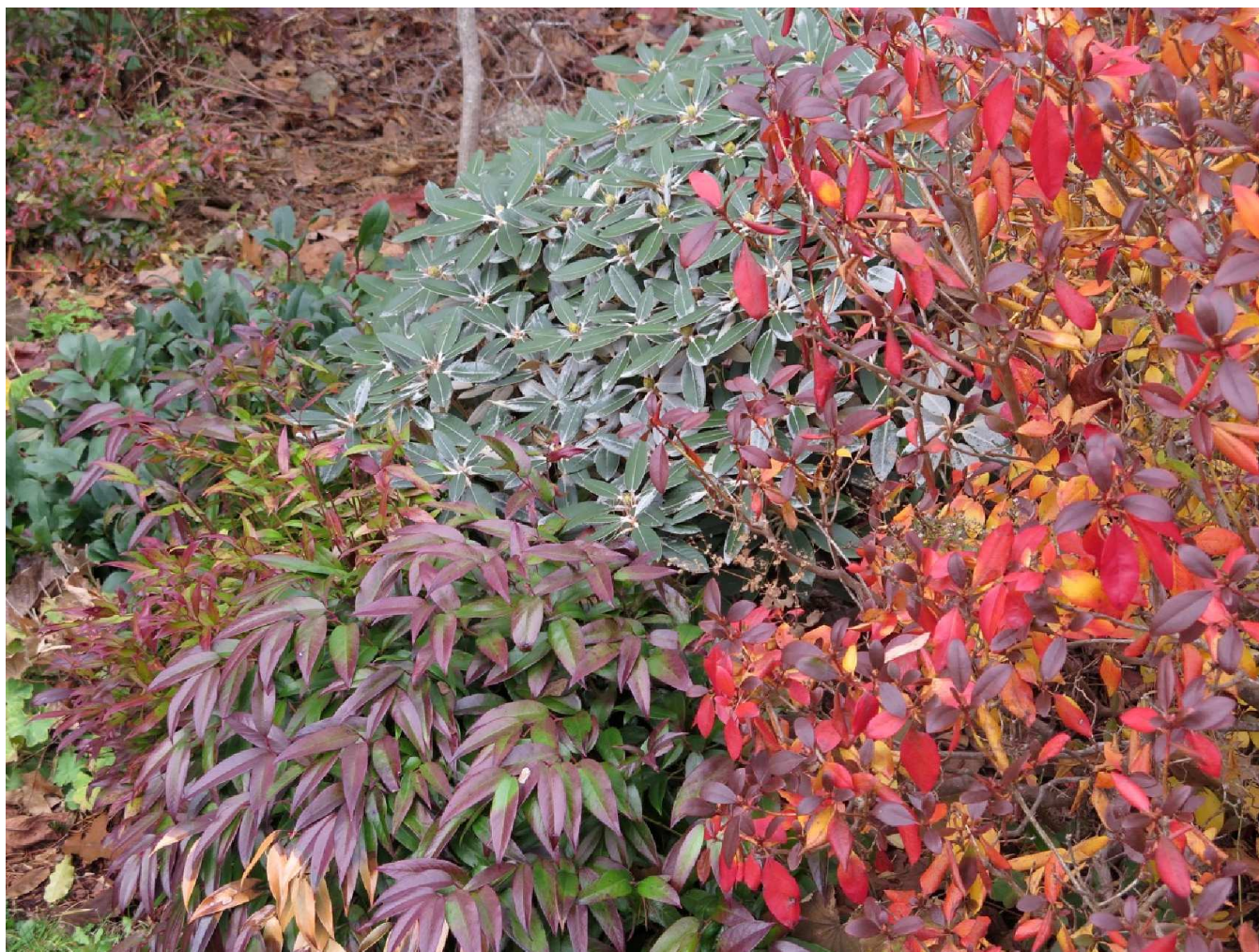


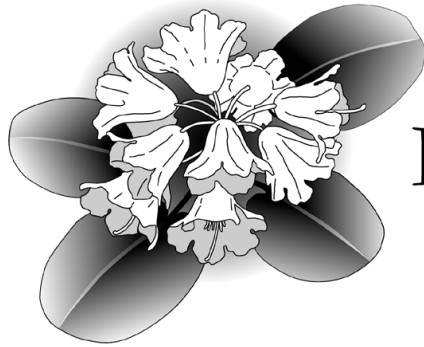
# AtlanticRhodo

[www.AtlanticRhodo.org](http://www.AtlanticRhodo.org)

Volume 40: Number 3

Fall 2016





# Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

## Our Mission

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

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

## Membership

### Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, due September 2016. For benefits see ARHS website [www.atlanticrhodo.org](http://www.atlanticrhodo.org)

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

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

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

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

Published three times a year. February, May and November

**Editor:** Sheila Stevenson,  
17 Stanbrae Rd.  
Fergusons Cove, Nova Scotia. B3V 1G4  
902 479-3740

Cover Photo: **Fall Colour in the Sandison Garden.** [Photo Jenny Sandison]



