Rhododendron Society of Canada

Société Canadienne du Rhododendron

Bulletin 1981

Volume 10 Number 1

TENTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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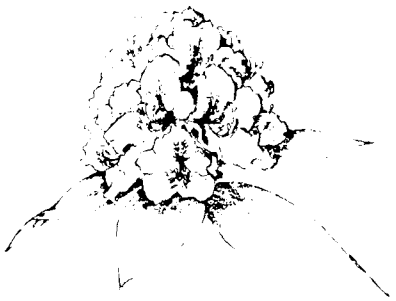

Rhododendron Society of Canada

Societe Canadienne du Rhododendron

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Burlington, Ontario, L7L 1A7

CONTENTS

OUR FRONT COVER

Rhododendron canadense When Dr. J.B. Brueckner took this photograph some 25 years ago there were acres upon acres of rhodora growing in Albert County, New Brunswick.

ILLUSTRATIONS

COMING EVENTS

21 April: Society Sale and Auction, RBG, Hamilton, 7:00 p.m.
29, 30, 31 May: Tenth Anniversary Convention and Show, Civic Garden Centre, Don Mills, Toronto.
25 October: Society Fall Meeting, Oakville, Ont.

EDITORIAL

In this our tenth anniversary year, the two issues of Volume 10 of our Bulletin will feature the work of many Canadian breeders, propagators and growers who have made great contributions to our Society's objective of encouraging the enjoyment of the genus rhododendron.

The thanks of the Society is extended to all who contributed stories and articles. The response was so generous that it was not difficult to plan for this year's two issues to complement each other. As an example, Donald Oke's botanical description of our native rhododendrons in this issue will be followed by articles in the next issue on the culture of these natives. In this issue, Marjorie Hancock describes her father's "Hancock Hybrids" and in our later issue you will read the story of this remarkable man and of the nursery he founded.

Lillian Hodgson of Vancouver has written of the life and work of another pioneer, George Fraser, and some of the results of his developments have been covered in an article by Herman Grootendorst of Holland. Both of these stories, and others of similar interest, will appear in the second part of Volume 10.

WELCOME TO TORONTO!

Dorothea Lovat Dickson, Convention Chairman

Enclosed with this Bulletin you will find the folder outlining the programme for the Tenth Anniversary Convention and Show of the Rhododendron Society of Canada, this time held jointly with the Great Lakes Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, whose members include David Leach, Orlando Pride and Tony Shammarello.

This convention will take place in Toronto from May 29th to May 31st and to say that we in Toronto are looking forward to seeing you is an understatement.

There have been so many highly successful and thoroughly enjoyable meetings in the past that it would be difficult to come up with another winner yet that's what we are determined to do! We have twenty convenors working on every aspect of the programme from judging to accommodation; from care of plants to care and entertainment of non-gardening spouses who we hope will be coming with you.

We are proud of our city and we want you to remember the 1981 show as one not only of horticultural excellence but of personal enjoyment, old friendships renewed, new friends made and a warmth of welcome that will stay with you forever.

I believe you'll agree that the programme promises us a wonderful convention. The best of gatherings however is only complete when all one's friends are there, so please do reserve these dates. Let us know you are coming and to paraphrase Greyhound, leave the rest to us! Remember, when it comes to exhibits as well as credit cards, don't leave home without them.

IT BEGAN WITH THESE, OUR CHARTER MEMBERS

Reproduced below from the first issues of the Bulletin are the names of our charter members, who came together in 1971 to pool their interests and to form a society to stimulate interest in rhododendrons.

Archer, Fred L.
Bateman, Charles
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Berman, Philip R.
Bethune, W. A.
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Boake, V. E.
Bowland, Mrs. A.
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Brent, John E.
Brien, Mrs. O. I.
Brueckner, Dr. J. B.
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Castle, A. Minerva
Cohoe, Mr. & Mrs. J.
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Craig, Dr. D. L.
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Fretz, G. R.
Frost, G. Allan
Furness, R. A.
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Hancock, Mr. & Mrs. D. W.
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Palmer, Dr. E. F.
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Pride, Orlando S.
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Wilkins, Mrs. H. D.
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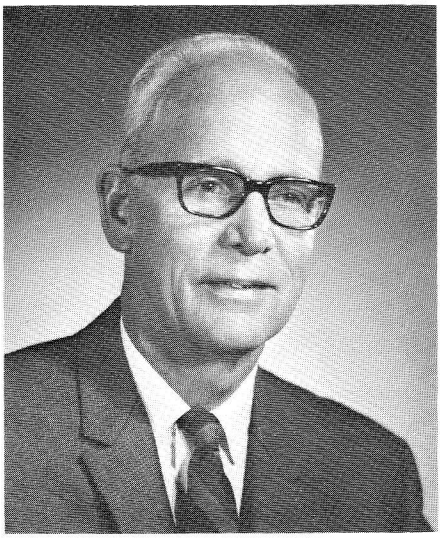
Wittewaall, B. W. G.

LESLIE LAKING, CM., LL.D., HONOURARY PRESIDENT



Dr. Leslie Laking, Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario has been honourary president of the Rhododendron Society of Canada since its founding. His 35 years of service with RBG, his work as administrator, teacher, writer, lecturer and broadcaster and his constant concern for horticultural excellence learned while studying at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, have brought many honours including honourary doctorates in 1971 from his alma mater, the University of Guelph and from McMaster University, Hamilton. He was elected Fellow of the Agriculture Institute of Canada in 1978 and in 1979 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada.

Dr. Laking takes an active interest in our Society and has been particularly helpful with our flower shows and the review of our show rules and classifications. We are fortunate indeed to have such a distinguished horticulturist as our honourary president.

BREEDING FOR SUPERIOR HYBRIDS

Milton Wildfong Mission, B.C.

The subject is hybridization, but at the beginning there are the species — the basis of the whole affair. The tantalizing prospect of significant numbers of new rhododendrons species and additions of fine clones of known species being introduced directly from their native habitats continues to bedazzle. With the techniques and facilities which now exist such ventures would prove fruitful indeed, but in the interim, until they come to pass, the British Isles remains the repository for the largest plantings of accessible mature specimens.

Time and events have taken their toll through the decades, however, and much of what has been is no more. Of what remains, considerable mongrelization has occurred and, in fact, distribution of open-pollinated seed under the label of one species or another confounds this situation to the present day.

There is cause for celebration in the progress which is being achieved these days through programs of assembling, propagating and distributing superior selections of rhododendron species to ensure their survival. It is emphasis on 'superior clones' that is especially significant. Locally, the University of British Columbia Botanical Gardens has such an effort under way, but by far the largest project is being carried out by the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Washington State. Work along these lines has begun in the British Isles too, and one hopes that comparable efforts evolve elsewhere as well. Genetically pure stock of the highest quality is of inestimable value, bearing on the future of both species and hybrids.

Nothing of a similar nature involving hybrids exists at the present time, although there are Test Gardens for specific purposes in assorted locations and there are of course some very extensive flourishing collections. One of these is in Windsor Great Park, where in recent times clones of many of the newer Canadian and American have been supplied.

Unlike the species situation which is relatively stable, a virtual explosion of new hybrids is pouring forth. Assuredly, not all of these represent a sufficient measure of difference or improvement over already existing varieties to warrant registration and introduction. Some serve mainly to feed vanity; some are simply redundant. But there are also some which are so good they represent a plateau for quality, performance and excellence. These are THE ones!

Hybridizing can be an affair of casual happenstance using whatever material happens to be at hand and without any particular objective in mind. Some astonishingly fine things have originated this way but a tremendous amount of inferior junk is a more usual result. The quality level of hybrid seedlings will rise in direct ratio of the care and judgement exercised in choosing the parental stock. The dictum 'only the best' is a sound one to follow.

Breeding to achieve improved color, form and size in the flowers and truss seems to have been the predominant objective until relatively recent times. Other aspects are getting more consideration now. The constitution of the plant is one of these. Is it a toughie; hardy to the cold; resistant to diseases such as phytophthora; adaptable to widely divergent growing conditions?

Compactness in plant habit gets more preference these days, in contrast to sprawl and legginess. Is the foliage held more than one or two years? A well-clothed plant usually looks better (except where fancy bark is a major feature).

Breeding for better foliage has had high priority here for several years. Why settle for a dull norm when it can be handsome? Rugose is beautiful. Most people like tomentum and/or indumentum. An extra glossy leaf; leathery texture; interesting form; these can all be had. But we avoid like the plague those plants showing strong chlorotic tendency and those prone to leaf spot problems.

We do not really grow very many early flowering rhododendrons here because of frost problems, but on one occasion when two seedling hybrids side by side bloomed simultaneously and frost struck, the petals of one were reduced to mush. The other, a nice yellow *calophytum* hybrid, showed no discoloration. Late flowering faces the opposite type of problem, from sun scald. Many people are unaware of late-flowering rhododendrons and treasure them for extending the season of color in their garden once they know of them.

Duration of bloom differs greatly between some varieties. It is a disappointment when flowers last a mere few days as is the case with the gorgeous but fleeting 'Ilam Violet.' Will color hold true for the duration of bloom as does 'Crest'. Or does the color fade to some ghastly shade within a few days? It is a rare instance where age enhances as it lightens, but 'Susan' manages to do this. 'Goldsworth Yellow' on the other hand intensifies in color with age. Occasionally a plant has the tendency to submerge a high percentage of the bloom inwardly. Some forms of both *strigillosum* and *barbatum* have this habit and contribute it to offspring. What about new growths shooting upward through trusses before they have even properly opened? The species *fortunei* can sometimes contribute this ruinous habit. And what of the consistent aggravation of seeing a pronounced percentage of buds abort annually, as is the case with 'Thor'? Finally, these are all local observations. Do equivalent plants behave differently or much the same in another environment?

