



# "Niagara Rhodo"



Newsletter of the Niagara Chapter,  
Rhododendron Society of Canada,  
District 12, American Rhododendron Society

August 20, 2016 August 18 revised edition

**Our Purpose:** We are a non-profit organization whose aim is to promote, encourage and support interest in the genus *rhododendron*. Our goal is to encourage gardeners to grow and appreciate these plants, by providing educational meetings with knowledgeable speakers, access to topical publications and hosting joint meetings with other chapters'

### Content

1. Open House. August 27 & 28, 2016. 11 A.M. – 4 P.M.
2. What where, when, what to bring.
3. Location, maps and directions.
4. Contact information.

### Word of Caution

By becoming a successful grower, the reader will be exposed to a contagion for which there is no cure. Once infected with an appreciation of rhododendrons and azaleas most gardeners spend a lifetime collecting these most beautiful of all plants.

*H. Edward Reiley*

## Open House & Plant Opportunities

### South Coast Gardens, St. Williams Ontario

1634 Front Road RR#2 St. Williams, ON N0E 1P0

### Saturday & Sunday, August 27 & 28, 2016

### 11 AM to 4 PM

## Open House

### South Coast Gardens

1634 Front Road St. Williams ON  
11 A.M. to 4 P.M.  
Saturday, August 27, 2016  
and  
Sunday, August 28, 2016

**Ready for Distribution to Members**

P4Ms Finnish Hybrids

Holly Spring Evergreen Azaleas

Brueckner Test Plants

2016  
P4M  
Plant  
Program

## What`s Happening?

As the general note, mailed on July 23 suggested, what better time than the end of August to visit a unique garden-nursery, to explore what has happened during this blistering hot summer, to meet with fellow gardeners and rhododendron enthusiasts, renew acquaintances, to select plants for your early fall planting and to replace those plants that did not do so well this summer.!

Our much awaited Open-House at South Coast Gardens will take place by popular demand on the weekend of August 27/28. Thank you to all those who responded, facilitating the date selection!

This event is open to all members. Our colleague and South Coast's owner, Kevin Kavanagh, will welcome you to his extensive plantings of unique species including a considerable rhododendron collection, and share much of his horticultural knowledge with you.

The P4M plants can be picked up at this time, as well as the plants for the Brueckner Test Project.

## What`s There?

South Coast Gardens, located along central Lake Erie in the heart of Ontario's Carolinian Forest Region, contains a large selection of unusual trees, shrubs and perennials. Some of the plant material in the display gardens will be considered by some gardeners as more typical of the southeastern United States. Several are proving to be acceptably hardy at South Coast Gardens (USDA zone 6a/6b) and at other locations around the southern Great Lakes. These include cold hardy cultivars of



Sweetbay Magnolia (**Magnolia Virginiana**), Sweetgum (**Liquidambar syraciflua**), Bald Cypress **Taxodium distichum**), Needle Palm (**Rhapidophyllum hystrix**), Alabama Snow-wreath (**Neviusia alabamensis**), Willow (**Quercus phellos**) and Water oaks (**Quercus nigra**). Mixed in are nearly 250 species and varieties of [Rhododendrons and azaleas](#) and a diversity of [Magnolias](#). Also at South Coast Gardens are a diversity of plants native to Ontario and eastern North America along with frost-hardy sub-tropical plants that are ideal for outdoor container gardening from late April until early November.

The nursery hosts a sub-tropical greenhouse and garden beds where plant material is being grown to assess its cold hardiness and suitability to the climates of southern Ontario. Although some of gardens surrounding our home date to 2003, the first beds at the nursery were established in 2006 and have been expanding each year since then. Although the gardens are still young and many specimens are still in the process of getting firmly established, from the time the first Rhododendrons and Magnolias come into flower in late April until the Asters and Witch Hazel finish blooming in October, the gardens provide a myriad of colour and attract a wide assortment of butterflies and birds.

Kevin Kavanagh will provide guided tours of the property with detailed explanations of his experiences growing his collection of On-the-Edge plants. Members who have been present during Kevin's talks at Chapter meetings will look forward to his knowledgeable discussion and erudite, humorous delivery.