## Calendar of Events

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

- December 6.**                    **Christmas Party.**  
Please bring images to share of your gardens, your garden travels, or anything else about gardening, as well as a snack, either sweet or savoury, for the food table. ARHS provides the beverages, including wine. Five images max, please!
- January 3.**                    **Best Rhododendrons for the Garden.** Lively ideas for future planting. A panel of local gardeners will share their rhododendron picks for small and large gardens in Nova Scotia, and will welcome questions, challenges, and observations from the audience.
- February 7.**                    **TBA.** Watch for an email early in the New Year with program details
- March 7.**                    **Making a New Garden.** Roslyn Duffus moved a lot of plants from her previous garden to a new property with lots of trees three and a half years ago. Her talk is a practical account about starting a new and larger garden, with some sun and much shade. Reducing labour and maintenance is an important guideline for her. She will show images of soil preparation, plant selection and siting, rock garden making, and opening up densely-shaded areas.
- April 4.**                    **Garden Design with a Photographer's Eye.** Freeman Patterson, renowned photographer and teacher of visual design (*In a Canadian Garden, The Garden*, and several instructional books), gardens in Shamper's Bluff, NB. He grows more than 150 varieties of rhodos and 50 varieties of azaleas (over 1000 plants) and deliberately and regularly includes both temporary and permanent aspects of the natural habitat into his own garden layouts. His most recent book is *Embracing Creation*. Freeman's illustrated presentation will include photographs of his own and other Canadian gardens. Learn more about him and his work at [www.freemanpatterson.com](http://www.freemanpatterson.com)
- May 2.**                    **Members to Members Plant Sale.** This is when we sell our plants, the choice ones as well as divisions of the mundane, to each other. This year's event will take place at the Museum of Natural History.

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



A very warm welcome to our new and returning ARHS members who have joined ARHS in the past year

<b>Aaron Ashley Staples</b>	<b>Kentville, NS</b>
<b>Jane Reardon</b>	<b>Halifax, NS</b>
<b>Steve Cunliffe</b>	<b>Henniker, NH, USA</b>
<b>Chris Childs</b>	<b>Bedford, NS</b>
<b>Paul Chafe</b>	<b>Sydenham, Ont.</b>
<b>Dot Brand</b>	<b>Fall River, NS</b>
<b>Kathy Macartney</b>	<b>Val Caron, Ont.</b>
<b>Linda Oland</b>	<b>Halifax, NS</b>
<b>Anita Jackson</b>	<b>Seabright, NS</b>
<b>Jay Wesley</b>	<b>Halifax, NS</b>
<b>Christina Woodward</b>	<b>Mississauga, Ont.</b>
<b>Elena Santilli Talbot</b>	<b>Halifax, NS</b>
<b>Rebecca Lancaster</b>	<b>Halifax, NS</b>
<b>Dierdre Evans</b>	<b>Halifax, NS</b>
<b>Iain Jack</b>	<b>Hubbards, NS</b>
<b>Yadviga Gawetski</b>	<b>Williamswood, NS</b>
<b>J. Gordon Wood</b>	<b>Tusket, NS</b>
<b>Gordon Tingley</b>	<b>Bear River, NS</b>
<b>Peter Mesheau</b>	<b>Westcock, NB</b>
<b>Deborah Hall</b>	<b>Halifax, NS</b>
<b>Kathy Parsons</b>	<b>Halifax, NS</b>
<b>Sheila Stanley</b>	<b>Brookside, NS</b>

To 2015-16 members who renewed, thank you for sticking with us.

□□□

## **WANTED:**

### **Editorial and production team members for the ARHS newsletter**

- Two or three people who want to find content and contributors from a range of sources. e.g. Do you read *JARS*? Do you see articles that would make good reprints in *AtlanticRhodo*?
- Two or three people to edit copy for accuracy and clarity
- A photo manager
- One person to manage the events calendar and the list of positions of responsibility
- One person to pick up hard copies from the printer and do the mailing
- A managing editor who sees and coordinates the overall newsletter
- People who want to write pieces or columns, or have story ideas

Please connect with John Brett, (902)-479-3740 if you think you might like to take on any one of these roles.

## About this issue

Sheila Stevenson

There's some fun interplay among the pieces of this November, 2016 issue. Quite serendipitously. From last spring, I had the Eureka Chapter's Bruce Palmer piece on those things that start with 'A' which make reds in various parts of plants at different times of year. I asked Jenny Sandison to please consider writing something for every issue, because I love listening to Jenny. In late summer, I'd arranged with Bob Howard for "something" from each of the Todd Boland and Karen Achenbach talks. About the same time, I got the offer of a piece from Suzanne Gauthier about the Garden at the Getty Center in LA. As I began to think seriously mid-November about getting this issue out to you, Eureka's newsletter editor, June Walsh, sent me their 2017 convention info ... Eureka twice + LA. What is this California thread? Of course, the thread is RED and runs through the rest of the issue. Several high-performance plants smoulder red in Jenny's garden and also turn up on Karen's list, while dwarf reds get the nod from Todd.

So producing *AtlanticRhodo* since the fall of 2012 has brought me a lot of this kind of amusement and pleasure. But the time and effort required for 3 issues per year is too much for only me. And I have said I cannot continue. Instead, can we can develop an ARHS newsletter team and find ways to share the burden and the joy? Fingers crossed we can! Fortunately, Sterling Levy carries on in the job to make the material 'printer-ready'. I hope good things await and that *AtlanticRhodo* matures into a marvellous thing! In the meantime, for more RED, look up Todd Boland's article on *Enkianthus* in the Fall, 2012, *AtlanticRhodo*. And talk to John Brett if you think you might want to do any one of the Newsletter jobs listed elsewhere in this issue. ☘

## The 2017 ARHS Seed Exchange is underway.

Sharon Bryson

The Seed List will be an online effort, hopefully functional by ~January 15th, 2017.

Should you be able to make a contribution this year, please send an email to sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca with the information, preferably before December 1st, 2016.

Send seeds to this address before the end of December: Sharon Bryson 407 Old Maryvale Road, Maryvale, NS, B2G 2L1 Canada. I appreciate a brief description and a link to an image if possible. We can accept un-cleaned seed, if necessary.