There are some who would dismiss hybrids altogether and profess to have eyes only for the species — the pure, pristine product of eons of evolution undefiled by man. Where we are dealing with rhododendrons as garden plants, however, conditions do not normally accord with environments of native habitats and many species are entirely unsuited for typical planting purposes. It is the rugged, adaptable, consistently reliable performer that is generally desired. Some hybrids and some species fill the bill. Certainly the future holds great promise for yet more advancement along these lines and the numbers of superior plants are sure to increase.

RHODODENDRONS FOR COLD CLIMATES

Hybrids of *R. dauricum sempervirens*

J. Brueckner Mississauga, Ontario

A well known British personality summed up his opinion of a group of rhododendron hybrids which lacked quality and good flower colors simply with two eight letter words: "Coloured Cabbages". Odd as it may sound, my first reaction when I came across his remark was that I would be glad to grow any of these hybrids if only they would survive. This was not long after we have moved from one the most magnificent rhododendron growing areas of New Zealand and, perhaps, of the world, to New Brunswick, by no means in the coldest part of Canada, though not in the mildest either.

As years went by and after a more thorough appraisal of the climate and detailed studies of the genus, I came to realize that we can do much better than that, much better than to grow "Coloured Cabbages". Even amongst the older hybrids several of the better ones could, in my trials, tolerate the cold winters of southern New Brunswick. I am thinking of such fine rhododendrons as 'Mrs. C.S. Sargent', 'Catawbiense Album' and some others. Then came the new hybrids: 'Ramapo', 'P.J.M.', 'Janet Blair', 'Evangeline' to mention a few, gems in any garden anywhere.

It is not surprising that at that stage of experimentation the thought comes to ones mind; why not push it to its limits? Why not attempt to create rhododendron hybrids of the greatest tolerance to cold possible to achieve at all?

It is well to remember, right here, that crossing the hardiest of species, even with each other, is not necessarily an assurance for obtaining hybrids of similar, maximum, hardiness. Conversely, a cross of two relatively tender rhododendrons may on occasion lead to a surprisingly hardy hybrid. However, and notwithstanding what was said, one can hardly escape the logic that employing species of greatest winter hardiness is still likely to present us with the best chance of breeding plants which will have the greatest tolerance to low winter temperatures.

Hardiness is obviously a very significant goal in breeding rhododendrons for cold climates. Another guideline, equally important for me, is the esthetic aspect. Only those hybrids should be saved (and propagated) which are as good or better than the non-hardy parent and which are hardier or more attractive than existing hybrids.

It took some time to collect a selection of rhododendrons, almost all species, suitable for a breeding programme of this kind. Some species had to be gathered from the wild as not even botanical gardens had them in their collections. Gradually it was possible to assemble the following:

A. *Hymenanthes* (Elepidotes)
   1. *R. catawbiense,* including the typical form, *var. 'Catalgla', var. compactum, var. rubrum* and hardy catawbiense hybrids
   2. *R. aureum (chrysanthum)*
   3. *R. nikomontanum*
   4. *R. brachycarpum, ssp. Tigerstedt*
   5. *R. maximum*
   6. *R. yakushimanum,* several clones
   7. *R. smirnowii*

R. aureum as a parent was used in a limited way only, since, with one or two exceptions, it did not perform well for me. The hybrids seemed to lack resilience and durability. As years went by they just simply vanished from the garden. Neither could *R. aureum* itself, at least forms from the Lake Baikal area and north-eastern Siberia, tolerate the climate of South Ontario, though they survived somehow in New Brunswick. I had better experience with *R. nikomontanum* for breeding hardy, dwarf hybrids.

It is my opinion that of all rhododendrons in *Sect. Hymenanthes* the *Tigerstedt subspecies* of *R. brachycarpum* does have the greatest tolerance to cold winter temperatures, in spite of growing in nature at lower latitudes and in less extremes of cold than *R. aureum*. The

Tigerstedt subspecies is a tall shrub, several meters high, definitely reaching out of the snow cover, something which can not be said of the prostrate growing *R. aureum.*

B. *Rhododendron* and *Rhodorastrum* (Lepidotes) contain species which bear a very realistic promise of having the potential for yielding truly hardy hybrids for even the coldest of locations.
   1. *R. carolinianum,* pink and white clones
   2. *R. ferrugineum*
   3. *R. kotschyi*
   4. *R. lapponicum*
   5. *R. ledebourei*
   6. *R. dauricum*

Perhaps, the foremost in my efforts of producing hardy hybrids was the Canadian *R. lapponicum* from the Great Slave Lake area. In contrast to the prostrate growing clones this erect growing form must at times reach above the rather scanty snow cover where temperatures can dip to —55°C or lower.

R. dauricum, another arctic and subarctic rhododendron was also used extensively, mainly in three forms. One was collected from the wild, north-west of Lake Baikal, by Vladimir Vasak. Another form was grown from seeds, which were an offshoot of Dr. Mehlquist's genetic studies. He crossed in his studies a white clone of *R. dauricum* ('Arctic Pearl') with a dwarf magenta flowered form. The third is the evergreen *R. dauricum sempervirens.* The rest of this communication will deal only with hybrids obtained by using this clone as one of the parents.

As far as I know the *R. dauricum sempervirens* which I used comes, via Moscow, from Siberia. Its foliage, flowers and growth pattern fit perfectly the description given for this shrub by Dr. Leach in his book 'Rhododendrons of the World', therefore, the reader can be spared any further taxonomic characterization.
R. dauricum sempervirens is a very hardy, well-behaved plant, attractive in itself all year round, but especially in early spring when covered with flowers. It seemed to me to have all the potentials of being an excellent parent for creating cold-tolerant hybrids. How excellent in reality it proved to be I came to realize only within the last few years. As it appears, *R. dauricum sempervirens* imparts cold-hardiness to its offspring, but comparatively little of its morphological characteristics. The size and growth habit of the other parent, the foliage, the size and color of flowers come through in the hybrids to a marked extent, a trait which I have noticed in other forms of *R. dauricum,* though not as pronounced as here. Although a coincidence of several factors being responsible for this phenomenon can not be excluded, at least until proof by genetic studies is obtained, the opinion as expressed on the basis of my observations seems to me of having foremost validity.

Because of its early flowering the evergreen *R. dauricum* was almost exclusively the pollen parent. It will be noted where not.

The crosses which were made with *R. dauricum semperviens* and which were successful are discussed below, under the name of the other parent:

1. R. 'Augustinii Hybrid'. This cross produced hybrids which have flowers of light to medium violet-blue. So far, of all *R. dauricum sempervirens* hybrids, I like the light blue form of this cross best. It has widely funnel-shaped flowers, 5 to 6 cm across, of a delicate color (Violet-Blue Group 91 or 92 C, Lobelia Blue). The leaves are oblong-lanceolate, 1.5-2 x 6-7 cm. It is a hardy, robust growing shrub, likely to be tall when mature. Covered with flowers it is a conspicuous sight in the spring garden, appearing not unlike *R. augustinii* itself.
2. *R. campylogynum,* form with claret colored flowers. Of all hybrids the characteristics of the pollen parent are most noticeable in this cross.
3. *R. fastigiatum.* Somewhat taller growing with less glaucous to medium green leaves. Flowers are larger than those of the mother plant and of pleasant shades of bluish purple.

4. *R. impeditum,* the type. Size of plants as well as of flowers are somewhat larger than that of the seed parent. Flower colors are from very light to medium dark shades of purplish blue.
5. *R. impeditum,* a clone of very dwarf growth. These hybrids are rather typical for the pattern of inheritance, as postulated. They are, as the mother plant, dense, compact, small shrubs with comparatively large medium dark purplish violet flowers. Leaves deviate most from those of the seed parent, being 1 to 1.5 cm long and almost oval.
6. *R. patulum.* The exact identity of this species (?) is in some doubt, since in my opinion it also has several of the characteristics of *R. pemakoense.* Much the same can be said for its hybrids as was said for those under 5.
7. *R. russatum,* a low growing, somewhat twiggy form with deep violet flowers. The hybrids are the leggy side, growing taller than the mother plant. Flowers are larger, good shades of deep to medium violet, rather more attractive than those of the seed parent. Leaves are broadly elliptic, 2 to 4 cm long.
8. *R. moupinense.* It was *R. dauricum sempervirens* which was the seed parent in this cross. All seedlings were lost. Most perished within a year, as they were unfortunately transplanted next to a black walnut tree. The remaining few were devoured by a rabbit; no doubt a gourmet's delight.
9. Open pollinated seedlings of *R. dauricum sempervirens.* The seedling plants look like a 'semideciduous *R. mucronulatum*', hardly reminiscent of *R. dauricum.* Since a *R. mucronulatum* was planted next to the seed parent one must assume that a natural cross occured. These open pollinated seedlings are the most rampant growing rhododendrons I have ever seen. They developed from seed in less than four years into shrubs 110 to 120 cm tall. The abundant flowers are quite large, over 5 cm across, in shades of light lavender pink to Purple Group 78 B-D.