## **Plants available and their source?**

Members will recall our continuing descriptions of numbers of different rhododendron and azalea cultivars that are being prepared for members. There are 4 groups of plants that have been propagated (from cuttings) over the past the past 3 years, and grown on at South Coast Gardens under Kevin Kavanagh's tender care. The plants are now good sized and in very good shape. The cost to members for each plant is based on recovery of production costs.

The distribution of **P4M and the Finnish plants** is planned on a ***first-come-first-served*** basis. Of course plants may be available after this distribution, but members will understand that their first choice of plant may not be available after August 28. Nevertheless, plants available after August 28, may be picked up in St. Catharines by special arrangement.

Members who wish to **participate in the Brueckner Test Program** should indicate their interest to Christina at the Open House. Participation consists of monitoring your plant(s)' progress and recording your observations on the evaluation protocols sheet that will be provided. Additional information, support, and answers to your questions will follow. Members who cannot be present at the Open House will also be able to obtain plants by contacting Christina at [canadacaw@yahoo.ca](mailto:canadacaw@yahoo.ca) and asking that they be reserved in advance.

*Holly Spring Azaleas:* Cuttings were sent from Long Island New York for rooting by Kathy Van Veen at Van Veen Nurseries in Oregon. Rooted plants were delivered to Clarence, New York, moved to Blue Sky Nursery, potted into one gallon pots and transferred to South Coast Gardens. The cost of rooting and shipping were borne by the donor, Jim Fry of the Long Island ARS Chapter. Nevertheless, other costs were involved once the plants arrived at the border. These azaleas are available for distribution to members at \$8 per plant.

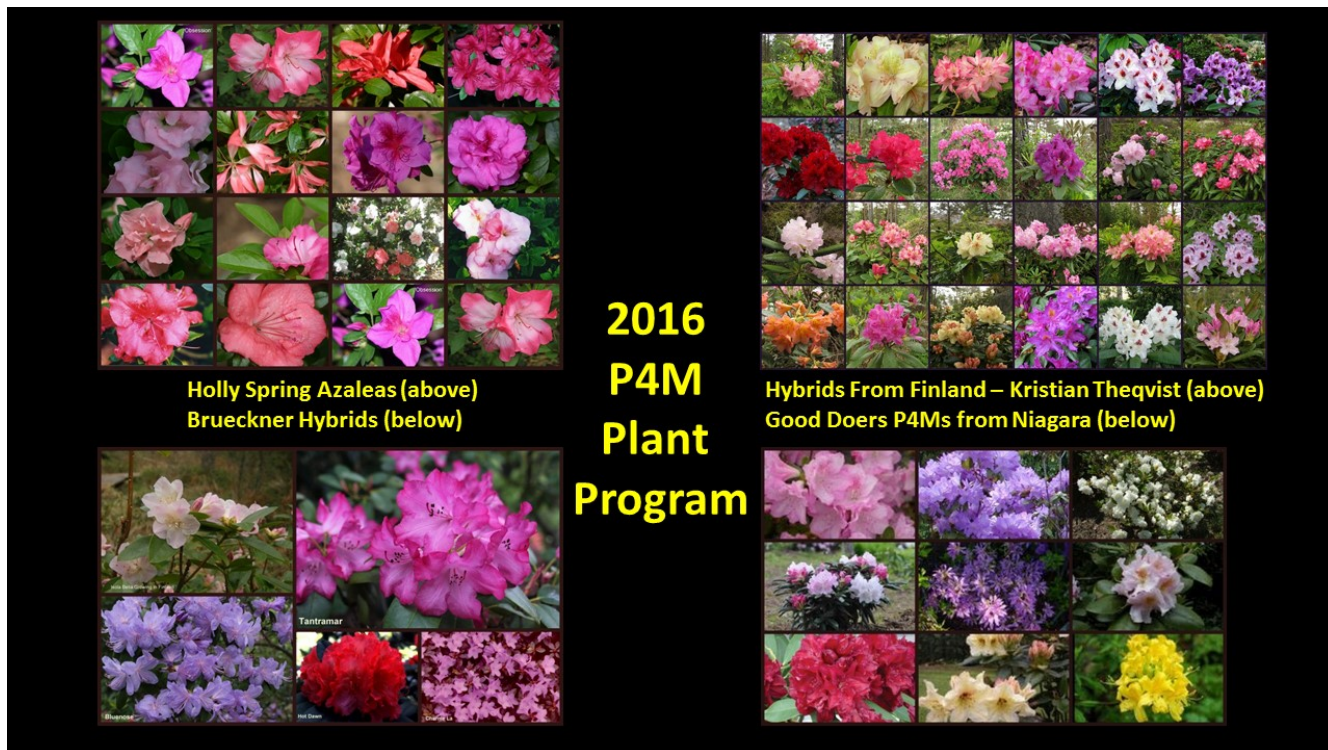
*Finnish and other P4M Rhododendrons:* Cuttings were sent from Finland to Van Veen's for rooting; rooted cuttings were delivered to South Coast Gardens following identical steps as for the Holly Spring Azaleas. Also, cuttings from the Chapter's members' gardens were similarly rooted and delivered to South Coast Gardens. Unfortunately these cuttings were ready for potting at a time when the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis the US dollar was at its lowest point. This raised the cost of producing these valuable cultivars. Accordingly they are available to members at \$15 per plant.

