

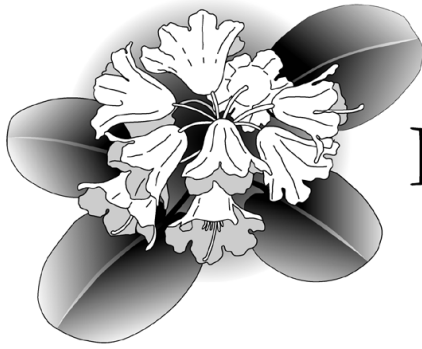
AtlanticRhodo

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Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

Our Mission

ARHS supports and promotes the development and exchange of expertise and material relating to the practice of creating and maintaining year-round garden landscapes featuring rhododendrons and other plants.

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Photos in articles are by the authors, unless otherwise identified.

Membership

Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, due September 2016. For benefits see ARHS website www.atlanticrhodo.org

American Rhododendron Society: ARHS is a chapter in District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined ARHS and ARS membership cost is \$50.00 Canadian. For benefits see www.rhododendron.org

Cheques, made payable to Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society should be sent to **Gloria Hardy 47 Melwood Ave. Halifax, NS B3N 1E4**

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 & Horticultural Society. We welcome your comments, suggestions, articles, photos and other material for publication. Send all material to the editor.

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Cover Photo: *Lithodora* 'Grace Ward', *Genista pilosa* 'Vancouver Gold', and *Dianthus* 'Gordon Bentham' [Photo Bob Howard]



Calendar of Events

ARHS meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, at 7:30 p.m. usually in the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History Auditorium, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, unless otherwise noted. Paid parking is available in the Museum lot. We welcome anyone sharing our interest in plants and gardens.

May 02.

Members to Members Plant Sale

This is when we sell our plants, the choice ones as well as divisions of the mundane, to each other. This year's event will take place at the Museum of Natural History.

May 06.

Pickup for Members' Pre-Ordered Plant Sale. 5 Sime Court, Hammonds Plains, NS.
10 am – 1 pm. Please, NOT EARLIER THAN 10 AM. NOT LATER THAN 1 PM.

June 10.

Garden Tour of Annapolis Valley gardens and Pot Luck

We look forward to visiting ARHS members' and other gardens, as well as a stop to examine the rhodie plantings at the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre in Kentville. See details elsewhere in this issue.

June 11 -14

Rhododendron Days at the Halifax Public Gardens. See item in this issue

Thank you for avoiding the use of perfumes and scented products when you come to ARHS events.



A very warm welcome to our new members who have recently joined ARHS.

**Robina Dogger, Dartmouth, NS
Malcolm Mackay, Rothesay, NB**

□□□

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



The Perverse Pleasure of Early Spring in Atlantic Canada

By John Brett

“April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.”

So said the poet, T.S. Eliot, and his down-hearted tone might well have been inspired by an April visit to Halifax, though the reference to lilacs suggests otherwise, unless he was perhaps confusing *Syringa Vulgaris* with *Daphne Mezereum*.

By the time you receive this issue of the newsletter, the worst of early spring in Atlantic Canada will be over and our gardens will be in their glory. That's hard to imagine as I write this column. It's the beginning of April in Halifax, temperatures are close to freezing, old snow still patches the lawn and there's new snow in the air.

Despite this unpromising start, I believe there is a case to be made for the pleasures of early spring in Atlantic Canada. And if only to lift my own spirits, I am going to attempt to make that case here.

A cynic might say that I have simply learned to settle for less. But as I gain in years I like to think I am learning to sense more acutely, so that acceptance of the actual here and now is not a penance, but a pleasure. One way I try to enhance this pleasure is by keeping a diary. It's there to record all the various activities that go on in the garden and, of equal importance, it encourages close observation and a heightened awareness of the natural world just beyond my doorstep.

By way of example, here are a few of my observations from late March to early May, some based on diary entries, some drawn from memory. These are special moments for me, however subtle, and let me suggest that moments, equally gratifying, will likely be found in your own gardens:

It's late March. Dark patches appear on the ice of Williams Lake. They spread through the day, showing deep marine blue flecked with sharp points of light, slush ice turning into pools of water and pools into ponds. The radiant sun is adding more heat than cold nights subtract. You can feel the momentum building. By the middle of April, the ice should be off the main body of the lake. Hotter sun brings earthy odours as snow cover shrinks and dark ground is exposed. These are wet, fungal, hopeful smells of the garden reviving, with the occasional noisome whiff to remind me that certain neighbours could do a better job keeping track of their dogs and cats.

The witch hazel, 'Jelena', is unfurling its spidery petals of ember orange. It's been doing so, fitfully, since late February. Now it's early April the flowers are open most days. The petals seem to lengthen as the season advances, and the colour becomes richer, more saturated. This is truly my first harbinger of glories to come. Close by the witch hazel, I notice small flying insects hovering in shafts of cold sunlight. Vapour rises off the remaining snow, clearly visible when backlit against dark shrubbery, mingling like steam with the tiny, delicate flies; a miracle of life emerging when shade temperatures are still below freezing.

The flower heads of Scotch Crocus and Galanthus rise above their pointed leaves, poking holes through a sodden parchment of last fall's hosta leaves. Flower petals are poised to open. Like me, they wait anxiously for three or four sunny days in a row. I tell myself not to be impatient. It's only mid-April and it hasn't been a warm one so far. Equally promising are the hellebores, small cabbage heads unfurling beneath the oak leaves which I scratch aside, knowing from past experience that they can endure night frosts by this time of year.

Bird songs are changing as April advances. Sharp, punctuated attacks tell me Flickers and Pileated Woodpeckers are in the neighborhood. Eastern song sparrows send forth sparkling, intricate strings of melody. Blue Jays expand their vocal repertoire, imitating other bird calls, even those of their predators, the sharp shinned hawk and merlin falcon. Male cardinals become bolder, leaving their winter shelters in the shrubbery and ascending to perch at the tops of trees, like out-of-season Christmas ornaments declaring themselves by sight as well as sound. A pair of loons returns to the lake now the ice is off. Their eerie yodeling calls are heard by day and night. A Barred Owl hoots covertly for mates. If we are lucky and get several warm evenings, the tree frogs will join in with a peeping chorus loud enough to carry through the neighborhood and beyond. I can hardly wait. For me, this is a most thrilling declaration of spring. How many tree frogs are there? It sounds like multitudes. And where do they all hide? It is rare to ever see one of these tiny, stentorian creatures.

Early May now, and R. Mucronulatum in the Dick Steele Garden is an airy cloud of pink. So is the aptly named, R. 'Coral Glow', a Mehlquist hybrid with a reputation for being difficult, though it has not been for me; and R. 'Isola Bella', a Joe Brueckner hybrid. Three different varieties, three different shadings of pink at the very beginning of the bloom season when we really need it. They make a big impact. Not quite so far along, R. Oreodoxa var. Fargesii is breaking into bloom, as is R. 'PJM Elite', R. 'April Song' and a few other unnamed things I've grown from seed – unnamed because I lost the tags long ago. The buds on many other rhododendrons are swelling noticeably. My anticipation is building.