Our past listings have been enriched by seed lots from our ARHS members and from those in some way associated with our Society, be it through the online Rhodo Group or personal contacts. Thanks to all for your past participation. Your valuable donations have been sent to gardening enthusiasts all over the world. ☘

### In Memoriam

Dr. Christopher W. Helleiner passed away on Tuesday, October 18th, 2016 in Halifax. We gardeners knew him as 'Chris', and we are grateful for the articles, photos, and quiet presence he brought to us in the ARHS. We are sorry for this loss and offer our sympathies and appreciation to his wife, Mary.

Chris's obituary tells us he was "Born in 1930 in Vienna, Austria, [and] came to Canada in 1939, when his family settled in Toronto. After studying biochemistry in Toronto ("Studies of the Structure of DNA") and Oxford, he moved to Halifax in 1963, working as Head of the Department of Biochemistry at Dalhousie University from 1964-70 and 1971-79. A dedicated teacher, he won the Dalhousie Alumni Association Award for Excellence for Teaching 1986-7. A strong supporter of music in Nova Scotia, Chris loved singing in many choirs, as well as writing program notes for Symphony Nova Scotia and the Scotia Festival. He will also be remembered as an avid birder and gardener, hobbies which he generously shared with family and friends. ☘

# Rock Garden Rhododendrons

Todd Boland, St. John's, Newfoundland



'Lavendula'

The genus *Rhododendron* is among the largest group of flowering plants. With so many species and innumerable hybrids, it is not surprising that some would be suitable for the rock garden. Of course, that depends on the size of the rockery. If you have a small crevice garden, only those which remain under 30 cm would probably work. Some rhododendrons in the rockery at the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden (zone 5b) are nearly 2 m tall, yet they still look in scale.

The following species and hybrids, all growing at the MUN Botanical Garden, are those which would take some 20 years or more to reach more than 90 cm, so they should be suitable for most modest-sized rock gardens - at least for use along the front of an ericaceous border.

Due to the small size of their leaves and flowers, most of the "rock garden" rhododendrons are members of the lepidote group. Newfoundland is home to a native lepidote called *R. lapponicum*, the Lapland rosebay. While rarely taller than 30 cm, it is not an easy species to cultivate. Even we have trouble keeping it happy in our botanical garden.

Perhaps the easiest and most available species is the so-called *R. impeditum*, probably misnamed and in reality, *R. fastigiatum*. This mound-forming species has small blue-tinted foliage and masses of small deep purple flowers. Rarely will it exceed 60 cm. The *R. fastigiatum* hybrids, 'Purple Gem' and 'Ramapo', are also readily available. With the parental influence of *R. minus*, these form larger mounds with larger leaves. Still, they rarely exceed 90 cm in height, but may be twice as wide.

Other 'purple' dwarf species include, *R. cuneatum* (could exceed 90 cm, but after 10 years from seed, ours is still only 45 cm), *R. russatum* (good forms are bushy and remain under 60 cm), *R. litangense* (ours is possibly the real *R. impeditum* at 30 cm) and *R. intricatum* (a distinct lavender-blue and under 30 cm locally after 20 years).

The most unique species, *R. campylogynum*, is among the smallest. This one has thimble-shaped flowers that are unusual in being maroon-purple. The variety 'Myrtilloides' rarely exceeds 20 cm and is suitable for an alpine trough.

From the European Alps come, *R. ferrugineum* and *R. hirsutum*. Both may exceed 90 cm, but are generally quite slow. After 30 years, ours are approaching the 90 cm mark. Both have pink flowers and are among the latest blooming of the dwarfs.

*Rhododendron mucronulatum* is a tall deciduous species but has two dwarf selections called, 'Dwarf Cheju' and 'Crater's Edge', both of which are popular as bonsai. Flowers are purple-pink with brilliant orange-red fall foliage.

If you are a lover of yellow rhododendrons, try *R. keiskei* which generally has a low habit. The species is rather rangy, but the selection 'Yaku Fairy' is very compact.

Perhaps the largest flowered of the dwarf lepidotes is *R. calostrotum* ssp. *calostrotum* and *R. calostrotum* ssp. *keleticum*. Both are prostrate and rarely exceed 15 cm. Their purplish-crimson flowers are somewhat reminiscent of a pansy.

Also with larger flowers is *R. saluenense*. This species with magenta flowers and distinct bristly stems may reach 90 cm.

Our native Labrador tea, *R. groenlandicum*, is far easier to cultivate than our native *R. lapponicum*. It has a bushy habit, usually less than 60 cm, with rounded clusters of white flowers and fragrant, indumented foliage.



*R. calostrotum* var. *keleticum*.

Vaguely similar but without indumentum, is *R. sargentianum* with clusters of creamy-white flowers. Some people describe its foliage as smelling like raspberries.

We also grow a number of lepidote hybrids that are still under 90 cm after 20 years. These include

- ‘Curlew’ : yellow, 45 cm high
- ‘Wren’ : yellow, 15 cm
- ‘Patty Bee’ : yellow, purple-red winter foliage, 45 cm
- ‘Tow Head’ : cream, 30 cm
- ‘Ptarmigan’ : white, 30 cm
- ‘Egret’ : white, 45 cm
- ‘Tottenham’ : pink, 60 cm
- ‘Lavendula’: dark lavender, 90 cm
- ‘Wilsonii’ : pink, 90 cm but very broad
- ‘Ginny Gee’: two-tone pink and white, 60 cm.

The only dwarf elepidote species we grow is *R. williamsianum* with its oversized solitary pink flowers and small round leaves that unfurl red-tinted. Our 25-year-old plant is about 75 cm tall but easily three times as wide.

*R. pachysanthum* is grown for its wonderful tomented and indumented foliage as well as its pale pink flowers. While this elepidote can eventually exceed the 90 cm mark, it will be slow to do so.

