultivation and propagation information. This is followed in each case by an alphabetical list of varieties, cultivars, forms with their particular merits and demerits. The authors are both experienced and accomplished horticulturists. Their incisive evaluations of plants are presented in an easy to read style enlivened by a self-deprecating humour. ☐

—Anitra Laycock

Plant Portraits

The Seven Sons Tree



Plants that provide flowers when little else is in bloom, are of great value in the landscape. *Heptacodium miconioides*, the Seven Sons Tree, does this in spades. In late September through October it is smothered in clusters of seven slightly fragrant small blooms of creamy white. These turn into pink bracts to extend the season into November. The 8-10 cm (4 inch) long, ovate green leaves are attractive all season, but take on a pink tinge in the fall, complementing the pink bracts. This is one of the last shrubs to lose its leaves. The leaf fall exposes the exfoliating bronzed brown bark which carries the interest through winter and spring. The shrub has multiple arching branches from the base and up the trunk, and may easily be pruned into a tree. The mature height of tree or shrub seems to be 6 metres (20 feet) with a spread of 2.5-3 metres (8-10 feet), an excellent size for the urban landscape. My specimen is growing as a shrub and has reached 4 metres (12 feet) in six years, a fast grower.

The Seven Sons Tree is a relatively recent introduction from the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University in Massachusetts. It was first collected in 1907 from cliffs at 900 metres (3000 feet), by one of the great plant hunters, E.H. Wilson, in Hupei province, China. Alfred Rehder found Wilson's dried specimen in 1916. He determined that it was a new genus of shrub in the *Caprifoliaceae* (honeysuckle) family and named it *Heptacodium miconioides* (syn *H. jasminoides*) It was then forgotten until a 1980 Sino-American botanic expedition set out to explore the native flora of China when it was again "discovered". Seeds were obtained and the Arnold Arboretum and the U. S. National Arboretum went to work on it, with the result that is now available in the trade. Unfortunately, there are very few specimen of the Seven Sons Tree left in the wild and these are limited to a mountainous region in Zhejiang province, China. The work of the botanists in both the United States and China, will insure the survival of this lovely shrub.

Growing instructions:

Zone 5 – 8

Light: Full sun to light dappled shade

Soil: Fertile, well drained

Feeding: Side dress with compost and a complete organic fertilizer in the spring

Propagation: Sow seed as soon as ripe, softwood cuttings in the spring.

Pruning: Late winter or early spring, prune out crossed branches or extra tall ones to maintain good shape

Diseases: none listed, but being watched for canker.

Bibliography:

Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs

Cole, Trevor *Gardening with Trees and Shrubs*

Gary I. Koller, supervisor of Arnold Arboretum's living collections.

– Rosaleen MacDonald

Magnolia 'Merrill'

Magnolia x loebneri 'Merrill' was given to me as a present 20 years ago and has proved to be an enduring gift. It is a plant well suited for our Nova Scotia climate. It starts blooming in the first week in May and this continues into the third week. The cool spring temperatures prolong the white blossoms with up to 15 tepals that are also lightly fragrant. The myriad of blooms on the bare branches are stunning against a blue sky. The leaves are about 13 cm long and 5 cm across. They have a good substance and are oblong in shape with smooth edges. The leaves remain dark green all summer. From beneath they are lighter in colour and they form a canopy that is excellent to sit beneath in the sun. It has red fruit in the late summer. The leaves stay on the tree well into the month of November when they develop a yellow colour. The leaves of my tree have not been disfigured by insects or diseases. For the winter the fuzzy buds are an additional point of interest. It is the most vigorous of the *Magnolia x loebneri* hybrids and in my garden has reached a height of about 7-8 meters. As for hardiness Michael Dirr, the North American tree guru, says it flowered after a temperature of -45° F. at Presque Isle, Maine. Not only do I like the plant but others do as well. It has received the Royal Horticultural Society prestigious Award of Garden Merit and the Michigan Growers Choice Award.