Just back from our members' May plant sale with new woodland perennials to go in choice spots now vacant – the previous residents having either died of their own accord or been forcibly evicted by some marauding herbivore. New recruits include exotic hardy ferns, uvularia, disporum, and glaucidium. While planting these - a pleasant enough task - I discover podophyllums, trilliums, corydalis and erythroniums pushing above the leaf mould. That's a real thrill, knowing they have survived another winter. Colourful brushstrokes of crocus, chionodoxa and early Narcissus are at their peak.

Leaving behind those diary entries from the earlier days of spring, let's return to the present moment - this stampede of rhododendron bloom and new growth that continues from late May to the end of June, when so much is happening in the garden you can hardly take it all in. At times this wanton vernal display is too much, and I feel I'm losing control – or the illusion that I ever had some control over the progress of the season – with so many colours and shapes jostling for my attention, and such an abundance of weeds I can hardly keep ahead of them.

Strangely, at such times I find myself yearning to turn the clock back to mid-April, so I can once again savour the slow, stately progress of spring arriving in Atlantic Canada. It's a perverse pleasure, I know, but at least for some of us, a pleasure not to be missed.

Happy gardening and I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual garden tour and picnic this coming June 10th. ☘

Rhododendron Days at the Halifax Public Gardens

The ARHS is taking part in the Canada 150 celebrations in the Halifax Public Gardens, June 11 – June 14. We will have a public information table at the Main Gate of the Halifax Public Gardens on Spring Garden Road. It will be staffed from noon to 2 pm. daily by volunteers from our membership, who will be engaging the public, answering questions about rhododendrons and companion plants, showcasing particular plants of interest and encouraging interested people to join the society. In case of rain, the Society table will be set up in Horticulture Hall.

In addition to the special activities listed below, Jay Wesley, long time gardener in the Public Gardens, will be offering a daily 20 to 30 minute tour of the rhododendron collection in the Public Gardens. The tour starts at the ARHS information table at noon.

The ARHS is conducting the following special activities. Some are guided and these will leave from the ARHS information table at the main gate of the Halifax Public Gardens. All events and activities start at noon and run to about 1:30 pm.

Sunday June 11:

Rhododendron Flower Truss display. A display of rhododendron flower trusses, supplied by members, to show the wonderful varieties of shape and colour available to the home gardener. The display will be at the ARHS information table.

Botanical Artists of NS (BANSNA) Botanical art is not strictly flower painting, though that's often the subject. Watch as members of the association practise this very exacting art on location in the gardens.

Monday June 12:

Photographing Rhododendrons with John Brett. Bring your cameras and follow John as he leads you through the Gardens, sharing his knowledge of Rhododendrons and dispensing tips on photographing their magnificent blooms. Meet at noon at the ARHS table at the entrance to the Gardens.

Ikebana with Miyako Ballesteros. Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Miyako Ballesteros, co-owner of the Ikebana Shop on Quinpool Road, will be at the ARHS table to answer your questions about this fascinating, ancient art, and to show a specially created arrangement featuring Rhododendron flowers.

Tuesday June 13:

Plein Air Painters in the Garden. Plein air painters leave the four walls of the studio behind and create on location, in this case the Halifax Public Gardens. Wander along the paths and watch as 20 artists use paint, pastel and pencil to interpret the splendours of spring in Canada's oldest public garden.

Wednesday June 14:

Children's art session in the garden. **Activities to be announced.** ☘



Sanguinaria canadensis (Bloodroot)

ARHS Garden Tour - 2017

Sophie Bieger has lined up an exciting Garden Tour and Potluck for June 10 in the Kentville-Wolfville area. See the list of gardens below. Street addresses and garden descriptions will be sent to you by email by mid-May, also additional information on parking, carpooling, etc.. Please mark June 10 in your calendar and come visit some wonderful gardens.

Schedule - Saturday June 10

9:30 - 10:30 Kentville Research Station: guided tour

10:40 - 11:45 Ed Reekie, Main St., Kentville, and Jamie Ellison, Klondyke St., Kentville

12:00 - 12:45 Rob and Sue Craig Gunn, Lakewood Rd., Kentville

1:00 - 2:15 Potluck Lunch at home of Sophie Bieger & Paul Donovan, Canard St., Canning

2:30 - 3:15 Tim Amos, Jackson Barkhouse Rd., Medford

3:30 - 4:15 Gill and Chris Childs, Woodside Rd., Canning

4:30 Juta & Paul Cabilio, Bishop Ave., Wolfville

5:00 Tangled Gardens, Grand Pre. Head gardener, Nina Newington, will be present.

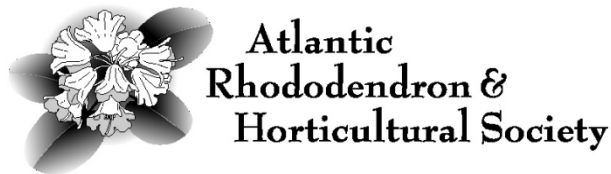
Optional stop: The Just Us! café garden en route to Highway 101.

The Story of the ARHS Logo

By Sheila Stevenson

The logo that identifies our society was created in 2004 by graphic designer, Grant Murray, following the incorporation of the ARHS as a not-for-profit society in Nova Scotia.

The image is based on a black and white drawing of the hybrid rhododendron, 'Minas Grand Pre', by the Berwick artist, Twila Robar de Coste. It was commissioned by the forerunner of the ARHS, the Atlantic Region Chapter of the Rhododendron Society of Canada (aka RSCAR).



Rhododendron 'Minas Grand Pre' was selected as the model for the graphic because it is perhaps the most distinctive of the hybrids created by George Swain at the Kentville Agricultural Research Station, in Kentville, Nova Scotia. The plant is registered with The American Rhododendron Society and a detailed description can be found online at:

http://www.rhododendron.org/descriptionH_new.asp?ID=845

For even more information about Rhododendron 'Minas Grand Pre' and the other excellent hybrids that came out of the same breeding program, please see Dr. Donald L. Craig, "*Fifty Years of Testing and Breeding Rhododendrons in Nova Scotia*". This article is available on our website at:

<http://atlanticrhodo.org/archives/articles/fifty-years-testing-breeding-rhododendrons-nova-scotia/>

ARHS member Sophie Bieger and her daughter are currently producing a banner that will feature our distinctive logo. It will be used to identify the society at public events, starting with Rhodo Days in the Public Gardens, Sunday, June 11 to Wednesday, June 14. ☞

Garden Design with a Photographer's Eye

A summary by Bob Howard of a talk by Freeman Patterson given at the ARHS monthly meeting, April 4, 2017



© Freeman Patterson

A planted meadow in Freeman Patterson's garden at Shamper's Bluff, New Brunswick.