The climate of southern Ontario is mild in comparison to the rest of Canada except for coastal British Columbia. All hybrids of *R. dauricum sempervirens* were plant and bud hardy here, in Plant Hardiness Zone 6, where they withstood, without damage, temperatures as low as —25°C. This, in spite of being planted in a fairly open location, without any particular shade and winter protection and with hardly any snow cover during the last two winters. Athough this may be remarkable in itself for a *R. augustinii* hybrid, since this species is rather on the tender side, all hybrids will have to undergo much harsher testings and further observations in order to ascertain the limits of what they can endure and before appropriate appraisals can be made.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY

Some of our newer members may not be taking advantage of all the benefits available from the Society. The enclosed folder, published in 1978, lists the services then offered. Since then a series of "Information Sheets" have been published as follows:

1. "Getting Started".
2. "Site Selection".
4. "Winter Protection".
5. "Choosing Suitable Plants".
6. "Breeding and Propagating".
8. "Insect, Disease and Rodent Control".

Members may obtain copies at any of our meetings, or on application to any officer of the Society or your Region.

RHODODENDRONS AT THE MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Jack Van Gemeren Laval West, P.Q.

During the past year I have been eager to put together some notes about the collection of rhododendrons at the Montreal Botanical Garden. Despite poor snow cover in 1979-80 it appears that none of the rhododendrons suffered and only a few *Erica* and *Calluna* froze badly.

In 1973, looking through old plans I discovered that a small area had been reserved for rhododendrons and some land partially prepared some twenty years before by a former curator, Henry Teuche. The site he had chosen was at the end of an old quarry where he added a four foot layer of slag donated by an iron-processing plant to provide good drainage and twelve to eighteen inches of black soil. The site was then forgotten until 1973.

In 1974, with the collaboration of the Rhododendron Society of Canada, we initiated a permanent plantation in the arboretum which as a garden is open to the public. With some funds available we installed an irrigation system and planted the first windbreak of conifers with some pine and oak for overhead shelter. Soon the first beds were made. We hand-dug three inches of pine needles and four inches of peat into the soil.

In 1975 the first rhododendrons and azaleas were planted. New beds were made as the need arose.

1976 brought the Rhododendron Society National Show to Montreal and as participants our exhibit won the trophy for 'Best in Show' with azalea 'Gibraltar'.

Species

As this is a Botanical Garden species have priority over cultivars. From seed lists from around the world I selected 'could-be-hardy' seed. Many seedlings died after one or two years but every year other species are being tried until we find suitably hardy plants that will survive under our harsh climate. Several hundred species and their sub-species are still in the lath house.

The following species have proven themselves in the permanent planting. All have flowered and with few exceptions were grown from seed. No serious attempt has ever been made to grow the species separately but when practical they are grouped in a bed designated for species.

Azaleas

arborescens
bakeri
calendulaceum
canadense
flavum
indicum
japonicum
kaempferi
kiusianum
nudiflorum
obtusum var. *amoenum*
occidentale
poukhanense var. *yedoense*
roseum
schlippenbachi
vaseyi
viscosum

Rhododendrons

carolinianum
catawbiense
clementinae
dauricum
fastigiatum
hippophaeoides
hirsutum
impeditum
keiskei
x *laetevirens*
maximum
minus
mucronatum
mucronulatum
x *myrtifolium*
racemosum
smirnowii

Lack of space will not permit us ever to acquire all varieties of Ghent, Exbury or Molle azaleas. Our plants are therefore grouped in the same bed in order to give a colourful effect. Here and there other low-growing genera are planted in the foreground. So far all seem hardy with the exception of 'Coccinea Speciosa' and 'Daviesii' which sometimes suffer from bud-blast. Let's hope that this winter proves otherwise!

Aida
Avocet
Balzac
Bartholo Lazzari
Beauty Celeste
Bouquet de Flore
Cecile
Christopher Wren
Coccinea Speciosa
Goldcrest x Old Gold
Graf van Meran
Hotspur Red
Ignea Nova
Ilam
Il Tasso
Irene Koster
Klondyke
Könige Emma
Persil
Phébé
Pucella (syn. Fanny)
Quentin Metsys
Radiant
Raphael de Smet
Royal Command
Satan
Spek's Brilliant

Copper Cloud
Corneille
Daviesii
Dr. Reichenbach
Gibraltar
Golden Sunset
Koster's Brilliant Red
Lady Derby
Nancy Waterer
Narcissiflora
Norma
Spring Salvo
Sylphides
Tinctorretia
Vineland Sensation
White Swan

Our rhododendrons may be deciduous by next spring! Because they are less hardy, we have limited ourselves to the following:

Album Elegans
America
Besse Howells
Blue Ensign
Blue Peter
Caracticus
Caroline
Catawbiense Album
Catawbiense Boursault
Catawbiense Grandiflorum
Chionoides
Conemaugh
Cunningham's White
Dora Amateis
Elie
Elisabeth Hobbie
English Roseum
Evangeline
Everastianum
Holden
Ice Cube
Janet Blair
Jolly Red Giant
Lavender Queen
Lee's Dark Purple
Nova Zembla
Parson's Gloriosum
Pink Cameo
Pink Pompon
Pioneer
P.J.M.
Praecox
President Lincoln
Prize
Purpureum Elegans
Ramapo
Rocket
Roseum Elegans
Russell Hermon
Scarlet Wonder
Sham's Pink
Sham's Ruby
Smirnowii x *fortunei*
The General
Tony
Van Weerden Poelman

Because we very seldom lack snow, it seemed fun to try these low-growing plants.

Adonis
Barbara
Beethoven
Blaauw's Pink
Cascade
Corsage
Flame Creeper
Gaiety
Gumpo White
Hardizer Beauty
Hino Crimson
Hinodegiri
Hino Red
Hino White
James Gable
Karen
Kent's Pride
Little Beauty
Mozart
Palestrina
Queen Wilhelmina
Sakata Red
Sherwood Cerise
Sherwood Red
Stewartownian
Vuyk's Rosy Red
Vuyk's Scarlet

Other Genera

The following ericacious plants are incorporated into the rhododendron garden:

Ledum palustre
Ledum palustre var. *decumbens*
Ledum groenlandicum
Kalmia angustifolia
Kalmia latifolia
Kalmia polifolia
Kalmia polifolia var. *microphylla*
Andomeda polifolia
Andromeda glaucophylla
Pieris floribunda
Chamaedaphne calyculata
Epigaea repens
Gaultheria procumbens
Gaultheria hispidula
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Calluna vulgaris. Although there is but one species, the list of cultivars is long. We have had success with 'Alba', 'Alportii', 'Cuprea', 'Dainty Bess', 'J. H. Hamilton', 'Minima', 'Mullion', 'Orange Queen', 'Radnor', 'Rosea', 'Rubrifolia', 'Spitfire'.
Erica carnea 'Gracilis', 'King George', 'Praecox', 'Snow Queen', 'Vivelli'.
Erica tetralix
Erica tetralix 'Con Underwood'.
Erica vagans
Erica vagans 'Mrs. Maxwell'.
Erica darleyensis 'Arthur Johnson', 'Cherry Stevens', 'George Rendell', 'J. H. Brumage', 'Jenny Porter', 'Silberschmelze' x *Erica* 'Dawn'.
Bruckenthalia spiculifolia
Gaylussacia baccata
Vaccinium corymbosum
Vaccinium myrtilloides
Vaccinium angustifolium var. *nigrum*
Vaccinium angustifolium laevifolium
Vaccinium hypolosium
Vaccinium vitis-idaea
Vaccinium vitis-idaea f. *minimum*

HANCOCK HYBRIDS — A SYNOPSIS

M. Hancock Mississauga, Ontario

Leslie Hancock won a place in the hearts of rhododendron lovers of Southern Ontario and has often been given credit for "developing a hardy race of rhododendrons for cold climates". The truth is that from the late '30's well into the '50's and '60's, he was perhaps the only grower and one of few landscapers attempting to prove that some rhododendrons would thrive in the Toronto area, given proper site and soil conditions. His landscape jobs were planted with hybrids and species already recommended for cold tolerance in other places, needing only an understanding of local problems and how to combat them to establish rhodos and azaleas as viable additions to the plant spectrum available at the time.

He did, of course do some breeding work, inspired by the writings of Ernest H. Wilson, but it was somewhat sporadic over the years, interrupted by business pressures, political interests and subject to the usual disasters such as well meant dead-heading by mistake and loss of seed to early frost. Early work was perhaps unguided, and sometimes with alarming results. In the very first stages of his interest a landscape colleague, George Giesecke, suggested that he put some pollen of the Mollis azalea "Koster's Brilliant Red" onto *R. smirnowii*. Dad scoffed at the idea but, to please his friend, he did so. The cross yielded a vast quantity of seed which was duly sown. Thousands of seedlings germinated and very soon thousands of seedlings died — except two. How much T.L.C. these babies received I do not know but eventually they were planted in the bush. Where one is, or if it survived, I do not know. The other is now perhaps seven feet tall, with a very fastigiate, narrow habit. It cannot make up its mind just what it really is. The new leaves in spring are like those of a deciduous azalea but in the fall they hang on, hang down and turn black. It annually bears a few trusses at the top of the plant. They are somewhat lax, long petioled, the flowers shaped like an azalea, ruffled like *R. smirnowii* and are an unattractive wishy-washy colour between rose pink and pale orange.

He turned then to more serious work, using *R. smirnowii* with various "ironclad" garden hybrids. Most of the large rhododendrons which form the main display in the Woodland garden are from this period. They may not be show winners in terms of colour, being on the magenta side, but they have never failed to bloom and get bigger and more spectacular with each passing year. Perhaps this record breaking cold winter of 1980-81 will be a test for some.

It takes many years to test garden performance and more years to select and produce worthy plants. A few were selected and named by my father, notably 'Red Dragon', 'Woodland Red' and 'Jolly Red Giant'. Only the latter has proved viable as a commercial plant and has been distributed in a minor way. It has, however, won favour from a number of members growing it and it is reputed to be hardy above the snow line in Ottawa.