*R. ‘Carmen’* always catches visitors’ eyes with its relatively large blood-red bell-shaped flowers. Our plant is over 100 cm wide, but under 30 cm tall. A hybrid between *R. sanguineum ssp. didymium* and *R. forrestii ssp. forrestii*, presumably we could grow both dwarf parents. Similar in appearance and colour, but larger in size are ‘Scarlet Wonder’, ‘Sumatra’, ‘Baden Baden’ and ‘Elviira’.

These are some of the dwarf rhododendrons that may be suitable for coastal Nova Scotia. There may be others but these are the ones I am familiar with from my experiences at our botanical garden. I am always looking for more small-sized rhododendrons, so with luck, this list will significantly increase in the years to come.

**Editor’s Note:**

Many thanks to Todd, our September 2016 speaker, for providing this list. If you, or someone you know, are growing rhodies suitable for a rock garden other than those mentioned in Todd’s list, please let us know! ☺



‘Wren’



‘Scarlet Wonder’

### Editors Note:

Here's another for Todd's list: *R. cephalanthum* "a dwarf species to 1' h and spreading. Small, glossy dark green foliage. Pale pink tubular flowers with spreading lobes similar to a daphne. Zone 6." We bought a 1-gallon plant from the 1998 May Advance Sale for \$15. And lost half the plant several years ago when a deer stepped on it. It is now 60 cm high with a spread of 90-120 cm. My record says "June 13, 03: Almost peak bloom. June 4/08: still opening."

And thanks Todd, for inspiring me to measure a number of the rhodies in our Rockburn garden!

Check out these articles from 2001 by John Weagle, Halifax, Nova Scotia, now on line

#### **LET'S TALK HYBRIDIZING: BREEDING FOR DWARF ELEPIDOTES IN NOVA SCOTIA**

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v55n1/v55n1-weagle.htm>

#### **RHODODENDRONS IN 3D: DREAMS, DWARFS, AND DELUSIONS, PART II**

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v55n2/v55n2-weagle.htm>

## The Word: **ANTHOCYANIN**

**Bruce Palmer, Cutten, California**

**Photos by the author**

Winter is upon us in the northern hemisphere. The leaves of deciduous plants have since transitioned from green through orange, red, yellow, to compost. When this article was first written, it seemed appropriate to talk about one of the pigments that causes fall colors: **ANTHOCYANIN** (Greek: *anthos*, flower, and *kyanos*, blue). The anthocyanins are some of the major pigments that give the red coloration to deciduous leaves before they fall in autumn.

Anthocyanins also influence the various shades of color in flowers, including our rhodie blossoms, from reds through purple to nearly blue. The specific shade of color is determined by combinations of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon attached at different locations around the primary molecule. It is also influenced by the acidity of the soil, water surrounding the plant and by various factors in the plant itself.

A good article by Stan Southerland in the 2016 Winter issue of, *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society (JARS)* (p. 39), details a number of interactions in plant tissues that control the expression of anthocyanin in flowers. Differing anthocyanin molecules are typically named after the plant from which they were first extracted; thus, Delphinidin, Petunidin and Rosinidin. Delphinidin, for example, gives delphiniums their blue color and is also found in the skins of grapes that impart color to red wine (Ribereau-Gayon, 1958).

Anthocyanins function in leaves in a number of ways. In the spring, many plants, both deciduous and evergreen, produce new leaves that are various shades of red. One of the inspirations for using this word in the Eureka Chapter, May 2015 newsletter, was the striking red new leaves on the *Rhododendron* relative *Pieris* sp. in our garden. The red anthocyanins in tender young leaves protect the cells from sunburn and reduce evaporation. The new species *Rhododendron faithiae*, currently offered by the Rhododendron Species Foundation, exhibits this red coloration handsomely in young leaves and stems. (Fig. 1)

Anthocyanins appear in leaves in the fall as protection from light and for sequestering and transporting recycled molecules from the dying leaves to the stems and roots. Hybridizers take advantage of the beautiful red pigments in leaves to produce plants with leaves that show their red anthocyanins throughout the year. The other trigger for this word article was the red-leaved table favors at the America Rhododendron Society's annual international convention in Sidney, B.C., in May 2015.

What could be a better example of the hybridizer's work, than the recent Cox hybrid 'Ever Red' (Fig. 2), with its retention of anthocyanin-rich, red-tinted leaves all year!

Anthocyanins are probably the most important pigments that give flowers their colors. Many flowers, including rhododendrons, have been hybridized to yield patterns and color combinations that are pleasing and often unusual (Figs. 3, 4), but flowering plants have the color patterns in specific locations for reasons unrelated to humans. The lines, splotches,



Fig. 2. 'Ever Red', showing leaves that retain their anthocyanins throughout the year.



Fig. 1. *R. faithiae*, showing anthocyanins in its new leaves.





Fig. 3. 'Black Spout', showing how hybridization can intensify the amounts of anthocyanins present to produce darker colors

and deep-colored centers in flowers, called nectar guides, are usually there to attract pollinators. The nectar guides reflect ultraviolet light which insects can see but humans cannot. The nectar guides show insects where the sweet reward is and the flower gets pollinated as the insect imbibes. Anthocyanins and other pigments are used as pollinating attraction devices in many unique ways. Flowers pollinated by bees and wasps tend to be various shades of yellow and blue. Butterfly-pollinated flowers tend toward red and orange. Moth-pollinated flowers are stark white, often fragrant and open at night.

Anthocyanins are also present in the skins of most berries and fruits, including blueberries, cranberries, tomatoes, and eggplants. Good evidence of the effectiveness of anthocyanins in berries and fruits as antioxidants for disease prevention is published regularly (Wallace, 2011). Anthocyanins extracted from red cabbage are often used as acid/alkaline indicators. In solution, the anthocyanin color changes from red at the acidic end toward blue when a solution becomes more alkaline. The same holds for some flowers in acid or alkaline soils. Hydrangeas are good examples in our gardens. Anthocyanins are being used increasingly as organic food-coloring products.