Freeman's first group of photographs illustrated the concept of visual contrast. He explained that the eye sees contrasts of light and dark, mass and voids. The eye also sees contrasts between colours. Freeman asked us to look in an appreciative and discerning way at these contrasts in a scene, and to note: *What are the basic shapes? How do they relate? How do I feel about what I see?*

Gertrude Jekyll recommended squinting as a way of seeing the dark and light values more clearly. This can be very helpful when evaluating the overall design of the scene before you.

Freeman's second group of photos showed the subtle interventions he has introduced into the native woodland around his garden at Shamper's Bluff, New Brunswick. A beautiful example was a fern meadow to which he had added just a single plant, a 'Golden Lights' azalea. It created a powerful impact and gave a strong focus to the photograph. Freeman summarized his approach as: *Respect the land you garden on and let the land speak to you. Garden with what you have.* He said that, for him, this is a fundamental principle of garden design.

With a third group of photos Freeman illustrated how he uses paths to enhance his garden design. He summarized his approach by saying: *Paths are invitations leading the eye and mind through the garden.* Freeman mows paths through native areas and then he lets Nature respond. One memorable photo, a wide strip of path awash in tiny blue meadow flowers, showed the beauty of this approach. Another photo, equally arresting, showed a natural allée of cedar trees with a distant opening to the sky, allowing sunlight to fall on a turn in the path, enticing the curious.

A final group of Freeman's photographs took us into extraordinary gardens coast to coast, from the New Brunswick property of his late neighbor, Joe Steele, to Québec, Ontario, and on to British Columbia. He spoke fondly of his day in the magnificent Abkhazi garden in Victoria, sharing tea and talk with the late Peggy Abkhazi who, with her husband, Nicolas, created a vision of paradise that joins plants and landscape in striking combinations. It is the culmination of many years of effort and a great sense of design. One photo in particular, of sinuous tree branches casting dark contrasting shadows across a bright green lawn, perfectly embodied both the aesthetic of this garden and Freeman's unique approach to the art of photography. ☞



© Freeman Patterson



© Freeman Patterson

Two eye-catching Rhododendron hybrids from Freeman's collection. Many of these came from Jack Looye's Rhodoland Nursery.

An update on the ARHS initiative to develop interpretive panels and other content related to the story of the Kentville Agricultural Research Station Rhododendron Breeding Program.

By Sheila Stevenson

“In the beginning there were no plans to do anything more than make the vista more presentable when approaching the Kentville Research Station building complex. ... That Swain and I should become involved in a rhododendron breeding programme was inevitable.” - Donald Craig in “Fifty Years of Testing and Breeding Rhododendrons in Nova Scotia”



Rhododendron planting at the Kentville Agricultural Research Station. [Sheila Stevenson]

Today’s visitors to the Kentville Research Station may be aware of the many rhododendrons on the site, particularly in bloom season, but currently there is no way to learn more about their story. That will change if the ARHS membership approves a proposal and budget to finance the production of outdoor interpretive panels to be placed on the site.

Having received approval-in-principle from the ARHS board to pursue the idea of both mapping and interpreting the rhododendrons at the Kentville station, I pitched it to the Assistant Director, Mark Hodges, whose response was, *“I am proposing a cooperative relationship between AAFC and ARHS in order to complete this effort sooner than planned.”*

To that end, Stephen Archibald and I met on April 20 with staffers Debra Oxby, Susan Carbyn, and Mike Pulsifer. We were delighted to learn that Debbie and Susan were already mapping the beds using GIS technology, identifying the plants in the process, with the aim of producing a brochure for an Open House scheduled for Saturday, August 26, in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary. The focus of the open house will be Canada’s history of agricultural research.

Our meeting concluded that the interpretive panel project should get underway after the open house, when the plant inventory and the brochure have been completed. Both will aid in creating the content for the interpretive panels, which we plan to have completed and installed by end of spring, 2018. This time frame allows for budgeting on our end and getting approval from the ARHS membership in September.

In the meantime,

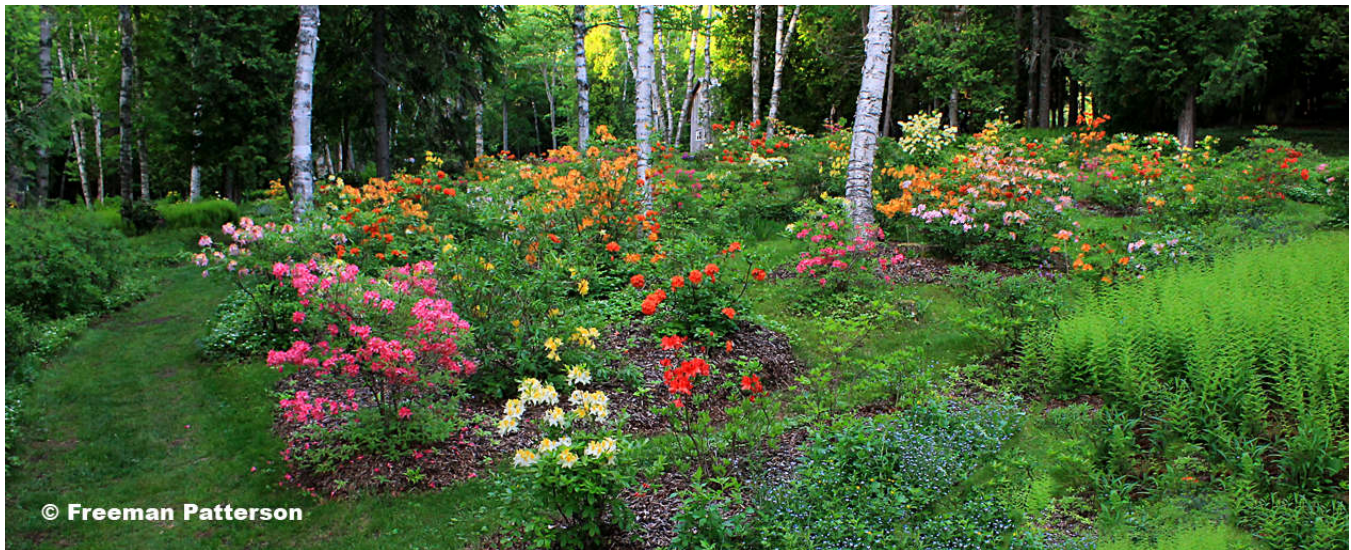
- The ARHS is on standby for helping with plant identification.
- Stephen and I will meet with Avril Vollenhoven, the Public Affairs Branch local Communication Officer, to clarify Federal government requirements for the interpretive panels. e.g. they must be bilingual.
- Stephen and I will also investigate using digital technologies that allow the public to access more in-depth information on the Kentville station rhododendrons. For instance, a smart phone app might be developed for this purpose.
- All ARHS members may wish to take part in the Canada 150 celebration open house at the Kentville Agricultural Research Station on August 26.
- **The Kentville Agricultural Research Station is the first stop on our annual garden tour this year (June 10, 9:30 to 10:30 am). If you go, please keep this project in mind while exploring the grounds. ☒**



A garden bed highlighting rhododendrons at the Kentville Agricultural Research Station [Sheila Stevenson]

A Resurrection Garden

By Freeman Patterson



My rhododendron and azalea garden, which now contains more than 1000 plants, is rather like the fictional Topsy who “just grew.” It began in the rather hazy past, sometime about 14 years ago, when I was only three. No, my birthday does not fall on February 29, but I count my years from January 29, 2000, when I underwent the second of two liver transplants (within five days) in Halifax’s Queen Elizabeth II Hospital. I spent a relatively happy winter there, in an induced coma, while all of my friends did the serious worrying. I had been given less than a one per cent chance of survival.