– Ruth Jackson

Crevice Gardening in Newfoundland

By Todd Boland



Photos Todd Boland

The Memorial University Botanical Garden is located in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Our botanical garden consists of 10 acres of developed gardens and another 100 acre natural area. For those who are not familiar with our botanical garden, the rock gardens comprise about half of our planted area and consists of several specialized alpine gardens. The older portion of the rock garden, built in the early 1970's, utilizes sandstone and siltstone and has soil with an acidic pH. Here we house a number of alpine species that prefer acidic conditions. Adjacent to this garden is our scree. In the late 1980's we constructed the limestone rock garden and scree to accommodate calciphile alpine species, which include many of our native arctic-alpine species. Our alpine house provides visitors with up close and personal views of exquisite alpine species and allows us to cultivate those alpine species that would suffer from the excess winter wet associated with our 60 inches of annual precipitation. The one rock garden feature that we were missing was a crevice garden.

The concept of crevice gardens was first designed by Czech alpine growers. The rocks are placed end-on in parallel lines to simulate the natural folds of a rock outcrop. Overall it is a simple concept but one that was quite new to most rock gardeners. Our botanical garden is a non-profit organization with a limited budget, so we decided to apply to the North American Rock Garden Society for a donation to make our wish of a crevice garden a reality. Together with a donation from the Newfoundland Rock Garden Society and a private donation from a Friend of the Garden, we accumulated enough funds to pay for the rock material needed for the crevice garden, along with new plants and a trip to northern Newfoundland to collect native arctic-alpine species.

The crevice garden was constructed on one of the hottest days of the year, in early August 2008. The thermometer hit 31 C! With plenty of water, we started the task by placing a 12" layer of coarse, rocky topsoil as our base. The flagstone rocks were then positioned, on their edge, one at a time and backfilled with a mix of sand, 3/8th inch chip stone, compost and topsoil. The media proved to be well-drained yet moisture retentive. Within a day, the basic rock construction was complete. We then left a running sprinkler on the garden for several days to settle the soil, then proceeded to plant. The intent in this garden is to grow relatively small yet choice alpines. Some of the plants were new to us and ended up growing much larger than anticipated. They will be removed next spring. But that is all part of the learning curve.

As I write this, our crevice garden will be going into its second winter. We were not sure how the plants and rocks would fare through their first winter, but as the last of the snow melted last April, not a rock was out of place and we only lost four plants. Many of the plants have literally tripled their size over the last summer. They seem to be appreciating all the cool root runs provided by the numerous countersunk rocks. We are particularly delighted with the success of our native arctic-alpines. While we do grow quite a number at the botanical garden, certain species have proven difficult, such as *Saxifraga aizoides*, *S. oppositifolia*, *Primula laurentiana*, *Pyrola asarifolia*, *Mertensia maritima*, *Oxytropis johannensis* and *Anemone parviflora*. All of these are now in the crevice garden and doing surprisingly well. The crevice garden is now home to seven species of native Arctic willow, including *Salix jejuna*, a Newfoundland endemic and one of the rarest willows in the world. Some other natives include *Tofieldia glutinosa* and *pusilla*, *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *planipetalum*, *Saxifraga paniculata* var. *labradorica*, *Solidago multiradiata*, *Rubus acaulis*, *Silene acaulis*, *Draba arabisans* and *laurentiana*, *Stellaria longipes*, *Arnica chionopappa*, *Erigeron hyssopifolius* and *Iris hookeri*. In shaded cracks we have our native ferns *Woodsia ilvensis*, *alpina* and *glabella*, *Cystopteris fragilis* and *Asplenium viride*.

We also have alpines from more exotic locales such as the Rockies, Pyrenees, Alps, Himalayas and southern Andes. A selection of these alpines include *Campanula* spp., *Moltkia petraea*, *Lewisia*, encrusted saxifrages, *Dianthus* spp., *Gentiana* spp., *Primula* spp., *Erigeron* spp., *Ramonda myconi*, *Haberlea rhodopensis*, *Potentilla* spp., *Allium* spp., *Oxalis* spp., *Phlox* spp., *Sedum* spp. and many named *Sempervivum*.

As mentioned, we will have to remove some of the more robust plants next spring. Already I have seeds selected to grow as replacements. It is amazing how many compliments we have gotten from visitors to the Garden. I have already seen a private crevice garden constructed locally by one of our repeat visitors. Imitation is one of the highest forms of flattery so I guess we did something right! ☐

Garden Basics

The survey our members completed in May 2008 showed that many of you wanted basic gardening information. This is the fourth article of a series that we hope will fulfil that need.

Quick Primer on Pruning

By Jenny Sandison

Pruning seems to be one of the garden jobs that intimidates everyone. However once you get over that initial uncertainty it is one of the most satisfying things you can do.