Perhaps his best known cross was *R. smirnowii* x *R. fortunei* (or possibly the reciprocal) made in 1951. Seven seedlings were sent to the Kentville Research Station prior to first bloom. A typical F_1 cross, the progeny were relatively uniform in character but in later years have shown the differences in flower and habit. One clone was selected by Dr. Donald Craig as part of the "Acadia" series introduced by the Station. It was first named 'Evangeline' but this was disallowed by the Registry and it is now called 'Fundy'. (This cultivar is described in the RSC Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 2, page 12). Other selections from the cross have been named but not registered. These are 'Spring Show' (described elsewhere in this issue), 'Rudy Behring' and 'Mrs. Leishman' — both nice pinks. Most of these are bud hardy to about —15°F (—26°C). Some plants of this cross have become the tallest in our woods, now about ten feet in height.

A later cross of *R. smirnowii* x *R. thomsonii* yielded many culls, but one clone had excellent bright pink colour and rather bell-shaped flowers. This plant was used as pollen parent for a number of further crosses, mostly on the reds proven hardy in this area — 'Dr. H.C. Dresselhuys', 'Van Weerden Poelman', etc. The most noteworthy of the offspring were kept. One he dubbed "Dresselhuys II" which won the E. Frank Palmer Award in 1973; it does

not propagate well. One was named for my mother, 'Dorothy Macklin'. This cultivar has very distinctive olive green foliage and a broad but graceful habit. The trusses are not full but the individual flowers are large, with lightly ruffled edges and the colour is an unusual rosy-red with a almost coppery glow.

In addition to controlled crosses, Leslie Hancock made several species selections, among them *R. mucronulatum* 'Woodland Pink', *R. kaempferi* 'Pink Joy' and *R. schlippenbachi* 'Woodland Pride'.

In the spring of 1952 my father visited his family in England and was fortunate to visit Kew Gardens at the peak of the lepidote bloom. He was forever charmed by these delightful alpines and much of his later work concentrated on these forms. Of these, 'Pink Pompon' *(R. carolinianum* x *R. racemosum)* has proven popular, and 'Little Boy Blue' ('Blue Diamond' x *R. carolinianum*), while a rather purple blue, is a mass of long lasting bloom on a well shaped plant with excellent foliage. In a good year it makes an impressive show in the rock garden. Neither of these cultivars is reliably hardy below —15°F (—26°C) unless snow covered. 'Little Bo Peep' and 'Little Miss Muffet' (both *R. carolinianum* x *R. impeditum*) are slow growing and make natural bonsai with thick trunks and interesting branching.

The last series of Dad's crosses were made in 1975, using pollen from two forms of *R. dauricum album* collected in the wild in Hokaido, Japan. Many of the seedlings were lost or have been discarded but one cross is showing promise. He did not live to see them bloom for they flowered for the first time in the spring of 1980. This charming group of white to pale pink hybrids blooms at the same time as 'P.J.M.' I have named the grex 'Leslie's Legacy'. I hope that in the next few years I shall be able to select one from this group to bear his name, in commemoration of his pioneer work and his steadfast belief that rhododendrons could and would be grown in cold Canadian gardens.

JEAN RHODES REPORTS ON SOME WEST COAST BREEDERS.

The Greigs

Because she was too frail to stand for her talk to the annual meeting of the American Rhododendron Society in 1979, a stool was brought in and from that perch Mary Greig told of her early days in B.C., where more than fifty years ago she and her husband, Ted, started a nursery in western Canada at Royston which subsequently became one of the main sources of rhododendron species material for western North America.

When she finished her talk there was a prolonged standing ovation for this grand old lady of rhodendron growing and tears in the eyes of many younger growers as they contemplated the joys and frustrations of her life.

She spoke of the other early growers. She corresponded with George Fraser who was still at Ucluelet on the west side of Vancouver Island, and spoke of Dr. Cyril Bartley who had a garden at Departure Bay near Tofino. Another pre-30's grower was Dr. Hilton who came to Alberni in 1912. He got most of his plants from Hilliers and subscribed to the expeditions of 1914-15-16 for seed. Layritz started a nursery in Victoria in 1914, but being of German origin had a difficult time during the war. She spoke of Cyrus McKee, who "was growing seed

madly" at Abbotsford, and of George and Suzanne Buchanan-Simpson at Lake Cowichan, whom she and her husband met in 1925. They had an alpine nursery on property originally owned by people named Stoker, who were there before 1912. The Stokers had sent B.C. seed to the Kew Herbarium and when they died the Simpsons carried on until 1933, when they decided to go back to Scotland and asked the Greigs if they would like to buy the nursery.

Ted and Mary had been interested in alpine plants, collecting local ones on the weekends, but protested they knew nothing about running a nursery. The Buchanan-Simpsons said, "You'll learn." and Mary told us that they learned things they never knew existed! So they scraped up the money and started to move the stock from Cowichan to Royston, about 160 km away.

Every weekend Mary's son and husband loaded their car and a small trailer with plants ("the car was never the same again!") and drove them home. From Monday to Friday Mary sorted and planted ready for the next weekend. This went on for all one summer and a good bit of the next winter.

There were a few scraggly rhododendrons among the alpines and Mary didn't want to bother with them, but the Buchanan-Simpsons said that "they would take hold of her". Little did they know.

The Greigs made contact with Sir William Wright-Smith, Regius Keeper of the Botanical Garden at Edinburgh. They exchanged seeds and got plants in return. In those days they came by ship through the canal in cold storage. Mary says they were in beautiful shape and the dormant rest made every twig strike. They also subscribed to the plant collections of Kingdon-Ward, Rock and Ludlow and Sherriff. With these fine seeds their interest centred on rhododendrons and they collected and bred many excellent plants.

She told of the lack of books in the early days. There were just a few periodicals and the occasional Edinburgh bulletin. Their 'bible' was Euan Cox's *Rhododendrons for Amateurs,* and *Rhododendrons for Everyone* by Kingdon-Ward. It was difficult to identify plants and the hardiness ratings from Edinburgh did not tally with the weather situation in B.C. Also they tried to join the Rhododendron Society (a sub group of the Royal Horticultural Society) but Mary says she made the mistake of using a Royston Nursery letterhead and received a curt reply saying that "they did not accept anyone in the trade"!

But gradually they learned and eventually became an oasis of rhododendron material in the desert of North American rhododendron supplies. They were much in demand as judges of species and never failed to give their time and knowledge.

In 1952 and '53 they gave two large gifts of over 1,000 plants to the University of B.C. which was the start of the Botanical Garden collection. When Ted's failing health made the running of the nursery more difficult they sold the bulk of their collection in 1965 to the Vancouver Parks Board. They jointly were given the A.R.S. Gold Medal in 1966, shortly before Ted's death.

One last story Mary told us. "Our first purchases of plants were from Sunningdale in England and when Alleyne Cook first came to Canada he wrote and asked us for a job. But we as a specialist nursery never were able to hire any help, but we asked him to come and visit anyway. He walked around the nursery and suddenly shouted "I wrote that label...and that one!" He had labeled these plants when he had worked at Sunningdales long before. Alleyne took a job with the Vancouver Parks Board and it was he who moved the rest of the collection to Vancouver in '65 and has looked after them ever since."

Mary has continued to donate from her choice private collection to gardens such as the University of Victoria, and the public can enjoy these beautiful plants in various places. They form a lasting tribute to two ardent pioneers in the collection and fine selection of rhododendrons in western Canada.

John G. (Jack) Lofthouse

Coming from a family keenly interested in competitive plant-growing, Jack has carried on the tradition with an eye for selection of plants and improved propagation techniques.

His first serious interest in plants was with begonias and other store plants, but in 1959 he turned to rhododendrons. With the success of R. 'Pink Petticoats' in 1968, which was registered and sold through Van Veen's Nursery in Oregon, he started breeding large-trussed plants for the milder parts of the Pacific northwest.

Jack grows all his plants in tubs, having over 1,000 on a Vancouver city lot. He is a member of the Plant Propagators Society and has developed various fluorescent light boxes which aid in the winter growth of seedlings, enabling him to telescope the time needed to bring plants to blooming size.

He is a long-time member of the Vancouver Chapter of the A.R.S. and holds the Chapter's Bronze medal. Now retired from his electronic repair business, Jack enjoys addressing various garden clubs and corresponding with growers in other parts of the world. He now has a distributor for his plants in Ashburton, N.Z.

Some of his recent hybrids are R. 'Sierra Sunrise', 'White Wedding', 'Lemon Float', 'Magic Moments', 'Frilled Petticoats', and current crosses include R. 'One Thousand Butterflies', 'Sierra del Oro' (a good yellow), and 'Truly Fair'.

If anyone in eastern Canada is interested in pollen from his best yellow rhododendrons, they can contact him through the Vancouver Chapter of the A.R.S.

Dr. C.S. McKee

Dr. C.S. McKee (1876-1961) was not only a pioneer in medical diagnostic laboratories, but a pioneer in rhododendron-growing in western Canada. His interest began in 1920 when he received a large collection of species seeds from Edinburgh, including R. *augustinii, californicum, carolinianum, caucasicum, diaprepes, catawbiense, cinnabarinum, decorum, discolor, falconeri, fargesii, fortunei, giganteum, heliolepsis, maximum, oreotrephes, pseudoyanthinum, strigillosum, sutchuenense,* and *thomsonii.*

His first garden was in Vancouver, where these plants were started in their thousands and allowed to self-select from the start. Many of the original species were short-lived, but the stronger and hardier ones lived on.