As I was putting the finishing touches on this article in May 2015, an ad for a new book in the *Science for Gardeners* series came from Timber Press. I ordered, *How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do*, by Linda Chalker-Scott and discovered a book that I feel would be useful for every gardener. The book devotes an entire chapter to Anthocyanins, with many bits of information not included here. There are excellent, very readable explanations of various plant physiology topics and sidebars containing numerous useful hints for gardeners, such as, be cautious about using Epsom salts and don't assume that symptoms of desiccation always indicate a lack of water. The book also has a heavy emphasis on rhododendron issues.

Anthocyanins, those pigments that give our rhododendron flowers and leaves most of their beautiful colors and which yield many useful products, such as antioxidants, acid indicators and food coloring, are thus quite important, both for the plants that produce them and for the people who consume them. Let's enjoy anthocyanins as we continue cultivating and hybridizing rhododendrons in our gardens.

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- Southerland, S. 2016. The Role and Opportunity Presented by Obtaining Unexpected Results or Serendipity in Hybridizing Rhododendrons. *J. Amer. Rhod. Soc.* 70: 39-46, 47-49.
- Wallace, T.C. 2011. Anthocyanins in Cardiovascular Disease. *Adv. Nutrition* 2: 1-7.



Figure 4: 'Mrs G.W. Leak', showing nectar guides as heavily spotted lines leading insects to the center of the flower, hybridized to intensify color.

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**Editor's Note:** Thanks to Bruce Palmer of Cutten, California, a member of the Eureka Chapter in District 5, for permission to use his wonderful piece that first appeared in the Eureka Chapter Newsletter, followed by the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* Vol. 70, Number 1, (Winter 2016), pp. 16-7, about some pigments that cause red colours.

June Walsh, Eureka Chapter's newsletter editor (she came to Nova Scotia the year we hosted the fall convention!) says, "Bruce Palmer has very generously written, "The Word" for our newsletter for years (we won't say how long) and you can find most of our newsletters on the web site [www.EurekaRhody.org](http://www.EurekaRhody.org)" That means we can see Bruce's other WORD picks!

When he and I corresponded last spring, Bruce was working on publicity and logistics for the Eureka Chapter's hosting of the 2017 ARS convention. They now have it all worked out and June Walsh sent out the details last week. It looks like we should all be making plans for a west coast visit!

See the 2017 Convention information elsewhere in this issue.

## Karen Achenbach's Talk: "50" Great Plants at the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens

Bob Howard, Granville Beach NS



*Paulownia tomentosa* 'Coreana' [Karen Achenbach]

With large collections of roses, rhododendrons, conifers, dogwoods, magnolias, and other interesting plants on ten acres of cultivated gardens at the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, it's a challenge to whittle down the list to fifty great ones. Horticulture manager, Karen Achenbach, showed us her selection during her talk to the club on October 4, 2016.

Several plants on the list have a connection to the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticulture Society. John Weagle, Ken Shannik, and our club have introduced many plants to the Historic Gardens. Audience participation was lively during the talk, with several stories about the history of some of these wonderful plants. For example, a small plant of *Hydrangea aspera* var 'Sargentiana' was secreted into the suitcase of Carol Dancer (a member now living in British Columbia) sometime in the 1980s by Alleyne Cook (see, *AtlanticRhodo*, Nov. 2015, pp. 15-16). She gave it to John Weagle, who gave it to Jamie Ellison, who propagated it and gave it to the Historic Gardens.

Another bit of history was about the *Paulownia tomentosa* 'Coreana'. The late Stan Dodds collected seeds of this tree at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston and gave them to John Weagle. John germinated the seed, grew it on, and eventually propagated it from root cuttings. He donated one of these plants to the Historic Gardens.

Among the plants on the list that I like is the Manchurian fir, *Abies holophylla*. I think this is a very beautiful big conifer and wish I could get one. Karen said this is a favourite tree of Pat Pelham, the Gardens' horticulture manager in the 1980s and 90s. He brought it in from the Forest Farm nursery in the US. This reminds me how difficult and expensive it is these days to bring plants in across national borders. It's great that we have the plant material here. Anyone interested in taking cuttings and propagating this tree?



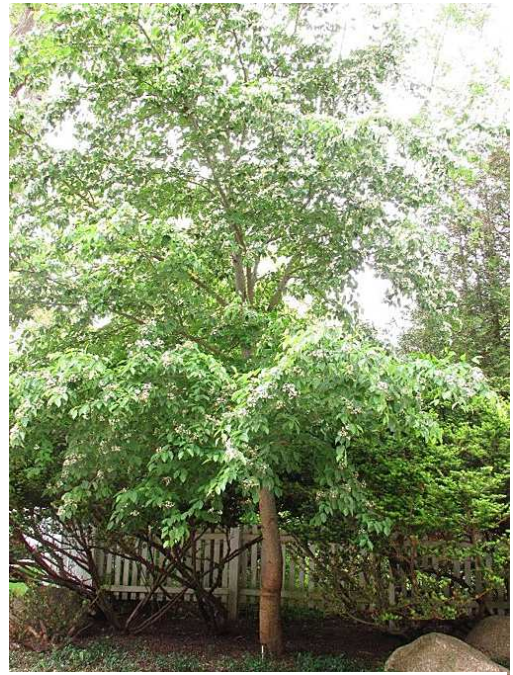
*Abies holophylla*, Manchurian fir. [Karen Achenbach]

The Korean mountain ash, *Sorbus alnifolia*, is another I like a lot. I am reminded that Todd Boland and the MUN Botanical Garden are putting together a national collection of mountain ash in St John's. This is a genus that could be used more in our gardens, especially for the fall colour of the berries. Michael Dirr, author of, *Hardy Trees and Shrubs*, says: "At its best, this species has perhaps the most magnificent fruit display of all the *Sorbus* species. Easily grown in well-drained soils and full sun". There are two specimens of this tree at the Historic Gardens. The one beside the parking lot, pictured here, is 30' high after twenty-five years. It has white flowers in spring, bright green foliage (looking somewhat like alder) in the summer and showy red berries in fall.