About the middle of May, after I had learned to hold my head up straight, then to stand up, and eventually how to walk again (first with a walker, then a cane), I was released.

As I’d been gardening seriously with both flowers and vegetables since about the time I had started school, all my instincts were to plunge my hands immediately into soil, but of course I couldn’t. Not for a couple more years. However, I could give instructions! So, my long-time employee, neighbour, and good friend, Joanne Nutter, who knew next to nothing about gardening at the time, became both my student and my work horse. Fortunately, Joanne is totally unafraid of hard physical labour and she took to gardening like lobsters take to the Atlantic Ocean. Within a couple of years we were happily gardening together, usually starting about 5:30 a.m. in late May and June, when the light is beautiful, the temperature is usually cool, and most of the bugs are still asleep.

In 1998 I had donated my 200 acres at the junction of the St. John River and its tributary, the Belleisle, to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, retaining only a life tenancy. NCC was able to add another 100 acres, so I live on a 300-acre natural area that, for the most part, will remain forever wild. However, I can interact freely with nature for a few acres in a circle surrounding my house, and it was in the old woods behind my house that Joanne and I began to plant azaleas and rhododendrons - just a few at first, but increasingly more and more as the years went by. I decided to work with the rhodo family because about 25 years earlier, when I knew nothing whatever about rhodos, I had put more-or-less accidentally a gift English Roseum in exactly the right spot. After growing vigorously for five years, it decided to bloom again and became larger and lovelier with every passing year. It became my guide.

As the years passed, Joanne, her husband and I cut down dead trees, burned the slash, carried out logs, and then I planted immediately in each new area. Since the network of roots made digging impossible, I placed virtually every plant on top of the ground, surrounding it with good horse-manure compost (plus a bit of Pro Mix) and a layer of regular spruce mulch. I certainly wasn’t worried about the acidity of the soil, as blueberries and *Rhododendron canadense* proliferated in untouched open spaces. Of course, I was learning fast and reading everything I could about growing rhododendrons.

When my woodland garden numbered about 600 plants, I discovered that Capt. Dick Steele had been testing rhododendrons and azaleas at Tyng Hill, his brother’s property just three km. from me, but also, as both Dick and Joe had passed on, that

all the azaleas and many of the rhododendrons were being taken over by forest. I approached the family member who was responsible for the property and asked to “borrow” all the azaleas, pointing out that if they remained where they were, nobody would ever enjoy them, but if I moved them to my garden, the entire Steele family and many others could enjoy them again and again.

My suggestion was accepted. Early in November of 2012, Joanne and I dug up all 100 azaleas (small and large) and brought them to my garden. We managed about a 95% survival rate, although some of the larger ones survived only because I pruned them severely. Since that time I have been returning to Tyng Hill and prowling the woods to find naturally-layered branches of overgrown rhodos, that I’m also moving with real success. Harold Popma has helped me identify some of these, such as ‘Minas Grand Pré’, ‘Walter Ostrom’, ‘Running Deer’, and ‘Boulderwood’. I found one huge rhodo that still had a label, a very old variety: ‘Lady Grey Egerton’. It had two layered branches. I planted one that stands eight feet tall and gave the six-foot branch to Harold, who has it in his Sackville garden.

Although I have purchased most of my plants from Maritime nurseries – Scott’s in Fredericton, Brunswick in Quispamsis, Corn Hill near Sussex, Cedarcrest in Saint John, Canada Green in St. George, and Baldwin’s in Falmouth, Nova Scotia—increasingly I have been securing plants from Jack and Jackie Looye’s Rhodo Land Nursery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. I usually make some personal selections but also ask Jack to choose for me, so I’m growing several crosses, many his own. At present I have about 175 rhododendron varieties and about 50 azalea varieties growing in a range of continuous open woodland settings – hardiness zones 4b to maybe 6a.

Joanne has retired, but comes often to visit, and Joel MacPherson, an extremely fit young neighbour with a degree in forestry and horticulture as well as all the practical skills I could ever hope for, has joined me part-time in the garden. The labour of love goes on. ☺



Making a New Garden: Less Work, More Plants

A summary by Bob Howard of a talk by Roslyn Duffus at the ARHS monthly meeting, March 7, 2017

[Roslyn Duffus Photos]



A raised bed planted with young Rhododendrons in Ros's garden.

At our March meeting, Roslyn Duffus showed us images of the making of her new, shadier garden. Almost four years ago, she moved to a smaller house and larger property. She got off to a good start by finding a property with stone walls and moss-covered rocks, a beautiful brook that is "full and rushing", a woodland of oaks, hemlocks, Christmas fern, eastern teaberry, mayflower, partridgeberry and best of all - no goutweed. Nevertheless, preparing soil, germinating seed and transplanting things from her former property have made for a bunch of work. Her goal is to have less work over the years as the plants fill in and make the garden.

An excavator was used to level land, save topsoil for new beds and rearrange large boulders into new stonewalls. After trying to dig in the rock-strewn ground, Roslyn changed her approach and instead, fills in hollows and builds up beds behind low stonewalls. She avoids planting under maples with their greedy roots. Another labour-saving strategy is to lay cardboard over an area and top that with straw and garden soil, delivered from a local company. For some special areas or plants, she mixes in extra bags of compost or seaweed compost. After this, the plants are set in and watered. Finally, she mulches with bark. One note of caution: avoid commercial soil mix that has shredded plastic in it. She still finds this plastic every time she weeds.

In the four seasons since moving to her new home, Roslyn has put in new planting beds and has built a rock garden and a crevice garden that makes use of broken driveway concrete. All the while, her collection of plants has been growing and multiplying to fill these new spaces. She has divided those stockpiled from her old garden, sowed seeds that now fill her cold frame, and acquired new plants from the ARHS sales and various nurseries. The range of shrubs and herbaceous material that she grows is impressive. Her photos of *Gentiana sino-ornata* and *Cypripedium parviflorum* give a hint of these riches. At 48 inches at its widest and 24 inches in height, her largest garden introduction to date is Rhododendron 'Joseph Gable'.