You may ask, "Why do I have to do any pruning?" I suspect that after ten years in your garden you will discover that those little plants you put in have become much larger than expected, and because you cannot get the wheelbarrow past the Weigela, that has engulfed the garden path, you are reaching for the loppers. Pruning is just the gardener's way of restraining growth, and in a small garden is vital to keep the balance among what you have planted.

Most of us start with a few basic rules. You may have heard of the 3D's of pruning: -- damaged, diseased or dead. On a lovely spring day you go and look at that weigela with a mind to cutting it back. Any branches that are dead can be pruned out, to the ground if necessary. Dead wood looks greyer, and snaps easily. Damaged branches are ones that are broken, or ones which are rubbing against each other. The rubbing damages the bark of both branches so you must decide which of the branches to sacrifice. It is usually a question of deciding which is least necessary and cutting that out.

Make it Shrink

If that weigela has become too large for its space you can go further. You can easily remove up to 1/3 of all the main branches to the ground. Just try to space them. It's more difficult than you expect, and you will be twisting yourself into

weird shapes but it makes a huge difference. At that point I think you can shorten all the branches to make a smaller shrub. We are advised that taking the shears to shrubs and giving them a haircut all over produces a plant with numerous small twigs on the outside of the shrub. In the case of most flowering shrubs blossom will be minimal. What you want is to have long young branches that flower along their length. After that first year you can take more of the old long branches out of that weigela and make sure you keep up a regime that keeps the plant in check.

Generally I try to make sure the size of the plant will fit the space it is planted into. Most nursery plants come with a label that indicates the expected height and spread and you should really make an effort to keep that in mind when you buy plants. To be constantly pruning that weigela when an evergreen azalea would fit the space makes no sense.

Tools

Tools are the most important part of pruning. The tool has to be sharp and make a cut that is clean and then the plant will heal well. I always use Felco bypass pruners, those with the red handles. They are initially quite expensive (\$52.00) but make a good present and are so much easier on your hands. All the cheap imitation ones I have tried are just not worth it. The only thing you must do is keep them sharpened and oiled. It's the same with loppers. Loppers are long handled, heavier pruners that can deal with branches thicker than 3/4 inch and up to 1 1/2 inches. You will soon find out the thickness of the branch that these tools cut easily. Thicker than 1 1/2 inches and you will have to resort to a pruning saw. These in my opinion are a variable lot and if you are working among congested branches it can be tricky. The long-bladed Japanese pruning saw from Lee Valley is the best I have found.

Walking under the trees

There are lots of other situations where you may want to prune. I am of the opinion that you should be able to walk under a garden tree without ducking. Even if the tree is in a flower bed it makes it so much easier to work in the bed if you aren't always hitting your head. All you have to do is remove the lower side branches up to the point you want. This is called lifting the tree. Cut the side branches off carefully, not leaving a stub, and cut fairly close to the main stem just where the branch starts to flare. That is the point where the tree will heal best.

Generally when you are pruning branches back, you should always trace the branch back to where it joins a main branch or stem and cut there. You don't notice the cut that way.

Shearing is a totally different way to prune. Here we take a shrub that is naturally inclined to make small, bushy, short growths and we turn it into a solid shape. The shape may be a green wall that divides the garden from the street - a hedge, or a round ball of box to decorate a corner with. Here you use a pair of garden shears cutting across the surface of the shrub to make a smooth shape. Some of the plants we place in our gardens need to be sheared to keep a better shape. Box is one of them, which can get quite large and very irregular if not sheared, and holly is another, which tends to be very straggly, but take the shears to it and it can be a tight, dark green presence in the garden.

When to prune

When do you prune? Generally when the plant is dormant is the best time. For most plants this would be in the early spring before the leaves start to emerge. In Quebec the farmers pruned their apples in March. There are usually some really nice days in March when it is a pleasure to get out in the yard and start doing some work. As the leaves are off the plant you can also get a good look at the way the branches relate to one another. However some particular plants have specific requirements. Japanese maples can bleed heavily if you cut them in the spring, so leave pruning these plants till late summer or early autumn. Magnolias are also pruned best at this later time. Also flowering shrubs are better pruned after they flower, or you are cutting off flower buds. However if the plant is well established you won't notice the loss and early spring really is still a good time.