*Sorbus alnifolia*, Korean mountain ash in flower and fruiting

Given the collection at the Gardens, it is not such a surprise that Karen's list of "Fifty Great Plants" is actually fifty-seven! This collection merits a visit to Annapolis to see the range of plants as well as to stroll through the park-like setting overlooking the marshland of Alain's Creek. There are also seven acres of open marshland for walking and bird watching.☞



*Sorbus alnifolia*, [Karen Achenbach]



*Stewartia pseudocamellia*. [John Weagle]



*Clethra barbinervis* 'Compacta' - [John Weagle]

# The List of '50' Great Plants at the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens

Karen Achenbach

<i>Tilia europeana</i>	European Linden
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm
<i>Rhododendron</i> 'Bellefontaine'	Rhododendron
<i>Hydrangea aspera villosa</i>	Sargent (Velvet leaf) Hydrangea
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	Incense Cedar
<i>Actinidia arguta</i>	Hardy Kiwi
<i>Actinidia kolomitka</i>	Variiegated Kiwi Vine
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw
<i>Sorbus alnifolia</i>	Korean Mountain Ash
<i>Vitex negundo</i> 'Heterophylla'	Cut-leaf Chaste Tree
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> 'Coreana'	Empress Tree
<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i> 'Fastigiata'	Japanese Plum Yew
<i>Pyrus salicifolia pendula</i> 'Silfrozam'	Silver Pear
<i>Heptacodium miconioides</i>	Seven Sons Flower
<i>Franklinia alatomaha</i> (added 2016)	Franklinia
<i>Prunus</i> 'Kiku-shidare-zakura'	Cheal's Weeping Cherry
<i>Rubus cockburnianus</i>	Ghost or White-stemmed Bramble
<i>Disanthus cercidifolius</i>	Heart-leaved Disanthus, Redbud Hazel
<i>Taxus baccata</i> 'Adpressa'	English Yew
<i>Acer rufinerve</i>	Grey Snakebark or Redvein Maple
<i>Acer capillipes</i>	Kyushu or Red Snakebark Maple
<i>Salix gracilistyla</i> 'Melanostachys'	Black Pussy Willow
<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark Maple
<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	Japanese Stewartia
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree or Yellow Poplar
<i>Aescules x carnea</i> 'Briottii'	Ruby Red Horse Chestnut
<i>Abies koreana</i>	Korean Fir
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis</i> 'Ruby Lace'	Honey Locust
<i>Abies holophylla</i>	Manchurian Fir, Needle Fir
<i>Picea koyamae</i>	Koyame Spruce
<i>Fargesia murielae</i>	Umbrella Bamboo
<i>Fargesia nitida</i>	Fountain Bamboo
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringetree
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Swamp Magnolia, Sweetbay Magnolia

*Cedrus deodara* 'Shalimar'

Deodar Cedar

*Cedrus libani*

Cedar of Lebanon

*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca'

Blue Atlas Cedar

*Davidia involucrata*

Dove Tree, Handkerchief Tree, Ghost Tree

*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Dawn Redwood

*Nyssa sylvatica*

Black Tupelo, Blackgum

*Parrotia persica* 'Pendula'

Persian Ironwood

*Aesculus sylvatica*

Painted Buckeye

*Aesculus pavia*

Red Buckeye

*Aesculus parviflora*

Bottlebrush Buckeye

*Gunnera tinctoria*

Chilean Gunnera, Giant Rhubarb

*Rhododendron* 'Nancy Steele'

Rhododendron

*Ginkgo biloba*

Ginkgo

*Nothofagus antarctica*

Southern Beech, False Beech

*Picea abies* 'Frohburg'

Compact Weeping Norway Spruce

*Picea glauca* 'Acadia'

Acadian Spruce

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*

Lawson's Cypress, Lawson False Cypress,  
Port Orford Cedar

*Koelreuteria paniculata*

Golden Rain Tree

*Oxydendrum arboreum*

Sourwood

*Ricinus communis*

Castor bean

*Sciadopitys verticillata*

Umbrella Pine

*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

Katsura

*Taxodium distichum*

Bald Cypress



*Daphne mezereum*



Crabapple (*Malus* sp?)



*Sorbus aucuparia*

# Smouldering Fires' in My Fall Garden

Jenny Sandison, Mahone Bay, NS

In my garden it has been a most glorious fall. I don't remember one quite like it. I have a theory that it has something to do with the dry summer. It began back in early October when I was showing the Steele lecturer, Mike Stewart and his wife, Maria, around my garden. They were so easy to entertain, and though it was late for flowers they were particularly interested in one of my rhododendrons, 'Weston's Pink Diamond'. This is such a great plant. It's similar to well-known 'PJM' but in my opinion has much prettier flowers in a bright fuschia-pink. In the fall, it is dazzling when the old leaves become red and orange. I have it planted next to a 'Golfer' look-alike, which is still sporting some of its silver tomentum. In front of both are the arching stems of *Leucothoe fontanesiana* 'Scarletta', also beginning to deepen and redden.