In 1949 he moved his garden to a larger site on a hill at Abbotsford in the Fraser Valley, where the colder winters (6° to 8°C lower than the coast) continued to select for hardiness. He also did not water or mulch in summer, further adding to the natural selective factors.

Dr. McKee, feeling that all rhododendrons were equally interesting, did not breed or select plants and his garden eventually produced early pinks (like R. *fargesii* and R. *oreodoxa*) and later scented pinks (R. *fortunei*), lovely white late spring blooms and a few good Triflorums. All possible hybrids between were allowed to seed and grow on, resulting in a huge garden refined by vigorous natural selection.

After his death, selections were carefully made by his friends of the remaining plants and crosses were made with them by Eric Langton. Seeds of these crosses were grown on by various interested people and a large number of the original plants are still cared for by his daughter Mary Selby and her husband who presently live on the hill and still view, with pleasure, Dr. McKee's hobby plants every spring.

Robert C. (Bob) Rhodes, M.D.

Dr. Bob Rhodes is in charge of a very busy medical practice in Maple Ridge, thirty miles up the Fraser Valley from Vancouver, but often it is hard to tell whether his vocation or avocation is his main interest.

He has been actively gardening since 1957, his first interest being trees, especially flowering cherries. These he planted in numbers on an 8 acre parcel of land in Maple Ridge and as his interest moved to rhododendrons, the trees formed ideal high shade and companion plants.

He joined the American Rhododendron Society in 1959 and started extensive seed from them as well as the R.H.S. which he joined the following year. Bob also started seed from friends' crosses and his own hybridization program began in 1960.

He has served the Vancouver Chapter of the A.R.S. in numerous offices, being president during a critical time of growth for this group and received the Chapter's Bronze medal for his efforts.

Due to the pressure of urbanization the garden was condensed to one intensive acre, but he is still rooting cuttings to share with interested growers.

From 1976-79 he and his wife Jean took part in a research project for the University of B.C. on the blooming dates of rhododendrons, culminating in the publication of "Phenology of Cultivated Rhododendrons" by Dr. Keith Wade.

Recently they sent cuttings to Windsor Great Park, including selections and hybrids made by Dr. Rhodes which included R. 'Bob's Blue', 'Nathaniel', 'Bob's Yellow', 'Norma Hodge' (McKee x Fabia) and a fine June bloomer R. 'Lillian Hodgson' (Angelo-Solent Queen x Old Copper), these plants having been registered in 1979.

He is looking forward to retirement and planning to build a completely new garden in the Gulf Islands, where the climate is much milder but drier than in Maple Ridge and this will allow him to try a whole new spectrum of his favorite plant — the rhododendron.

THE SUPERHARDY GROUP

Rudy Behring St. Catharines, Ontario

My interest in rhododendron breeding was awakened with the realization of a severe shortage of hardy plants that could be grown in Montreal. The pollen of very hardy species was crossed on to good specimens of so called 'Ironclads'. The results have been beyond my wildest expectation.

Then in 1973 *R. brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* was crossed on to *R. maximum album* which has given me different plants good to at least —40°F (C). On to these good F1 plants some of the best of available tender hybrids have now been crossed. The results will hopefully provide in time the 'Arctic' race of superhardy hybrids that I sought when told "Rhodos don't grow in eastern Canada."

Successful interspecies crosses have also been made using *Ledum Groenlandicum compactum* with rhodos and azaleas. This might prove to be the bridge for breeding these two groups of plants.

(Upper left) 'Jolly Red Giant' (Hancock)

(Middle left) Langton azaleas

(Lower left) *R. lapponicum* in the wild at Great Slave Lake (Oke)

(Upper right) 'Vineland Sensation' (HRIO)

(Middle right) *R. impeditum*, dwarf form x *dauricum sempervirens* (Brueckner)

(Lower right) *R. russatum* x *dauricum sempervirens* (Brueckner)

A note from Nicholas Yarmoshuk

EDITOR

COLOUR IN PHOTOS ON FOLLOWING PAGE IS SEVERALLY DISTORTED.

THIS WAS SCANNED FROM PRINTS CREATED IN 1961.

NOVEMBER 30, 2004

VINELAND RHODODENDRON HYBRIDS

A. W. Smith, Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario

The Rhododendron program at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario began under the late Dr. E. F. Palmer, who was director of the Horticultural Experiment Station (now known as HRIO) from 1916-1956. Dr. Palmer was also widely known for his success in breeding gladiolus and lilies.

It is not generally known that Dr. and Mrs. Palmer lost their only son in the second world war. Wishing to do something tangible in their son's memory they set up a Trust Fund administered by the Ontario Government for research work to be done with ornamental plants.

Roy Forster, a graduate of Kew Gardens, was assigned to the Rhododendron project in 1959. Mr. Forster carried out breeding using the lepidote and elepidote types of rhododendrons as well as the deciduous azaleas. Mr. Forster left the staff at HRIO in 1967 and was succeeded by Ken Begg, a graduate of the Niagara Park School of Horticulture. Mr. Begg remained at Vineland until 1974, at which time I joined the staff. It has been my privilege to evaluate and carry on the work of my predecessors.

The plant breeder must have a knowledge of genetics and determine what characteristics are dominant or recessive before proceeding to hybridize. He must also have patience, as many plants do not bloom until several years old. Disappointments have to be expected as many hybrids produce inferior plants which should be discarded. After selections are made, the plants must be propagated and tested in several climatic locations to determine their winter hardiness.

The prime factor in the breeding of rhododendrons at HRIO is to produce hybrids that will survive our Canadian winters. The variation in winter weather conditions from year to year makes accurate hardiness ratings difficult. Many plants that survived the previous two winters did poorly this past season, as plant growth did not mature in the unusually long autumn and were severely damaged by wind and lack of snow cover. The rhododendron testing areas at HRIO are subject to the cold winds from Lake Ontario less than 1/2 km away and only the hardiest plants survive. Vineland selections also are being tested in Edwards Gardens Toronto, Ottawa Research Station, Montreal Botanical Gardens, Kentville Nova Scotia and VanDusen Botanical Display Garden, B.C.

With the plant selections that are registered in number only, a brief explanation will explain the identification system used at HRIO. As an example, V-62169, the letter "V" is used to denote "Vineland", 62 (1962) is the year the cross was made, 16 represents the sixteenth cross made that year and 9 signifies the ninth selection made from that particular group or population.

Rhododendron cv 'Vinestar' — 'Vinestar' is a pale yellow lepidote hybrid. It is registered in the Yellow Group 9-D (R.H.S. color chart system). This plant was produced from the mating of the species *R. keiski* and *R. racemosum.* The hybrid retained yellow coloring from *R. keiski* and also produced the plant habit of *R. racemosum.*

It blooms in the middle of May and matures to a bush 90 cm high and 60 cm wide in ten years.

'Vivacious' — This red elepidote hybrid is registered in the Red Group 52C-D R.H.S. It was the result of a cross between two rhododendron cultivars, 'America' x 'Dr. Ross'. It develops into a plant 1.2 metres high by 1.6 metres wide. At maturity it is an outstanding red and is very popular with growers in the U.S.A.

Registered as V-61101 — Color Group Red-purple-68B R.H.S. This is another elepidote hybrid produced by the mating of *R. catawbiense* var. *alba* x R. 'Lady Bessborough'. It is the first of the large flowered rhododendrons to bloom at Vineland. The pale pink blooms are on display eight to ten days earlier than the other large-leaved rhododendrons. It will grow to 2 metres tall and 2.2 metres wide in ten years.

V-60061 — Registered in Color Group Red-purple-67C R.H.S. In this cross R. 'Scandinavia' was the seed parent and the pollen was taken from the species *R. fortunei.* The result was a large, husky plant, 1.2 metres tall and 1.3 metres wide. The large ball-shaped truss is lavender-pink with a prominent brown blotch on each flower.

V-66091 — In Color Group Red-purple-67C. In 1960 a cross was made with R. 'Hassan' x (*R. scyphocalyx* x R. 'Catalgla'). In 1969 one of these seedlings was pollinated by R. 'LaBar's White'. The results produced large-flowered, mauve-pink blooms with reddish brown spotting on white. Upon first evaluation it was thought that the plant was too open in growth habit; however, as it matured, it was observed that the plant needed this open habit to display the large flower trusses.

V-62253 — This plant, loaded with pink blooms, resulted from a cross between cv 'America' and *R. yakushimanum. R. yakushimanum* is a beautiful species found growing on the island of Yakushima at the southern tip of Japan. This species is a marvel in itself. As its buds open, they show a dark reddish-pink and progress to a full truss of pale pink flowers, gradually fading to a blush-white and finally to a pure white. *R. yakushimanum* imparts these characteristics in most of its hybrids. When crossed with 'America' all the progeny showed this same feature. The only variance was the plant habit of both parents. The indumentum on the under side of the leaves of *R. yakushimanum* did not appear on many of the hybrid offspring to any great extent.

V-62181 — This beautiful ivory-white hybrid was produced by the mating of R. 'Catalode' x R. 'Hawk Crest'. This plant had great promise until the winters of 1977 and 1978. The winter injury was so extensive that it could not be considered hardy for growing in the Niagara Region. It would probably grow well in the west coast areas.

V-62381 — Registered in Red Color Group 46A R.H.S. This deep dark red flowering rhododendron resulted from crossing R. 'Mars' by R. 'America'. It is an open grower and must be pruned to develop a compact bush. It grows to 1.1 metre tall and 1 metre wide in ten years.