This is an article that really would benefit from diagrams, and for that I will direct you to a great book in our library that we have just purchased, *The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers* by George Brown. This book also covers fruit trees and roses. It also covers all of the above in greater detail and it has advice on specific plants. I always remember a friend who said to me once, "I have learned not to be afraid, because even if I make a mistake the plant will grow back." Good observation. ☺

Summary of Responses to the AR&HS Members' Survey, May 2008

81 members responded to the survey: 39 unsigned and 42 signed
10 was the highest rating possible; 0 the lowest

1. 75% rated the society between 10 to 7 on meeting its objective to support and promote the development and exchange of expertise and material relating to the practice of creating and maintaining year-round garden landscapes featuring Rhododendrons and other suitable plants.
2. 49%, rated the Spring Workshop between 10 to 7. 32% had no response.
3. 75% said "No, Friday night would not be a better night for our meetings."
4. Over 50% (i.e. 43 out of 81) gave the Newsletter a 10; 20% gave it a 9, and 25% gave it an 8. 1 person gave it a 12 and 1 person gave it an 11 and we got useful comments.
5. About 63% rated the website between 10 and 5, 11% between 1 and 4, 13% had no response, and 13% didn't know it or hadn't used it.
6. About 60% rated themselves between 10 and 5, as likely to post queries and information about plant performance etc. to the ARHS website.
7. 84% keep plant and garden records, even if "sort of". (A few *love* record keeping.)
8. In terms of the importance for the society to connect with the international world of rhodos, 25% gave it 10, another 25% + gave it 8, 17% 7, and one person gave it a 20!
9. 49% gave a 10 to the importance for the membership/society to be horticultural advocates on the local (Nova Scotian) scene, 10% a 9, 30% an 8.
10. You get plant info from the Internet (online/websites/blogs/Google): 54%
TV programs: .05% ; Media: .01%; Books: 51% (includes 'the Readers' Digest big book', 'rhodo book');
Magazines/Journals: 25% (includes *Fine Gardening*, *ARS Journal*, *Canadian Gardening*); Trial and error : .01% ; Library/Public Library /ARHS library /My library: 12% ; Gardening Friends/Fellow gardeners: 22% ; Master Gardeners Assoc .01% ; ARHS members/John, Ken, Audrey: .03% ; NS Agricultural College .04%; Professionals: .01% ; Nurseries: .04%; Catalogues: .01% ; Farmers: .01% ; Past courses: .01% ; Past employer: .01% ; Gardening forums/garden tours/garden shows/public gardens/private gardens: 06%; Other garden clubs: 17% (includes Chester, Elmsdale, American Hort Society, Basin, American Rock Garden Society, Royal Hort Society)
11. joining the society,
3.7% = 2008; 7.5% 2007; 6.1% 2006; 1% 2005; 6.2% 2004;
8.6% 2003; 5% 2002; 7.5% = 2001; .1%=2000; 3.7% = 1999;
7.5% = 1998; 2% =1997; 1.2% = 1996; 2.5% 1995; 1.2% = 1994;
3.7%= 1993; 2.5% = 1990; 3.7% = 1988; 1.2% =1980s; 1.2% = 1978;
2.5% = 1977.

12. Years gardening,

1-5 4%	6-10 9%	11-15 7%	16- 20 11%	21- 25 16%
26-30 12%	31-35 12%	36-40 10%	41-45 7%	46-50 2%
51-60 4%	61-70 3%	71-80 1%		

And thanks for the many useful suggestions for future speakers, topics, projects, changes ☐

Library Purchases for 2009

50 Favorite Plants for High-Impact Gardens
Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis, and Their Relatives
Buried Treasures: Finding & Growing the World's Choicest Bulbs
Covering Ground: Low-maintenance Ground Covers
Dogwoods: The Genus Cornus
Explorer's Garden: Shrubs and Vines
How to Identify Rhododendron & Azalea problems
Perennial Combinations
Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers 2nd ed.

DiSabato-Aust, Tracy
Zetterlund, Henrik
Ruksans, Janis
Ellis, Barbara W.
Cappiello, Paul
Hinkley, Daniel J.
WSU Bulletin
Burrell, C. C
Brown, George E.

New Audiovisuals September 2009

ARS Program Library DVD Titles

PL 002. Garden Walks 2006.

Gardens visited during the Joint Convention of the American Rhododendron Society and the Azalea Society of America in Rockville, Maryland.

PL 003. Frank Fujioka's Garden.

Frank's garden on Whidbey Island, his hybrids and his hybridizing program.

PL 004. Elepidote Hybrids in Central New Jersey.