*Brueckner Hybrid Test Plants:* Plants for the second phase of the Brueckner test project are now ready for distribution. These were produced and delivered to South Coast Gardens in much the same way as were the plants in the first two groups, except that all the cuttings came from mother plants growing in the Brueckner home gardens in Mississauga. These plants will be available to members at \$10 per plant.

As in the past, records of purchaser names, address and telephone numbers will be required and kept so that follow-up reports of plant performance can be obtained. These reports of plant performance in members' gardens will be in a much simplified program compared to reporting attempted in Phase 1 of this project.

### **Note:**

**A Photo album with cultivar names of all Azaleas, Finnish rhododendrons and P4Ms to be available at the Open House is being prepared and will be sent to all members in the next day or two.**



If you would like to participate in the Brueckner Test Project and receive a number of plants to test in your garden over the next 3 years, please let us know your interest. Participation consists of monitoring your plant(s)' progress and recording your observations on the evaluation protocols sheet that will be provided. Additional information, support, and answers to your questions will follow. Plants will also be available for pick-up at other chapter events later this summer and can be reserved in advance if you can't make it to the Open house on Saturday, August 27 or Sunday August 28. Please contact Christina Woodward ([canadacaw@yahoo.ca](mailto:canadacaw@yahoo.ca)) if you have questions or if you would like to sign up for this Phase Two of the Test Project.

**An Open House Not a Picnic.**

This 2 day event is designed as an open house which will be open for 2 consecutive days. Two days were assigned to provide a wider choice of times so that more members could attend. Members are invited to arrive at any time, after 11 A.M. We expect the event will close between 4 P.M. and 5 P.M. While this is not planned as a picnic, the Chapter will offer refreshments of various kinds (at no cost) between 11 A.M, and 2 P.M, or as long as supplies last. These will include BBQ smoked Polish sausage on a bun, ginger-snap cookies, coffee, fruit drink and water. The BBQ will be fired up to start serving cooked meats as guests arrive.