V-60001 — Registered in Color Group Red-purple 68B R.H.S. This plant never fails to produce a fantastic garden display. It was produced by crossing R. 'Direktor E. Hjelm' x (R. 'Catalgla' x R. 'Belle Heller'). The flowers are magenta with a yellow blotch on a white throat. It will become a bush 1.1 metre tall and 1.2 metres wide in ten years. Even small plants of this selection produce a large number of flowers.

'Vineland Sensation' — This deep pink azalea with orange blotch was named by the late Leslie Hancock. It was the first azalea to be registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation. It matures to a plant 1 metre tall and 1 metre wide.

In 1976 three mildew-resistant Exbury type deciduous azaleas were registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation and the American Rhododendron Society. They have proven hardy where similar types are grown.

'Vineland Flame' — Registered in Color Group Red 44B R.H.S. This plant blooms at mid season and matures at 1.3 metres high and 1.6 metres wide.

'Vineland Flare' — Registered in Color Group Yellow-orange 15B R.H.S. The darker blotch on the upper petals makes an attractive contrast. This plant also blooms at the mid season period and grows 2 meters tall and 1.2. metres wide.

'Vineland Glow' — Registered in Color Group Orange-red 33A R.H.S. It will develop into a bush 1.6 metres tall and 1 metre wide.

V-609A — A very prolific azalea, Orange-red Group 33B R.H.S. It will mature at 1.2 metres tall and 1.2 metres wide.

V-6027A — A large yellow azalea, Yellow-orange Group 16B R.H.S. Flowers have extra substance and texture.

V-6051A — A heavily frilled flower in the Orange-red Group 33 R.H.S. This seedling won the John E. Brent award for Best in Show when exhibited at the annual Rhododendron Society of Canada show in 1975.

V-72255 — Red Group H5-A R.H.S. Several selections have been made from V-7225. The original cross was a mating of R. 'J. Jennings' and a red seedling. Further observations are necessary for evaluation of plant habit and resistance to mildew.

V-712425 — This hybrid is a cross of 'Vivacious' (a Vineland hybrid by 'Pinnacle', a hardy hybrid raised by Mr. Tony Shammarello of Ohio). Even the stamens of this seedling produce a contrasting color effect with the rest of the flower.

V-72254 — A promising red deciduous azalea.

V-65101 — 'La Bars White' x *(fortunei* x *croceum).* A pale yellow seedling that has proven quite hardy. It is being used in breeding to improve color and develop the elusive hardy yellow rhododendron.

V-72231 — (V-65101 x *R. litiense*). This cross has produced the best yellow-flowering hybrid at HRIO at this time. It survived the winters of 1977 and 1978 planted in the nursery with no protection of any kind. There was some leaf desiccation, but no loss of flowerbuds.

FROM MUMPS TO RHODODENDRONS
An Amateur's path to Rhododendron Breeding.

Gerry Langton Whonnock, British Columbia

In 1946, the late Eric Langton developed a case of mumps that confined him to a boring period of inactivity. Being an avid reader, books came to his rescue and one in particular, **Trees and Shrubs for the Pacific Northwest Gardens**[1], opened a new and stimulating botanical world to him. In his mind there awakened 'The Dream', a dream of a new venture and challenge to develop a beautiful year-round garden with the choicest and most interesting shrubs which would have some special features for every season of the year. Such a garden, when established, would be unique in the neighbourhood and perhaps help others as well as himself to break loose from the confines and restrictions of the usual lavishly-planted annual and perennial borders, the inferior and fast-growing shrubs and the coniferous foundation plantings popular at that time. It would do away, too, with the constant and dizzy use of garden tools, the yearly planting and pulling-up procedures that leave nothing but dreariness for the dullest of seasons.

To fulfil 'The Dream' the search now began for superior plant material and with it came the first problem, where to find it? But more important, where to go for information? Thirty-five years ago Vancouver nurseries were beginning to enlarge their horizons but with limitations. Botanical gardens had not gotten into the rhododendron and choice shrub act. Nursery-hopping became a frequent weekend pastime for the family (at least, for the adults) resulting in a few titillating acquisitions. Gradually, within the bounds of a strict budget, a small collection of fine rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants was assembled and they prospered.

Those early days were a lonely experience with other enthusiasts being few in number and at some distance. However, with the use of as much reading material as was available and through correspondence 'The Dream' continued to grow.

It became apparent that this envisioned garden was to become a long-term project. Hundreds of plants were needed. In an endeavour to meet this need and after considerable research, propagation from cuttings and from seed obtained from the Royal Horticultural Society became part of the programme. This turned out to be highly successful. Rhododendron plants, both species and hybrids, continued to be purchased mostly from the Layritz and Greig nurseries on Vancouver Island and through the years every personal anniversary date was remembered with gifts of plants or books.

About 1952 a few people from various areas met, and eventually out of this meeting the Vancouver Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society was launched. Among this handful of enthusiastic collectors there developed a close bond of lasting comradeship and an opportunity for shared knowledge and pertinent information.

In the meantime 'The Dream' continued to grow and develop at an accelerated rate. A greenhouse was built equipped with a sweat box and heating cable (no misting systems in those days except for the reliable old Haws watering can and the hand that filled and held it several times a day). With the acquisition of ten named Exbury azaleas hand-pollinated crosses were made with these and other select azaleas. In due course the seeds became seedlings then young plants which were set out by the dozens in the old vegetable plot. The years rolled by and each spring the plot became a spectacular blaze of colour with rich pinks, clear yellows, brilliant oranges and various bi-colours. Visitors came regularly to enjoy them and to acclaim their merit.

At about the same time with a collection of some 90-plus hybrids that had reached blooming size a planned programme of hand-pollination was started between chosen parent plants. Most of the resulting seed germinated freely. Hot beds and cold frames became a necessity and were constructed. The years rolled by, the garden reached an enjoyable state of youthful maturity but still with empty spaces to plan for. Nursery-hopping continued and expanded to include areas in Washington, Oregon and Vancouver Island.

Time continued to pass and each spring was looked forward to. Those hand-pollinated seedlings had grown into flowering plants some very beautiful and with promise, some passable and alas, others that ended in the burn-up heap. By now it was the early sixties. 'The Dream' was gradually coming into reality and the garden in the spring was full of the bright dancing colours of rhododendrons and azaleas.

In the early sixties the focus of 'The Dream' narrowed and became concentrated on the creation of a rhododendron with a vibrant, clear-yellow truss. Efforts to this goal continued and armed with a stud book and using his scientific background, many controlled crosses were made. Accurate but somewhat disorganized records were maintained. However, at the age of fity-one Eric Langton died suddenly. Although his 'Dream' had been only partially fulfilled he left a legacy of seedlings not only in his garden but in the gardens of friends. Imbued with infectious enthusiasm there are those who have carried on where he left off.

In his time Eric Langton did not name or register his most outstanding successes but some friends have recognized his work and generously acknowledged his contributions. So 'The Dream', through others, continues to live on.

[1]John A. Grant and Carol A. Grant. Dogwood Press, Seattle, 1943.

Editors' Note: Eric Langton was a British Columbia high school principal with a background in physics. One of his seedlings won the W.E.P. Duncan Memorial Trophy for Best Hybrid Azalea in 1977 when exhibited by his daughter, past R.S.C. President, Kathy Leishman.

BREEDING RHODODENDRONS IN NOVA SCOTIA

D. L. Craig, Agriculture Canada, Research Station, Kentville, N.S.

The beginning of the Kentville rhododendron program is difficult to pinpoint. Thinking back over the years, I recall my boyhood days when I roamed what was then the Experimental Farm. I clearly remember the many times I stopped to admire a small group of rhododendrons more or less lost in the over-growth by the 'farm pond'.

My interest 'turn on' came in 1951 when I met the late Radcliffe Pike from Lubec, Maine. We were both attending graduate school at the University of New Hampshire. I associated with Rad during the 1951-52 school year and needless to say, you couldn't be with Rad and not catch some of his enthusiasm for rhododendrons. We became very good friends, had many interesting talks about rhododendrons and made numerous visits to see many wonderful plants growing in Bar Harbour gardens and at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston.

The Kentville rhododendron plantings as we know them now, had their real beginning on November 11, 1952 following my return from the University of New Hampshire. It was then that I decided to take cuttings and save seed from the group of plants mentioned above. The cuttings rooted and the seed germinated. We had plants, but no place to put them until it occured to me that the tree and shrub-covered banking behind the farm pond might be ideal for rhododendrons. It had a northern exposure and was well protected from the prevailing north west wind. In time, the banking was cleared and the search for all rhododendrons and azaleas that might have a chance to survive under our conditions got underway.

Compared with most geographical areas in Canada, we knew that we had advantages that would favor the growth of rhododendrons. Our winter temperature rarely drops below —26°C (—15°F), so any cultivar or species rated H-1 or H-2 should be happy at Kentville. Over the years, this has proved to be true. Another advantage was that our soil was acid and well drained. In fact, the soil was so gravelly that we found it necessary to add generous amounts of a peat-loam mix at planting time. We mulch all of our plants with pine-needles, wood chips or softwood sawdust. Fertilizer is used sparingly and irrigation applied when required. Our plants grow well, we have no secrets, we just follow a few basics.

"Rhododendron Sunday", Agriculture Canada Research Station, Kentville, N.S.
(Photo: Art Lightfoot)

Species and cultivar evaluations

Over the years, we have collected numerous species and cultivars from many different countries. Our very first purchase was from the local Fillmore Nursery Co. of Centreville, N.S. *R. calendulaceum, vaseyi, schlippenbachi* and others from this source have matured and thus contributed a great deal to our permanent plantings. The collection of species peaked in 1968 at which time we had 85 in our evaluation trials. Since then, they have been pared down to 36 (including several varieties and forms).