Roslyn searches out plants nearby, as well as far and wide. Some plant suppliers she likes are: Wrightman Alpine Nursery, Fraser's Thimble Farm, the Rare and Unusual Plant Sale at Annapolis Royal, Insigne Gardens, Baldwin's Nursery, Cosby's Nursery, and Bunchberry Nursery. As well, she takes advantage of the ARHS tissue culture sale, seed exchange, and members' plant sale, as well as plant swaps with gardening friends.☐



Cypripedium parviflorum

Listed below are some of the plants you'll see in Roslyn's garden:

Adonis vernalis

Arisaema genus – several of the approximately 180 species

Callianthemum anemonoides

Corydalis solida

Cypripedium acaule, pink lady's slipper

Cypripedium parviflorum var. *pubescens*, larger yellow lady's slipper

Cypripedium reginae, showy lady's slipper

Dactylorhiza maculata, heath spotted orchid

Narcissus genus, several varieties of miniature daffodils

Digitalis genus

Epigaea repens, mayflower

Gentiana sino-ornata

Glaucidium palmatum, Japanese wood poppy (purple flower)

Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena', witch hazel

Helleborus genus - numerous sorts, including seedlings from Ken Shannik

Hydrangea macrophylla, blue flowering variety

Iris genera, bearded and *reticulata* species

Jeffersonia dubia

Kalmia latifolia, mountain laurel - several varieties

Leptinella squalida, brass buttons

Primula genus

Rhododendron genus Varieties include 'Brook Street', 'Charme-la', 'Hachman's Charmant', 'John Weagle',

'Joseph Gable', 'Polaris', 'Sproeten' (from Bill Wilgenhof), 'Trilights'

Sanguinaria canadensis

Sarracenia purpurea, northern pitcher plant

Trillium albidum



Gentiana sino-ornata



Spring display, Branklyn Garden, Perth Scotland [Bob Howard]

Drought Tolerance in Rhododendrons

By M.J. Harvey

(Modified from the 2003 Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter and later reprinted in the May 2016 Newsletter)

[**Editor's note:** This article points out an interesting fact. Virtually all rhodo hybridizing is being directed towards developing interesting flowers, plant foliage characteristics, or temperature tolerance to either hot or cold conditions, while little effort is directed towards drought tolerance. I hope that Joe Harvey's observations may inspire hybridizers, as minimizing water demand in the garden is becoming increasingly important in many areas of North America.]

It is unfortunate that rhododendrons in Victoria, British Columbia, have come to be associated with intensive watering. This is partly due to the enterprise of our local landscapers and equipment suppliers, as shown by this imaginary conversation: **Gardener:** "Does my garden need an automated watering system?" **Landscaper:** "It is the best thing you could possibly have; we will install one next week." There is a wise saying: "Never ask a barber whether you need a haircut." The answer is always yes!



In the wild, rhododendron species grow in a wide range of climatic conditions. The great center of species diversity in the Himalayas has a monsoonal climate where rain sheets down in the summer, with cooler, dryer winters. Away from this region there are fewer rhododendron species but they are adapted to various climates, most with a greater or lesser degree of summer drought. A local example here on Vancouver Island is *R. macrophyllum*, distributed from British Columbia to California and perfectly adapted to survive a long summer drought. However, personally I have found it difficult to grow.

R. maximum. Photo by Coen Zonneveld from Hirsutum.

By happenstance, in the 1990s, I conducted a long-term experiment on drought resistance in rhododendron hybrids. I had no intention of doing such a thing, it just happened, so let me explain. In 1990, I moved to Sooke, BC, a 40-minute drive west of Victoria. With me came many hundreds of seedlings resulting from hybrids I had made during the previous few years in Nova Scotia. I planted out these seedlings in rows in a large, flat field with the intention of eventually picking out the best. For the next few years I would put sprinklers on the field during dry spells. As the seedling area grew larger and pressure from my other work on grasses mounted, I stopped watering, allowing the exposed field to dry out completely in the summer.

The soil was a deep, fine sand, low in clay components and with little water-storage capacity. During some summers, with only a few millimeters (fractions of an inch) of rain from June to September, the capacity of the plants to survive drought in full sun was severely tested. The results? Most of my seedlings died. Considering the magnitude of the water stress and years of sheer neglect, this was not surprising. What is interesting is the parentage of those seedlings that survived. It became apparent to me that parental genes must have been a significant factor.

The surviving seedlings were of the following crosses:

R. smirnowii x *R. pachysanthum*

R. pseudochrysanthum x *R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushmanum*

R. maximum x *R. ungerii*

I should point out that I did not use *R. macrophyllum* in my crosses, but I suspect that its hybrids would have been among the survivors, had I done so. What is interesting about the above list is where the parent species come from, and the climates in which they grow. Not one is from the monsoonal center of rhododendron diversity in Southeast Asia. They are all from peripheral regions with some degree of summer drought.



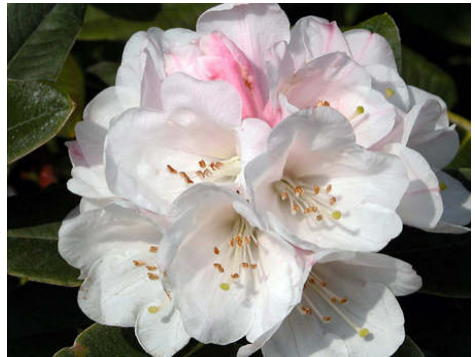
R. smirnowii. Photo by Hank Helm from Hirsutum.



R. ungerii. Photo by Everard Daniel from Hirsutum.

R. smirnowii* and *R. ungerii

R. smirnowii and *R. ungerii* are both from the slopes of the southern Caucasus Mountains and both were discovered in 1885 by Baron Franz Ungern-Sternberg (1808-1885), a Baltic-German botanist and physician. One of the species was named for the Baron and one for a friend. I might mention that my wife Linda and I have visited the Georgian Republic (when it was part of the USSR) and have seen the understory of *R. ungerii* in the foothills growing beneath an open canopy of magnificent Carpathian beech (*Fagus* spp.) with towering straight trunks. The southern Caucasus has a fairly mild climate with some summer drought periods.



R. pachysanthum. Photo by Jens Birck from Hirsutum.

R. pachysanthum* and *R. pseudochrysanthum

R. pachysanthum and *R. pseudochrysanthum* are both from Taiwan, not the frost-free sub-tropical margins of the island, but in the mountains where it can freeze in winter and yet get quite warm and dry in the summer.

R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushmanum

R. degronianum subsp. *yakushmanum* is not too far away, on the island of Yaku at the southern tip of the Japanese chain, where it grows exposed to sun and wind near the mountain top.

R. maximum

The remaining species, *R. maximum*, is from yet another continent. It occurs along the Appalachian mountain chain in the eastern USA, where it can get summer storm rain but, otherwise, where it can be stinking hot and dry, as I have personally experienced. The particular cultivar of *R. maximum* used to make my hybrid was the Mt. Mitchell red-leaved form, although this does not show in the offspring, or at least not yet.