Many of the most interesting and satisfying plants I have in my garden are plants that came from the ARHS sale offerings. Some I have planted with a great deal of doubt, but all these years later they are the ones that give me most satisfaction. Another plant I was eager to show was on the other side of my yard where *Viburnum mariesii*, which I love, was showing the beginnings of its deep-burgundy fall phase. As I said to Mike, "Come and look", there at the back was an *Enkianthus* positively glowing with brilliantly translucent bright red leaves. I couldn't believe it. I had forgotten it was there until this year when it was tall enough, and the conditions such, that suddenly it was shouting out, "look at ME". I don't know what variety of *Enkianthus* it is, as I have a bad habit of buying the odd plant left behind at plant sales and somehow they never get recorded. Now that I see what it can do, I have pruned the *Viburnum* right down and am leaving the *Enkianthus* much more space.

Another plant I am so glad to have is *Oxydendrom arboreum* that I planted in 2001. It was the usual small whip and got an odd twist in its stem in the early years, but has made a small tree of 10 feet. The leaves are glossy and it has lily-of-the-valley flowers late in the year and puts on my most reliable autumn colour. Most years, it is a really deep vibrant red. This year it is somewhat lighter in hue but is still blazing away up there at the back, right through November.

I think most of us were introduced to the pink Chinese Dogwood, *Cornus kousa* 'Satomi', through the Society. It has become a famous tree and in my garden is a real star in July, smothered with deep pink blossoms. It is just as appealing at this time of year, with its dark red leaves that hang on and on until the rain and wind fell them. I have mine planted across a wide path from another dogwood I got from the Society, *Cornus* "Venus", which is quite young still, but showing great promise. This I believe is a hybrid with *Cornus nuttallii*

and has very large white flowers. This fall it had outstanding foliage colours in shades of orange and yellow and is covered in fat flower buds for what looks to be a great show next year.

Other plants I thought were really exceptional this fall have been *Fothergilla* 'Mount Airy', and *Disanthus cercidifolius*. The latter is again a small tree but its heart-shaped leaves became a deep red. I have a young *Nyssa sylvatica* planted for its red autumn colours and I believe this will be very impressive soon.

My Japanese Maples have been a delight. *Acer palmatum* 'Osakazuki', a pretty, multi-branched tree has only green leaves all summer, though the shape of the leaf is lovely. Eventually, late in the season, it turns to deep scarlet. It is on the corner by the house, which itself is a dark navy blue, and one of my neighbours actually stopped in her car to admire the contrast.

I was so pleased when it became legal to plant *Berberis*, as they are very useful shrubs. The dwarf purple one known as, 'Royal Burgundy' has a second season of interest when its leaves suddenly smoulder. It's the same with the purple smoke bush, *Cotinus*. I had read that 'Grace' was a better cultivar and so it is, with round purple leaves all summer and now in late November gone all scarlet.

Don't forget that some of the summer perennials also provide good fall colours. It's easy to cut them down too soon and lose that bonus. The peonies often have great autumn tints. Many of the perennial geraniums ignite and burn, while one of my all-time favourite plants is the dwarf goatsbeard, *Aruncus aethusifolius*. This plant I find indispensable. It is neat, ferny, and compact and great as an edger. It has astilbe-like flowers in July, and then at the end of the year shows every warm colour as the foliage ages.

Finally, a word for the paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*. Again, this was a Society buy and I stuck it out on the perimeter seeing as it was a tree. It grew, but I largely ignored it. The last few years I have admired the exfoliating red bark. Then this year, I suddenly noticed it was changing colour. Now about 12 feet tall, it has gone orange and gold and red. From my kitchen window, I see it is all on fire and it's November 20th. That's 2 months of having to go around the garden to look at it all. It has been an astonishing show!

## Editor's Notes:

According to the Missouri Botanical Garden website, Jenny's *Cornus* 'Venus' hybrid is *Cornus kousa* 'Chinensis' x *Cornus nuttallii* 'Goldspot' x *Cornus kousa* 'Rosea' ☞

# The Getty Center Central Garden, Los Angeles

Suzanne Gauthier



My aim in visiting the Getty Center in Los Angeles was to look at art. That quickly shifted upon arriving, to taking a tour of the wonderful Robert Irwin-designed Central Garden. The Centre, completed and opened in 1997, is free, as J.P. Getty wished it to be, and tours occur almost every hour. I visited in early February when the bones of the garden showed most clearly, which is code for, ‘not many plants’.

Californian artist Robert Irwin, 88 years old this year, began designing the garden in 1992 amid much controversy over the Getty’s decision to commission an artist to create the Central Garden, rather than a landscape designer. His collaborator, plantsman Jim Duggan, continues to oversee the garden which the J. Paul Getty Museum considers to be an important part of its collection.

Amidst a cluster of Richard Meier-designed buildings in travertine marble - mostly ghost white, but sometimes a soft limestone colour - the Central Garden begins with a sheet of water that funnels into a stone-lined stream bed flowing downhill. The path zigzags across bridges along an allée of American sycamores, sedums, grasses, geraniums, etc. More than 500 varieties of plant material are used in the landscaping. As the stream bed widens, the stones lining it narrow, becoming smaller and finer.

What struck me most were the beds of sedums, not only so many varieties but the size - as big as cabbages, not like the ones in my garden. Various grasses, yuccas, ajugas, and hellebores border the water way which continues through to a plaza. Carved into the plaza floor is Irwin’s statement, “Always changing, never twice the same”. The walkway ends at this plaza, where several huge rebar ‘trees’ support blooming Bougainvillea vines, spectacularly in bloom on February 6th.