**Travel Time to South Coast Gardens**

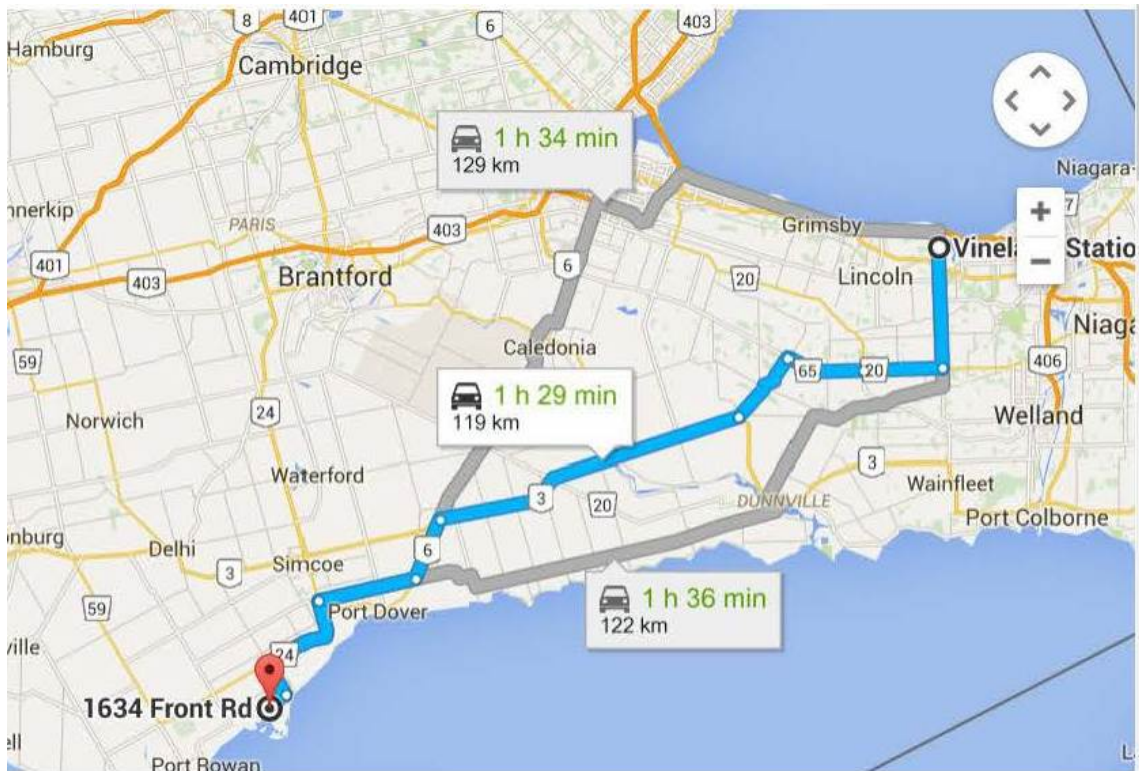
Directions to South Coast Gardens are provided on Page 5 of this Newsletter.

Readers will note that it will require a little less than 2 hours to travel to South Coast gardens from most locations in Niagara or Toronto/Oakville.

# Directions to South Coast Gardens from Vineland Ontario

## Please Note:

- Some GPS systems are unreliable for the area around St. Williams. For example, my system is unaware of 1634 Front Street.
- Recently mosquitoes have been a trial especially in the late evening. They are not too serious during the bright afternoon. Bug spray might be helpful to those who are sensitive to insect bites.



## From Oakville (1 hr 20 minutes)

- Take QEW to Highway 403 west through Brantford.
- Hwy 24 SOUTH (exit is just west of Brantford) to Simcoe where it turns into Regional Highway #24 (Norfolk Street through the town of Simcoe).
- Continue on #24 through Simcoe to Regional Road #10 (Turkey Point Road).
- Left on Regional Road #10 (Turkey Point Road)
- Right on Front Road to 1634 Front Road (about 2 kms)
- Nursery on Right Hand Side about 200M past Burning Kiln Winery.

## From Niagara (1 hr 45 minutes)

- Go to Hwy 20 at Fonhill.
- In Fonhill pick up Hwy 63 (also known as Canboro Road) to Canborough & Talbot Rd 3
- Right on Talbot Rd 3 to Jarvis Hwy 6;
- Left on Hwy 6
- Hwy 6 to Hwy 24.
- Left on Hwy #24 to Regional Road #10 (Turkey Point Road)
- Left on Regional Road #10 (Turkey Point Road).
- Right on Front Road to 1634 Front Road (about 2 kms)
- Nursery on Right Hand Side about 200M past Burning Kiln Winery.

**Telephone: Kevin Kavanagh: 647-408-9361**

**Nick Yarmoshuk: 289-241-8275**