So, in summary, all the surviving hybrids in the field have parents with some degree of natural drought resistance. This seems to have combined in various ways to produce exceptionally drought-tolerant offspring. As I said earlier, it was not my intention to research drought tolerance, but the results are so striking that I thought it worth documenting. ☞



R. degronianum subsp. *yakushmanum*. Photo by Garth Wedemire from Hirsutum.

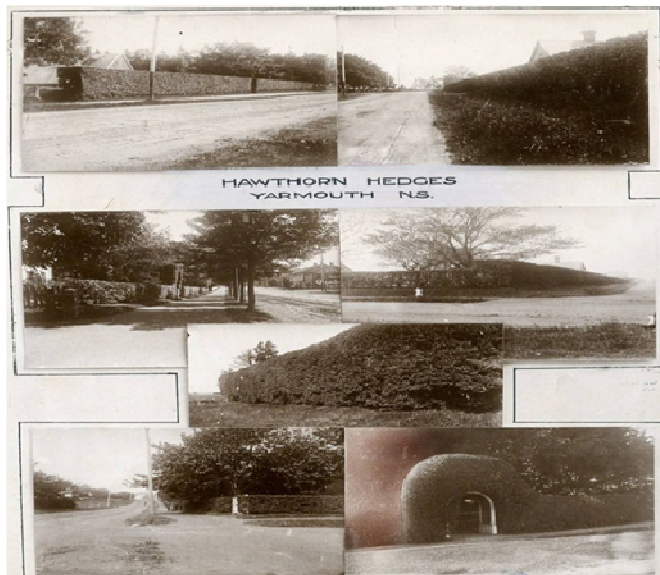


R. pseudochrysanthum. Photo by Coen Zonneveld from Hirsutum.

Joe Harvey is a member of the Victoria Chapter, and a prolific contributor to the Victoria Chapter's newsletter. The Editors would like to thank him for permission to reprint this article in the ARHS Newsletter.

English Hawthorn as a Hedge Planting in Victorian Yarmouth

By David Sollows



Hawthorn hedges of Yarmouth c. 1899.

English Hawthorn¹ (*Crataegus monogyna*) was the preferred choice as a hedge shrub during the Victorian era in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. It is hardy, easily trimmed to produce thick foliage, and it can be coaxed and pruned into various shapes and heights. It also has nasty thorns that keep man and beast from passing through it. In addition, hawthorn can be cut to the ground when it becomes too coarse, and new growth will spring from the roots to regenerate the hedge. Other trees and shrubs such as fir, white spruce, and European beech were sometimes used for hedges, but English hawthorn seems to have been the most common choice.

From the 1850's to the end of the nineteenth century, Yarmouth ship owners and merchants were building more and more elaborate houses. Any stately home needed a garden and any garden of note needed a hedge to accent its boundaries. It is uncertain when the first hawthorn hedges were planted in Yarmouth, but by the end of the 1800's they were common throughout the town. Many vintage postcards feature them lining streets and enclosing gardens.

The hawthorn hedges were predominantly made up of white flowered forms of the tree, though the ornamental red flowered hawthorn (*Crataegus coccinea*) was also used occasionally. When the hedges were allowed to flower and produce seed, they provided an excellent supply of winter food for birds. An unintended result of this was that the hawthorn spread into fields and open areas in the surrounding countryside, becoming widely naturalized in the region. Occasionally, white and red varieties will hybridize, producing flowers ranging from creamy white to pink. In many areas of Yarmouth County, one can enjoy the clouds of blossoms in late May.

What has become of the hedges? It is important to remember that they were maintained without the use of power tools. Hand clippers were used to keep them in shape. Anyone who has ever encountered the spikes of a hawthorn knows how sharp and painful they are. Over time, other shrubs like barberry or privet found favour. They grow more rapidly and can be trimmed to form a denser, more compact hedge. As properties became subdivided, hedges and gardens often were destroyed to make way for new construction.

Still, there are some remnants of those early hawthorn hedges, often just a single tree that has overgrown the space originally intended for it. In a few places, a section of old hedge can be found intact, with the once trimmed hawthorns now untrimmed and taller – reminders of an earlier time in Yarmouth when hand-trimmed hawthorn hedges were the standard border for a formal garden, or a boundary between the front yard and the street.

¹The Pilgrim ship, *Mayflower*, is said to have been named for the “Mayflower tree”, a common name for the hawthorn in 17th century England. A.E Roland, revised by M. Zink, *The Flora of Nova Scotia*, Halifax: Nimbus Publishing and the Nova Scotia Museum, 1988. ☪



Postcard c. 1906, showing hawthorn hedges along Main Street, Yarmouth



Hugh Cann house in 1891, showing extensive hawthorn hedges.

Sichuan 2016 – A Lapponica Odyssey

By Ole Jonny Larsen (Photos by the Author)



The author at Pan Pan Pass, 4700 m, the highest point in the trek.

In the spring of 2016, a group of Scandinavians toured the central parts of Sichuan in search of rhododendrons and other plants. We were four Norwegians and two Danes. Four of us were familiar with Chinese mountains and Chinese rhododendrons in their native habitats and two of us were new in the field. The participants were Bent Ernebjerg and Hans Eiberg from Denmark; and Jan Ole Westerhus, Knut Grebstad, Egil Valderhaug and the author and tour leader, Ole Jonny Larsen, from Norway. Our ages ranged from 59 to 72. Most of the time it was a comfortable trip where we slept in hotel beds and had our dinners in nice restaurants. However, before our last week, the party split up. The Danes flew home, and the four Norwegians challenged themselves by joining a well-known trekking route through the famous Gongga Shan area. Quite unexpectedly, our 2016 Sichuan tour then turned into a real odyssey through fantastic Lapponica landscapes. Another surprise was finding three localities with the very rare *Rhododendron rufescens* in full flower, but more about that later.

The species within the Lapponica subsection are categorized as Lepidote rhododendrons. These are shrubs from moorland or high altitudes, relatively small in all their parts except for *R. cuneatum*. Many Lapponica species only grow well in culture in the colder climates of Scotland, Scandinavia or Atlantic Canada. The leaves are usually less than 2.5 cm. (one inch) long and densely scaly on both surfaces. The flowers, coloured mainly in the blue to purple end of the spectrum (although a few species have white, pink or yellow flowers) are typically widely funnel-shaped, except for *R. intricatum* which is tubular funnel shaped. The more common species in cultivation are *R. fastigiatum*, *R. impeditum*, *R. polycladum* and *R. russatum*.

Our journey was organized by a French tour company based in the town of Lijiang, and our guide was He Zhi Jian, a.k.a., “Dennis,” who some of us knew well from former trips. He is very skilled and very professional! On May 21, we started out from Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan, with 14.5 million inhabitants. This town is in fact bigger than the populations of Denmark and Norway together, which says something about both Scandinavian countries and Chinese cities! There are direct flights between Chengdu and Amsterdam so in theory one can leave home in Europe and be in the rhododendron fields of Sichuan in two days! We had planned a circular tour that covered the central parts of Sichuan province and then returned to Chengdu. One goal was to avoid many long drives and another was to stay at the same hotel more than one night to have more time each day to explore rhododendron areas. Especially when one gets older, this kind of tour can be very rewarding and not involve too much struggle.