The stream cascades into a pool that holds an astonishing floating maze of azaleas, also in bloom: white, pale pink, and red. Robert Smithson wrote of a “meditative journey”, referring to walking the Spiral Jetty in Salt Lake, Utah. Walking around this maze evokes similar thoughts. Surrounding the pool are gentle slopes with plantings of native species. On the South Promontory, a cactus garden foregrounds a lovely view of Los Angeles.

After Irwin completed the design for this 134,000 square-foot garden, he walked through the changing landscape once a month for a decade, observing the many changes that took place. His statement, “You can’t plan nature; you court her”, will resonate with gardeners everywhere.

If you go:

When visiting LA, it would be wise to rent a car. LA is designed for vehicular traffic. My Air BnB was on Wilshire Blvd, a short walk to the LA County Museum, but a gruelling bus ride requiring two bus transfers and a tram ride to reach the Getty Museum. Bus fare for seniors is 25 cents, but who wants to spend that much time on a bus?

#### **Editor’s Note**

I’ve never wanted to visit LA, but Suzanne’s account of this garden made me very curious. Browse the internet for lots more pictures and info. One of my favourites: <http://landscapevoice.com/the-getty-center-the-central-garden/> ☒



## Dwarf Mountain Ash: *Sorbus reducta*

James Ellison

A few species of the genus *Sorbus* rarely exceed 1 m in height. One is the charming species, *Sorbus reducta* dwarf mountain ash, native to Western China and Northern Burma. Dark shiny-green leaves are divided into serrated leaflets that turn bronze-purple in the autumn. Flat creamy flower clusters are produced in late spring. Some plants form small thickets, while others remain as solitary specimens.

I was introduced to this species at the Memorial University Botanical Garden in St. John's NL. It combines very well with dwarf conifers, heathers, and other dwarf shrubs but seems to prefer semi shade. In a rock garden situation it probably would be wise to add a bit of organic material and mulch to keep the root zone cool and moist. *Sorbus reducta* can also be used in foundation plantings. Its diminutive size ensures it will not outgrow its designated position quickly. Having both attractive berries and foliage make it a desirable addition to any garden. Dwarf mountain ash will do quite well in NS. It should grow well in plant zone 5.

*Sorbus reducta* will usually come true from seed and is generally propagated that way. Seed should be stratified for at least a month in moist peat or sand to break internal dormancy; sometimes seed starts germinating during the stratification period. One can usually expect a high rate of germination. ☞



This "bouquet" is an example of some of the colour range of *Sorbus* fruit



# AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY 2017 ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

## “RHODODENDRONS IN THE REDWOODS” EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

Register now for the American Rhododendron Society’s annual spring convention, April 27-30, 2017. The Eureka Chapter will host the convention which will bring visitors to world-famous Humboldt County, California, from across the nation, Canada, and around the world. Top notch speakers will be featured every day, along with tours of redwood forests, private and public gardens, azalea reserves, and Victorian architecture.

The Red Lion Hotel will be our host hotel, with a rate of \$99 per night per room, plus tax. The rate includes a full breakfast and an airport shuttle. Thursday and Sunday events will be held at the hotel. The new state-of-the-art Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the Red Lion Hotel, will be our meeting and banqueting venue Friday and Saturday. Visitors can walk to the conference center, take the shuttle, or drive. Abundant parking is available at the center.

For many ARS members, seeing the Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must-see “bucket list”, as is the rugged North Coast of California with its Rhododendron *macrophyllum* and Stagecoach Hill, the home of the Smith-Mossman 1966 collections of *Rhododendron occidentale* azaleas.



*Rhododendron occidentale*



**THE CARSON  
MANSION**

In addition to the area’s redwood parks and other natural wonders, Eureka and its neighboring towns abound with well-preserved Victorian homes displaying the famous Queen Anne “Carpenter Gothic” style. The Carson Mansion (now a private club) is the most famous example from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century era of the lumber barons in northwestern California.

Eureka is served by United Express twice daily from San Francisco. Flying to San Francisco and transferring to Eureka is the usual air transport option. Renting a car in San Francisco and driving to Eureka is a very scenic alternative. Drive time from San Francisco is about seven hours through the wine country with its rolling hills and on north through the Coast Range mountains and redwood forests. From the north, PenAir flies from Portland, Oregon to the Eureka/Arcata airport.

An alternative to flying directly to Eureka from Portland might be to fly to Crescent City, or to Medford, Oregon, then rent a car. Drive time from Crescent City is about two hours; from Medford about four hours. Both routes are quite scenic, with wild rivers, rugged mountains, and redwood forests well worth visiting. Several car rental agencies operate at the Eureka/Arcata airport. The Red Lion Hotel offers free shuttle service for convention attendees to and from the Eureka/Arcata airport. However you choose to get here, we look forward to hosting you and showing you our beautiful northwest corner of California.



**HUMBOLT BOTANICAL  
GARDEN**



**SINGING TREE GARDENS**

More information at [www.EurekaRhody.org](http://www.EurekaRhody.org)

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<b>Gardens Care Outreach:</b>	Chris Hopgood	902-479-0811
<b>District 12 ARS Rep (American Rhodo Society):</b>	Lynne Melnyk, Toronto	705-835-0372

# Photo Album - Autumn Colours



'Ever Red', showing leaves that retain their anthocyanins throughout the year. [ Bruce Palmer]



*Acer palmatum* 'Omure yama' - [John Weagle]



*Gaylussacia baccata* Huckleberry - [John Weagle]



*Gaylussacia baccata* Huckleberry - [John Weagle]



Applebaum Garden, Indian Harbour, NS - [John Weagle]



*Enkianthus perrulatus* 'Compacta' [Michael Clutson]



*Acer palmatum* - [John Weagle]



*Enkianthus perrulatus* - [John Weagle]