In contrast to our species collection, the number of rhododendron and azalea cultivars on hand continues to grow so that in 1980 our plantings contained 73 rhododendron and 94 azalea cultivars plus numerous seedling selections from the Kentville breeding program.

Breeding rhododendrons at Kenville.

George Swain, a staff member at Kentville from 1957 until he resigned in 1967, was very much interested in plant breeding. This fact plus my own interest led to the inevitable. When we made our first crosses in 1959 the objective was to produce rhododendrons sufficiently hardy for the colder regions of Atlantic Canada; compact enough to be useful for landscaping modern homes and with a bit of luck a wider range of colors including yellow.

It is only fair to say that, in 1959, we were not really aware of the true value of the species and cultivars that have since been fully evaluated at Kentville. Had we had this awareness, there is considerable doubt in my mind that we would have initiated a breeding program. The truth of the matter is that our evaluations over the years have identified so many outstanding types that there is little need at the present for more breeding.

The Kentville rhododendron breeding program has been discontinued for reasons already mentioned. From 1958 until 1975 we made 211 parental combinations and grew 16509 seedlings from which we made 203 selections. To date, we have named 6 selections: 'Cornwallis' (syn. Acadia), 'Fundy' (syn. Evangeline), 'Gabriel', 'Grand Pré', 'Bellefontaine' and 'Minas Maid'. 'Minas Snow' will be released in 1981 and hopefully several others within the next few years as we continue with the evaluation of the many selections still on hand.

We admit the selections we named do not necessarily fit the selection criteria we originally defined. For example, 'Fundy' and 'Cornwallis' from the cross *R. fortunei* x *R. smirnowii* are tall growing types and therefore not suited for planting near a modern bungalow. However, they are very beautiful — large flowered, scented and hardy. There was simply no way we could discard them and there are many places where they are most useful for landscaping. When one is involved in making crosses there is a real urge to dab pollen on anything and everything — we too were guilty of this irresistable urge. We can also say that our cultivars such as 'Grand Pré' and 'Minas Maid' do fit the type of plant we attempted to create as do many of our selections still under test.

Reflecting back to Nov. 11, 1952 I realize that I didn't even know the cultivar names of the *catawbiense* hybrids I was attempting to propagate. In contrast, we can now recommend many species and cultivars for areas having a climate similar to the one we enjoy at Kentville. In addition, we have held a Rhododendron Sunday at Kentville for the past 14 years. This has brought some one hundred thousand people to Kentville to view the rhododendron plantings. We have also participated in national and regional rhododendron flower shows and thereby continued our effort to draw the public's interest to these beautiful flowers.

The Kentville rhododendron program sort of grew like 'Topsy'. It is still only a very minor program when compared with the other horticultural research programs underway at the Kentville Research Station. In terms of manpower input and dollars for materials, it has required very little. In terms of satisfaction to those directly involved the returns are immeasurable. The pleasure the plantings has given to the many thousands of people that view them can not be expressed nor can their value as a plant collection be determined. The future for the Kentville rhododendron plantings is assured.

Table 1. Rhododendron species and cultivars that grow well at Kentville, N.S.

	Hardiness[1]	Flower color	Quality[2]	Average date[3] of full bloom
Evergreen Rhododendron Species				
R. *carolinianum*	H-1	pink	4/4	June 4
R. *catawbiense var. compactum*	H-1	magenta	3/4	June 17
R. *catawbiense var. album*	H-1	white	3/4	June 16
R. *maximum*	H-1	white rose	2/2	July 10
R. *russatum*	H-2	blue purple	4/4	May 27
Deciduous Rhododendron Species				
R. *mucronulatum*	H-1	pink mauve	3/3	May 14
Evergreen Rhododendron Cultivars				
Acadia	H-2	pink	4/3	June 16
Album Elgans	H-1	white	4/3	June 21
America	H-1	red	3/2	June 16
Bellefontaine	H-1	pink	4/4	June 7
Blue Pete	H-2	blue	4/3	June 11
Bule de Neige	H-1	white	4/4	June 7
Catawbiense Album	H-1	white	4/2	June 18
Catawbiense Boursault	H-1	rose lilac	4/4	June 14
Catawbiense Grandiflorum	H-2	lilac	3/3	June 20
Caroline	H-2	lavender	3/3	June 13
Conewago	H-1	pink	3/3	May 26
County of York	H-2	white	4/4	June 9
Evangeline	H-1	pink	4/3	June 13
Everestianum	H-2	rose lilac	4/3	June 18
Holden	H-2	rose red	4/3	June 9
Ice Cube	H-1	white	4/4	June 17
Lee's Dark Purple	H-2	purple	3/3	June 19
Mist Maiden	H-2	white	4/5	June 6
Nova Zembla	H-1	red	3/3	June 14
Pioneer	H-1	pink	3/2	May 19
P.J.M.	H-1	lavender pink	4/3	May 21
Ramapo	H-1	violet	4/4	May 29
Roslyn	H-1	pink	4/4	June 10
Roseum Elegans	H-1	lavender pink	3/3	June 16
Scintillation	H-3	pink	4/3	June 11
Spring Parade	H-1	red	4/4	June 7
Windbeam	H-1	pink	3/4	June 4

Table 2. Azalea species that grow well at Kentville, N.S.

	Hardiness[1]	Flower color	Quality[2]	Average date[3] of full bloom
Deciduous Azalea Species				
R. *atlanticum*	H-2	white pink	3/3	June 15
R. *bakeri*	H-2	orange red	4/3	July 6
R. *calendulaceum*	H-1	orange scarlet	4/4	June 22
R. *japonicum*	H-1	yellow red	3/2	June 10
R. *luteum*	H-1	yellow	3/3	June 8
R. *roseum*	H-1	pink	3/4	June 9
R. *schlippenbachi*	H-2	pink	4/4	May 29
R. *vaseyi*	H-1	white pink	4/4	June 2

Table 2 (cont'd.) Azalea cultivars that grow well at Kentville, N.S.

	Hardiness[1]	Flower color	Quality[2]	Average date[3] of full bloom
Deciduous Azalea Cultivars				
Berryrose	H-1	pink	4/3	June 17
Brazil	H-1	orange	4/3	June 17
Cathye Mayo	H-1	orange yellow	4/4	June 12
Dubutante	H-1	pink	3/3	June 15
Devon	H-1	red	3/3	June 22
Fireball	H-1	red	3/3	June 19
Gallipoli Red	H-1	red	4/3	June 13
Gibraltar	H-1	orange	4/4	June 14
Ginger	H-1	orange	4/3	June 13
Goldcrest	H-1	yellow	4/4	June 12
Golden Dream	H-1	yellow	3/3	June 10
Gold Flake	H-1	yellow	4/4	June 9
Homebush	H-1	pink	5/3	June 13
Kathleen	H-1	apricot	3/3	June 18
Knaphill White	H-1	white	4/4	June 20
Knaphill Red	H-1	red	4/4	June 20
Marion Merriman	H-1	yellow	4/3	June 12
Old Gold	H-1	gold	4/3	June 12
Oxydol	H-1	white	4/3	June 12
Persil	H-1	white	3/3	June 17
Princess Royal	H-1	white	3/3	June 12
Scarlet Pimpernel	H-1	scarlet	3/3	June 20
Silver Slippers	H-1	white	4/4	June 18
Sun Chariot	H-1	yellow	4/4	June 16
Sweet Sue	H-1	pink	4/4	June 12
Sylphides	H-1	pink	4/3	June 13

Table 3. Minimum Monthly Temperatures, Kentville, N.S.

Year	December °C	January °C	February °C	March °C
1970-71	—23	—24	—27	—12
1971-72	—18	—23	—23	—17
1972-73	—20	—18	—23	—18
1973-74	—16	—23	—21	—16
1974-75	—13	—22	—22	—18
1975-76	—22	—23	—18	—13
1976-77	—18	—22	—15	— 8
1977-78	—21	—20	—21	—19
1978-79	—18	—20	—23	—15
1979-80	—21	—19	—17	—20

[1]Hardiness rating method is that used by the American Rhododendron Society e.g. H-1, hardy to —32°C; H-2, hardy to —26°C; H-3, hardy to —21°C.

[2]Quality rating method is that used by the American Rhododendron Society. 1 = poor, 2 = below average, 3 = average, 4 = above average, 5 = superior. A variety rated 4/2 indicates above average bloom quality and below average plant type.

[3]Average date of full bloom at Kentville is a 5-year average.

REGIONAL NOTES

ATLANTIC REGION Tom Waters, Halifax, N.S.

Our Region held its fall meeting on October 27. Dr. Joe Harvey gave a most interesting talk, illustrated with slides, on ericaceous plants, and on his travels in Georgia, USSR. There was an exchange of cuttings and Capt. Steele discussed rooting techniques. A highlight of the meeting was the news from Grover Jewett that a site has been provided in Lunenberg County, Nova Scotia, for our Region Species Foundation, and 1981 will see the beginning of work on this exciting long-range project.

Our autumn was long, with plenty of cool temperatures and ample moisture. Rhododendrons hardened off beautifully. Boxing Day brought a few surprises. The early morning temperature at Halifax was +3°C with a drop to -21°C by midnight.

In January the Atlantic Region continued in the grip of an unusually cold winter. There were major snowfalls and over a foot of snow cover.

Our record snowfall has now receded with the advent of more moderate weather, but our cool and wet fall and extreme winter temperatures have caused considerable bark split on Obtusum azaleas in coastal Nova Scotia. Other more tender rhodos and hollies seem to be unaffected at this point.