Starting our journey, we drove from Chengdu to Rilong, crossing over the Jia Jin Shan pass at 4114 m. (13,497 ft.). Near the top of the pass we found *Rhododendron anthopogon* and, lower down, *R. phaeochrysum* var. *levistratum* was in flower. Dennis had picked good hotels for the most part and our stay in the small village of Rilong was no exception. We were optimistic about the next day. Our plan was to visit a nature reserve in the Shuangqiaogou Valley near the beautiful Mount Siguniang, but to our surprise snow fell in the mountains during the night. It was cold and it was raining most of the time we were in the reserve. Except for seeing *R. nivale* subsp. *boreale* in flower (but covered with snow!), some yellow *Meconopsis*, and scenery which must have been beautiful under better weather conditions, the day was disappointing, and we were all anxious that the cold, wet weather might not let up for a while.

Well, we did not have to worry! By that evening the weather improved, and during an afternoon walk in the area around the village, we found a plant that was both well-known and strange at the same time. It was obviously *R. concinnum*, but the flower colour was odd, a very soft pink. Since our plant exactly matched a photo in McQuire and Robinson’s 2009 edition, *Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species*, it had to be *R. concinnum* var. *benthamianum*. (Chamberlain *et al.* 1996), called *R. concinnum* for short, though some refer to it as Benthamianum Group. More about odd *R. concinnums* later. The day ended with a good whisky after dinner and our cold start was soon forgotten.

Next morning, we headed for Balang Shan pass (4000 m., 13,123 ft.) in sun and pleasant temperatures. In fact, most of the trip from then on was in sunny weather, sometimes too sunny, as it made photography difficult. On this half-day trip, we found *R. primuliflorum*, which we saw during most of the tour, varying a lot in flower colour from white to deep pink; very fine *R. vernicosum* in full flower; *R. concinnum* with a normal flower colour and *R. agamiphum*. Some of the lepidote species were being attacked by a rust fungus, which we would see much more of later.

After lunch, we headed for our next stop, the small city of Danba, with tourist stops in traditional villages along the way. During dinner at our hotel that night, the local mayor turned up at our table and honoured us with patriotic songs about the Danba area. We sang a Scandinavian folk song in return.

Our plan for the next day was to drive through the famous Danba Gorge and try to find *R. danbaense*. We saw many large rhododendrons from the car, mostly *R. decorum*, but finding a good place to stop was difficult, and soon we had passed through the whole Danba Gorge without being able to stop and look for any plants at all! To our annoyance, driving back seemed out of the question to our guide and driver.

Instead, we now had the beautiful mountain called Heize Shan in front of us, and so we followed a dusty road towards it. Here we had our first meeting with *R. websteranum*. This species was not introduced until 1990, and is quite rare in cultivation. Its upright growth habit and greyish-green leaves are good identifying features. It seems odd that this species was introduced so late as we saw literally thousands of plants along the roads, especially in yak-grazed landscapes where little else grew. The yaks obviously do not like eating rhododendrons!



On the road to Heize Shan

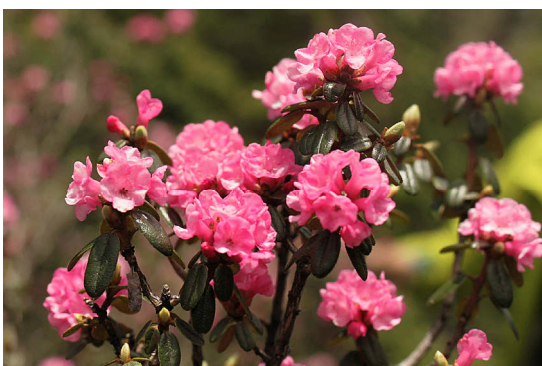
At the bottom of the valley where the road ended, there is a good path up to a plateau at 4100 m. (13,451 ft.) with a sacred lake. Here, there is a wonderful view towards the great Heize Shan. The banks around the lake were crowded with a spider web of prayer flags which westerners might consider more as signs of visual pollution than public worship, but the Lamaism people obviously have a different view of this matter. New rhododendrons seen during the hike were Lapponicas such as *R. nitidulum*, *R. intricatum* and *R. flavidum*, all in flower and maybe *R. thymifolium*. It was a very hot day, so a local man selling bottles of beer by the parking place was very popular.

We spent the night in the city of Tagong at nearly 4000 m (13,123 ft.). Tagong has a famous Lamaism monastery that dominates much of the city centre. The hills around are covered with enormous symbols made from prayer flags. The effect could be compared with the famous “HOLLYWOOD” sign on the hill above that well-known district of Los Angeles, but Hollywood has only one sign! Around Tagong there were enormous symbols on all the surrounding hills and since the landscape consists only of grassland, they could be seen from miles away.

Our next drive gave another taste of the richness of Lapponicas in Sichuan. On the way from Tagong to Kangding, there were extensive stands of *R. websteranum* along the road sides. When we were emerging from Zheduoshan Pass near the Kangding area airport at 4298 m. (14,101 ft.) more Lapponica species turned up and most of them in full flower. *R. intricatum* was stunning, with its *Daphne*-like flowers in a fine palette of blues, also *R. nitidulum* and *R. nivale*. At the highest point, 4214 m. (13,825 ft.) some special forms occurred. First found was one single plant of *R. nivale* with flowers in a deep pink, almost soft purple, and then *R. intricatum* with pink flowers. Since the area was large and impossible to search through in half an hour, I feel sure more interesting flower varieties would be found given enough time. On the other side of the pass, nearer to Kangding, we passed a hillside with lots of *R. concinnum* var. *pseudoyanthinum* (Chamberlain 1996), also referred to as simply *R. concinnum* and a little later, *R. oreodoxa* var. *fargesii*. Both species were flowering well. A stand of deep pink *R. primuliflorum* was also very impressive, the flower colour being almost as red as that of *R. kongboense*.



R. nitidulum var. *nitidulum*



Very deep coloured *R. primuliflorum*.

We reached Kangding early in the afternoon and turned from plant hunters to city tourists, at least temporarily. For dinner, some of us tried a spicy pot including yak stomach in thin slices and yak blood in pudding form. Our Chinese friends obviously loved it, and I wanted to be open-minded and tried it myself. With lots of heavy spices, it was not bad, but I could not take a large portion. Fortunately, they also served traditional Chinese cuisine. We stayed four nights in a comfortable hotel and drove up into the mountains by minibus during the days. A very comfortable kind of plant hunting!

Mugseto Lake (also spelled Mugecuo), north of Kangding, is at 3780 m. (12,402 ft.). The area around it is a national park. Above the lake, there were several kinds of rhododendrons, but no new species for us. Leading from the bus stop at the lake, there were good concrete steps with a solid bannister which descended to a lower area and a beautiful river with lots of big

rhododendrons on both sides. Our first new species was the big leaved *R. watsonii* and we encountered some big specimens. Three *Grandia/Falconera* species grow in the central part of Sichuan, so we were very happy to find *R. watsonii* in flower. We were also happy to find *R. bureavoides* in flower! Some of these plants were hanging out over the river as if an artist gardener had planted them there for decoration.