Proven good-doers in Central New Jersey selected by the Princeton Chapter Study Group. Hands-on information. Printout text including supplement data for meeting handouts.

PL 005 Ron's India Trip to Arunachal Pradesh

Ron Rabideau's experiences in company with an outstanding international group of rhododendron explorers to Arunachal Pradesh in search of rhododendron species. ☐

Corydalis New and Old

By Mary Helleiner



Corydalis x allenii. [Photo Chris Helleiner]



Pseudofumaria lutea (*Corydalis*). [Photo Sterling Levy]

Four or five years ago I discovered a new plant, *Corydalis solida*, new to me that is, since it has been grown in European gardens for hundreds of years, and grows wild all over central and eastern Europe. My first plants, which arrived as tubers, were a rather dull purple, but then I was lucky enough to get the form *transsylvanica*, described as red but actually an attractive soft pinkish red. After that I acquired ‘George Baker’ and ‘Beth Evans’, reddish and soft pink respectively, and ‘Allenii’ (a hybrid of *solida* and *bracteata*), white with pale mauve tips.

In Jan Ruksans’ book *Buried Treasures* (in the ARHS library) there are mouthwatering photographs of his beds of multi-coloured *solida*, many collected, developed and named by him. His Penza strain, which is available in Canada, contains many of these colours.

The flowers appear in very early spring, along with bloodroots, wood anemones and other spring ephemerals. Because they are surrounded by a certain amount of bare ground at that time of year, the dark purplish forms do not show up well, but the pinks, reds and whites are spectacular. Since they die down very quickly after blooming, I have planted very small growing hostas among them. The hostas come through the ground late and don’t seem to inhibit the corydalis. Our plants are in a bed that receives quite a lot of spring sunshine before the oak trees leaf out, but fairly strong shade after that. This suits the corydalis which have slowly increased over the years.

Blue *Corydalis*

In 1986 the blue flowered species *C. flexuosa* from China burst on the North American scene, although they had been introduced in Britain in the 19th century. I first saw them blooming under pines in a hot dry garden on the north shore of Lake Erie and was so enchanted with the marvellous turquoise blue, unlike almost any other flower, that ever since I have been trying to grow them. Some gardeners – Audrey Fralic and Donna Evers among them – seem to grow and bloom them with ease, even having them increase. Finally after many failures we have had some success overwintering and blooming the type sold in our ARHS Pre-ordered Plant Sale as *C. curvifolia* var. *rosthornii* ‘Blue Heron’. It is probably a form of *flexuosa*. Trial and error has made us decide that it wants quite a bit of shade and watering in dry spells – it comes from an area of ‘wet seeps’ in China. The blue flowers are so sublime that any amount of effort seems worthwhile.

Yellow *Corydalis*

From the sublime to the ridiculous: yellow *C. lutea* is ridiculously easy. It seeds itself all over our garden, in sun and shade, and particularly seems to like a shady stretch of limestone wall. Some gardeners call it a weed, but something so easily weeded out and so bright and pretty is very welcome to us. I regret to say that it now seems to have changed its name to *Pseudofumaria lutea*. A very similar species, *ochroleuca*, (which now seems to be called *alba*), hardly spreads at all, but is equally attractive, with creamy flowers tipped with green.

Last summer I found *C. cheilanthifolia* in a local nursery labelled *lutea*. It was obviously not that because it was easily recognizable as *cheilanthifolia* from its photograph in *Bleeding Hearts and Corydalis and their Relatives*, by Tebbitt *et al.*, a new book in our ARHS library. This one is somewhat bigger than *lutea*, with attractive ferny leaves. I will know in the spring if it is hardy or not.

Propagation

Corydalis are not easy to grow from seed, even though some of them seed themselves. The seed is ephemeral, meaning that it must be sown as soon as possible in the summer. Dried seed is usually dead. The tuberous *solida* types may be divided in the fall and the blue ones can be divided (some people seem to be able to) in the fall, not in the spring. The yellows can just do their own thing. ☐



Spring is coming!

Photo Album -



'Nancy Steele'. [Photo Chris Helleiner]



Corydalis flexuosa. [Photo Chris Helleiner]



Corydalis 'George Baker'. [Photo Chris Helleiner]



'Barbara Hall'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Babylon'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Centennial Celebration'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Morgenrot'. [Photo Photo Bob Pettipas]



'Parkers Pink'. [Photo Bob Pettipas]