A Special Report from Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Hudson W. Doyle of Fredericton, New Brunswick, has been a member of our Society and of Atlantic Region since 1979, but his experience with rhododendrons and azaleas goes back more than 20 years. In 1952 he started some Maxima and Ghent seedlings on property which he sold a few years later. These plants are now five to eight feet tall and they bloom very well, even though they appear to receive little care. This supports the growing belief that once well established, rhodos and azaleas will give good results year after year. It is this quality of enduring performance that is encouraging so many of our new members to start a planting.

Mr. Doyle has tried rooting cuttings in a propagating box as suggested in our 1979 Bulletin, Vol. 8, No. 1. He thinks he may have used too much moisture, as the results to date have been less than hoped for, but he is still trying.

A number of private gardens in Fredericton have rhodos but the largest planting of about one hundred plants is at the Experimental Research Station. Dr. U. Paim of the University of New Brunswick, who is also one of our members, has a large planting at his home.

Soil in the Fredericton area is neutral to acid, so normal cultural methods work well and normal winters do not harm the plants. But this winter's low snowfall and extremely low temperatures will test the hardiness of his iron-cláds.

GEORGIAN BAY — LAKELAND REGION

Our youngest Region is making steady progress in activities and membership. A fall meeting was held, and further events are being planned for this year.

NIAGARA REGION

Located in one of the most favourable climatic areas of Central Canada our Region is continuing its objective of encouraging as many home gardeners as possible to enjoy rhododendrons and azaleas. Through personal advice, workshops and meetings the simple but necessary cultural methods are stressed and with frequent sales and auctions we make it possible for good material to be obtained at reasonable cost.

Niagara has accepted the Society's invitation to host the 1982 Convention and Show and plans are under way.

A steady increase in membership is noted as a positive response to the Region's operations.

TORONTO REGION **Janeth Cooper, Don Mills, Ontario**

We are approaching our tenth birthday as a Society and as one looks back we have come a long way, Baby!

Last year's show had many new and lovely exhibits and as most of us have added to our collections, we should have an even better show this year.

In the past year Toronto Region activities have included our own show, attendance at the Niagara Region show and participation in the great national show at RBG. We have visited members' gardens in which the rhododendrons displays would astounded gardeners from the past.

Our Fall meeting at Dave Hinton's showplace at Orono was a highlight of our year. Dave is doing some promising investigation into plant hardiness and we await his reports. Dave and Sandra were wonderful hosts.

The last event of 1980 was a Christmas party at the home of our Region president, Barbara Wilkins, where Barbara and Doug provided the setting for great food, much rhododendron conversation and the chance of meeting old friends and making new ones.

Toronto Region participated in garden tours organized by the Civic Garden Centre and arranged for rhododendron displays to be made available to Garden Club members. These tours by local garden clubs and horticultural societies are an excellent way to publicize our Society's activities.

In this same connection, we have made several presentations on rhododendrons to local horticultural societies during their winter programmes.

We are now approaching our annual auctions which is a sure sign that spring is on the way. Hope to see you then.

1980 "Best in Show" winner, 'Janet Blair'. Report on page 32. *(Photo: J. Brueckner)*

"BEST IN SHOW" COULD BE BEST IN YOUR GARDEN

Winners of the John E. Brent Award for "Best in Show", 1972-80

1972 — 'Spring Show' *(R. smirnowii x R. fortunei)*
Exhibited by Leslie Hancock. Reported by Marjorie Hancock.
Leslie Hancock was winner of both the John E. Brent Award and the E. Frank Palmer Award for Best Canadian Hybrid with a truss of 'Spring Show', one of his own introductions.

This hybrid from a cross made in 1951 had been a show stopper at a previous Garden and Flower Show sponsored by the Garden Club of Toronto. The plant is a sibling of 'Fundy' which was registered and released by the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Kentville, N.S.

This clone (about 5 ft. in 15 years) is somewhat more compact than others of the grex, with narrower and finer textured foliage. Trusses are large (6-7 inches) with very large flowers, six petalled. Colour is very pale pinkish lavender with no noticeable blotch or streaking in the throat as with others of the cross. The flowers are held quite firmly although the truss is not crowded with flowers. Flower bud set is not heavy perhaps because the plant is in a fairly shaded location. It is slightly less hardy than some of the other clones but makes a distinctive garden shrub. It is being reproduced in small quantities. It is illustrated in black and white on page 24 of the RSC Bulletin Vol. 1, No. 2.

1973 — 'Mrs. Furnival'
Exhibited and reported by A. W. Smith
When well-grown 'Mrs. Furnival' is a prize contender at any rhodo exhibition. It is not sufficiently hardy to withstand every winter in the Niagara region and must be replaced after an extremely cold season.

1974 — 'Golden Oriole'
Exhibited and reported by Ken Duncan
In 1952 I imported some hybrid deciduous azaleas from the Knaphill Nursery in Surrey, England. One of the plants was called 'Golden Oriole', probably the most successful cultivar of the more than 150 named hybrids I have grown in the Toronto area in the past 35 years. 'Golden Oriole' is rather stoloniferous and in 1972 I took a deep breath and split my original plant in two. Half is now growing in Edwards Gardens and is about 4 feet x 5 feet and spreading every year. The other half in my home garden is about 8 feet tall and 5 feet wide. These plants never fail to cover themselves with scented deep yellow 4 inch flowers about May 21st each year.

1975 — 'V-6051-A' Exbury Seedling.
Exhibited by Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland, Ont.
Reported by A. W. Smith
This orange Exbury seedling is being grown and propagated at H.R.I.O. It is mildew resistant and a vigourous grower. A show plant rather than a garden plant, what it lacks in quantity it produces in quality. The Chief Research Scientist gave me a mild reprimand for winning 'Best in Show' as H.R.I.O. only desired to compete for the 'Best Canadian Hybrid' award. I was able to get off the hook when he learned that this seedling had won both awards that year!

1976 — 'Gibraltar'
Exhibited by Montreal Botanical Gardens. Reported by Jack Van Gemeren.
One could not think of a better name for this beautiful azalea. It is a Knaphill named by de Rothschild. Its square flowers are so large that six or seven, out of a possible fifteen to thirty, make a full truss. It lasts two to three weeks.

The winning truss was cut in the Montreal Botanical Gardens four days before the show to protect it from possible hail, rain or scorching sun. Kept in water and "Seven-Up" and checked daily for 'ripeness', it was brought to the show three hours ahead of time. The spray consisted of one to three year old wood; by the way, do not expect to win a prize with branches older than that.

1977 — 'Blue Peter'
Exhibited and reported by Lyall D. Fretz.
One contributing factor to my success in winning the John E. Brent Trophy was my good wife who allowed 'Blue Peter' to spend two weeks in advance of the show "cooling its heels" in our refrigerator.

For me, 'Blue Peter' has both quiet dignity and flamboyance in its contrasting blotch. Truly a beautiful flower! It is a well-branched plant with glossy dark-green foliage. However, the weevils also like its foliage and eat notches in the leaves. Its flower buds are not hardy below —10°F.

1978 — Unnamed Azalea
Exhibited by Dr. L. Schwartz Westmount, P.Q.

1979 — Knaphill Azalea Hybrid
Exhibited and reported by Dr. S. C. Robinson.
This plant was given to me by Capt. Steele perhaps in 1960 or 1961. It is a hybrid from the azalea 'Toucan' and was selected from those which bloomed at C.F.B. Cornwallis in Digby County, Nova Scotia.

When commander of the base Dick had commenced a programme of beautification, especially with azalea and rhododendron plantings. When he was appointed to the NATO command at Norfolk, Va., his seedlings were distributed among his friends at Boulderwood (Halifax).

We were all new to these plants and they were protected in a sheltered bed under a huge white pine. The shade and the Nova Scotia fog ensured that the plants seemed to scarcely grow in the next five or six years. Eventually, this azalea was transplanted to a much brighter exposure and began to grow but was very skinny. It must have been fifteen years before the first bloom appeared, after I discovered that a diet of "Magamp" wasn't enough and got in a good supply of cow manure.

For the 1979 show we submitted a lovely branch in the evening. The next morning, returning from the hospital, I inspected my specimen and it looked sad indeed. We took another branch, mostly bud, wet with dew which kindly opened fully almost before the judges' eyes! The full, pure white blooms with the deep yellow streaks made a magnificent full head that couldn't lose.

The plant, now five feet, still bears the signs of its impoverished youth but with ample light, wind protection and plenty of "cow", it is filling out and flowering better each year.

1980 — 'Janet Blair'
Exhibited and reported by Barbara Wilkins.
Usually beautiful hybrids are the product of the careful crossing of two varieties followed by years of evaluation and eventual selection. Sometimes, however, nature does an excellent job on her own and such was the case with 'Janet Blair'. Introduced by David Leach in 1962, this lovely plant is the result of the cross of Dexter hybrid with an unknown variety made by an errant bee.

'Janet Blair' has been growing in my garden for four years. It is vigorous, well-shaped and floriferous becoming increasingly so each year. Its flowers are frilled and pinkish-mauve with a golden-brown blotch. Said to be hardy to —15°F, it seems undamaged by temperatures lower than that experienced here in Toronto last December. 'Janet Blair' is a rhododendron that I am sure will be increasingly grown in our Canadian gardens.

NEW MEMBERS

Regional affiliations: (A) Atlantic; (G) Georgian-Bay-Lakeland; (N) Niagara; (T) Toronto.

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(G) Mr. & Mrs. J. Flemming,
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