R. bureavoides by the stream below Mugecuo Lake National Park.

The next two days we spent around Ya Jia Gen Pass, with the highest point at 3850 m. (12,631 ft.). The best find here was three colonies of the rare *Pogonanthum* species *R. rufescens*, just below the top of the pass on both sides. According to the *Flora of China* (www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=2&taxon_id=200016547), this species can be found in several parts of Sichuan, but very few western plants-people of today have seen it in the wild. *R. rufescens* was described as early as 1895, but is still not much known in European and American gardens. That is a pity, for *R. rufescens* is a beautiful species. The dark brown scales in thick layers on the leaf lower surface contrast magnificently with the (normally) pure white flowers. One interesting observation is that all three stands we found were associated with water. Most plants grew on the banks of a small stream or at the shore of a small pond, and it seems likely that the preferred growing condition must be quite wet during some periods of the year, the roots even soaked in water.

At the highest elevations of Ya Jia Gen Pass, another good plant was the abundant *R. phaeochrysum*, with lots of low, compact, dome-shaped specimens. If this species behaves like *R. degronianum* subsp. *yahushmanum*, from the upper areas of the island Yakushima, it will retain its compact habit even if transplanted to lower elevations, which would be very desirable. Lower down were very big specimens of *R. faberi* subsp. *prattii* (now recognized as *R. prattii*), easily identified by their indumentum, which covers the underside of the leaf but is absent along the leaf edge. Our first *R. orbiculare* and one single *R. wasonii* were other first observations for the trip. The *Lapponica* species were also present in the area of the Ya Jia Gen Pass and again most were in flower. However, the best show was yet to come!

A search at a lower altitude on the south side of the pass revealed several different species. Enormous *R. calophyllum* were, of course, very impressive, as were the young “seedlings” below, themselves the size of normal rhododendrons in many gardens. Other new rhododendron species here were *R. longuesquamatum*, *R. ambiguum*, *R. anthosphaerum* and *R. polylepis*. The yellow flowers of *R. ambiguum* were especially admired, but even these were forgotten when we spotted the pink flowers high up in a tree of *R. dendrocharis*! Alas, they were far out of reach, until we looked down and found lots of seedlings growing at our feet. The plant in the tree had obviously dropped seeds that had germinated in the moist moss below.

That Sunday night, there was a goodbye party for our two Danish fellow travelers, Bent Ernebjerg and Hans Eiberg, who had decided to go home before the final six-day trek. Both are very experienced rhododendron men, and their knowledge had been priceless during the first part of our tour. The rest of us were now going to join a commercial trekking tour on a route over parts of the Gongga massif, in the shadows of the towering Mount Gongga at 7556 m. (24,790 ft.).



Gongga Shan with *R. nivale* in the foreground

Trekking in mountains just for the fun of it is a relatively new activity among the Chinese, and the participants we met seemed to be relatively wealthy people. The route we followed started south of Kangding at 3540 m. (11,614 ft.) and ended at the Gongga monastery with its magnificent view of the Gongga Shan. Trekking with us were two Chinese groups that were not interested in plants at all and unfortunately none of them spoke English, but there was a group of young girls that were eager to take selfies together with the tallest men in our group! A band of horsemen with their mules was hired to transport the tents and food. This trek always goes only one way, so when we left them after six days, the horsemen had to walk all the way back to start a new round.

The first part of the trek goes through a forested valley, and along the path we found lots of *R. orbiculare*. An alarming observation was that all of them were more or less infected with a kind of rust fungus, some of them badly. However, other species like *R. vernicosum* and *R. prattii* nearby, were not infected at all. Along a part of the path grew *R. concinnum* with very pale pink flowers, some of them almost whitish. They looked a lot like the *R. concinnum* (*R. concinnum* var. *benthamianum*) we found earlier. More traditionally coloured *R. concinnums* grew in between, so there should be some exchange of genes between them. Why they are varying so much in flower colour in a small area is not for me to explain. Higher up, *Lapponicas* greeted us again, and they were present from then on. A little above the tree line, one single plant of *R. rupicola* var. *chryseum* was found covered in yellow flowers. There are

only two yellow flowering *Lapponica* species and we were pleased to have found both during our tour. Oddly enough, we only found this single plant even though the landscape was open and other specimens would have stood out clearly.



R. rupicola var. *chryseum*

We continued walking through more alpine landscape for some days, crossing Pan Pan Pass (4700 m. 15,420 ft.) and Longjiman Pass (4600 m. 15,092 ft.). From this last pass, we had a wonderful view to the peak of the majestic Gongga Shan. The weather was fine most of the time, and a t-shirt was enough at the Longjiman Pass, but the temperature dropped down to near freezing one clear starry night. The descent from Pan Pan Pass into the upper Yulongxi valley was what inspired the name for this article. As we walked down, more and more *Lapponica* species were in flower, and soon they dominated the whole landscape. It was a mix of *R. nivale*, *R. intricatum* and *R. nitidulum*. Looking closer, we found an array of colour forms, from deep to very light blue/violet. Several plants had almost white flowers, and a few of them I would call perfect whites.

When we reached camp in the Yulongxi valley, it was afternoon. The low sun highlighted a mountainside covered in blue *Lapponica* flowers for many kilometers, and all at the peak of their flowering. I realized that I was at a perfect viewing point, with perfect weather, and had hit the perfect time during the flowering season for a sight like this. I have never experienced anything like it during my plant trips to China.

The Gongga Monastery had a few rooms for tourists and we stayed there on our last night of the trek. On the way back, we spent one more night in Kangding and then we were on the road, bound for Chengdu. We ended up on the 19th floor of a hotel in the very center of the town and had plenty of time for walks and shopping. I had planned to buy t-shirts for my grandchildren with Chinese text on them, but that turned out to be impossible. All available t-shirts with text were in English! Even shirts with “US army” were for sale! I wonder how Mao and Chou would have felt about that! Deng, on the other hand, would have perhaps approved, as long as they made money.



The climax of a *Lapponica* Odyssey: the simultaneous flowering of *R. intricatum*, *R. nivale* and *R. nitidulum* on the hillsides of the upper Yulongxi valley.

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Editor's notes: The author, Ole Jonny Larsen, is chairman of the Norwegian Rhododendron Society. This article is published courtesy of Mr. Larsen and the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society, where it appeared in the Winter 2017 issue. We would like to thank Mr. Larsen for permission to reprint this article in the ARHS Newsletter. ☘

A garden built in a day: The new rhododendron bed at the Argyle Township Courthouse and Archives in Tusket, Nova Scotia, planted June 2016. Volunteers: Janice Muise, Kaitlin Wood, Danny Muise, Cody Donaldson, Nick Bourque, Jason LeBlanc, John Brett.

[Photos by John Brett]



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Photo Album



Viburnum x bodnantense 'Dawn' - [Dennis Crouse]



Anemonella thalictroides - [Dennis Crouse]



Helleborus x hybridus - [Dennis Crouse]



Stewartia pseudocamellia - [Bob Howard]



Primula 'Lady Greer' - [Dennis Crouse]



Primula vulgaris ssp. *sibthorpii* 'Dr. Borgeson' - [Dennis Crouse]



Stylophorum diphyllum - [S. Levy]



Hepatica - [S. Levy]