



# "Niagara Rhodo" Newsletter of the The Niagara Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Canada October 2011

**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.**

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## 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

## President's Note

The Niagara Region Chapter, as part of District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society is ready to embark on another season of talks and members' activities after experiencing a successful winter and spring. Interesting speakers shared their horticultural experiences and research in February, March and April 2011. In April, members and guests supported the Annual Plant Sale; Plants for Members (P4M) almost sold out in May; the specially acquired plants for the Brueckner Evaluation project found their way to evaluators' gardens before the end of June.

The success of this program is due to our devoted members and to the considerable number of dependable volunteers who support the program and various activities. As a result, membership, local and ARS, continues to grow. It now stands at 32 ARS Members plus 70 Local Members. These outcomes provide resources with which to bring interesting and knowledgeable speakers to Niagara, to identify sources for new, previously unavailable rhododendron varieties, and to consider development of new programs to meet members' interests.

Through a recent revision in the structure of the Rhododendron Society of Canada, the Niagara Chapter is taking its turn in representing District 12 on the Board of the American Rhododendron Society. The Niagara Board elected Nick Yarmoshuk to serve as District 12 representative to the ARS Board of Directors for a 3-year term. A potential outcome of this role could be to help develop new approaches that focus on members' evolving interests.

The viability and sustainability of any organization is dependent upon availability of fresh ideas and new approaches to satisfy members' changing interests.

The current Board of Directors of the Niagara Chapter is composed of 6 people who have been in place for more than 5 years. The time has come for renewal, change and additions to the current structure. This is an ideal time for individuals to volunteer to join our Board of Directors. By joining our Board, as a member at large, you can learn details of various roles, and participate in decisions, all in a risk-free way; when you feel you are ready, you can take on a more active role. This process will incorporate fresh talent and ideas. Please approach any one of our current Board members to explore this opportunity.

We look forward to seeing old friends and newcomers at the meeting on November 6th. All meetings are open to the public so bring your friends. As always, your Board of Directors is committed to enhancing what the Niagara Chapter offers. Now is membership renewal time. Whether you choose to be an ARS member or a local member, we value your fellowship and support.

*Sondra Meis*

## Update on the Brueckner Evaluation Project

132 rooted Brueckner test plant cuttings were distributed to 21 members in late May and early June. Test locations range from Sydenham (near Kingston), Niagara, Toronto, Waterloo, Guelph, Simcoe, St. Williams, Timmins, Rochester Michigan, to Vancouver BC; certainly a wide distribution of microclimates. The next set of rooted cuttings will be available for distribution in May 2012; additional cuttings are currently being propagated for distribution in 2013. The first evaluation forms were distributed in late September. Data from the current evaluation will be used in a talk describing the project at the 2012 ARS Convention in Asheville North Carolina. More information will be provided as it develops.

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## Program 2011 & 2012

Meeting dates and program listings for the next 12 months follow. All meetings, unless otherwise stated, will be held at Rittenhouse Hall, Vineland Research & Innovation Centre (VRIC), Vineland Station, Ontario, starting at 2 PM.

**Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011, 2 P.M.** Dennis Bottemiller, Chief Propagator. Species Foundation, Seattle, Washington. *"Species at the Species Foundation & How to Propagate Rhododendrons"*.

**Sunday Feb. 5, 2012, 2 P.M.** TBA

**Sunday Mar. 4, 2012, 2 P.M.** TBA

**Sunday, Apr. 22, 2012, 2P.M.** Description of cultivars in Annual Plant Sale and discussion of cultivars in P4M program.

**Saturday Apr. 28, 2012, 9 A.M.** Annual Plant Sale. Vineland Research & Innovation Centre.

**Sunday, May 13, 2012.** Mother's Day

**Saturday May 2012.** Date & Location TBA.



**Sunday, Nov. 7, 2011, 2 P.M.**  
**Dennis Bottemiller, Chief Propagator.**  
**Species Foundation, Seattle, Washington.**  
*"Species at the Species Foundation & How to Propagate Rhododendrons"*.

Dennis has been the Propagator and Nursery Manager for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden for the past ten years where he has been rooting cuttings and growing seedlings of plants from around the world. The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden is home to the largest collection of Species Rhododendrons in North America and has outstanding collections of Magnolia, Japanese Maples, Primula and Liliaceae in a 24-acre naturalistic setting including many Northwest native plants.

Dennis will speak on some of the very interesting rhododendron species that are currently being propagated and he will provide an in-depth discussion of the factors involved in propagating lepidotes, elepidotes and deciduous azaleas.

### **Notes from the 2011 ARS Convention, Vancouver, WA.**

Wanda and Nick Yarmoshuk attended the Annual Convention held in early May in an area where rhododendrons and azaleas grow as weeds. The first image that struck us was the use of evergreen azaleas as roadside plants and in public planters along boulevards. It seems that rhododendron and azaleas are grown in the northwest much as forsythia and portulaca are used in our gardens.



## *Membership Matters*

**Membership in the Rhododendron Society of Canada, Niagara Region Chapter and the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) are valid for the calendar year.**

**The 2012 membership fees are now due.**

The benefits of a \$5.00 local membership (RSC) are . . . .

1. Newsletters/notices sent by email .
2. 10% discount at the spring plant sale .
3. Advance notice of plants available and able to pre-order for the Plant Sale .
4. P4M (Plants for Members) available only to members.
5. Participation in Research Projects such as evaluation of the Brueckner hybrids.
6. Garden Tours Open only to members.

**Note:** A \$10 Local membership fee applies to Newsletters mailed by Canada Post to those so requesting.

Members of the ARS (\$35.00) have all the above benefits plus the colourful and informative quarterly *Journal*, discounts on books, participation in the seed exchange. Please use the form on page 4 to send in your renewal to:

**Lillie Haworth, 4 Deer Park Court, Grimsby L3M 2R2**  
OR

Plan to renew your ARS or Chapter membership at our November 6 meeting.

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### **Convention Notes – continued.**

The convention program and various meetings allowed us to discuss Chapter programs and to learn of practices that others are using to meet their members' interests. In addition, we became better aware of resources available from the National body for potential use by local Chapters to further members' interests and to encourage greater participation in Chapter events. Details of this will be shared with members as new ideas are developed.

Two speakers made a special impression with their content and presentation. **Dennis Bottemiller**, described elsewhere in this Newsletter, and who will be our guest at the November 6 meeting, provided valuable insights into the science and art of rooting stem cuttings of rhododendrons. His work is precise and careful, but the information is straightforward.

..... (continued on Page 3, Dr. Schepker)



**Dr. Hartwig Schepker** is

the Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park Bremen, Germany. This is the home of one of the largest Rhododendron collections in the world, including hardy and non-hardy species and hybrids. Dr. Schepker has been on several Rhododendron trips in the Himalayas, Southeast Asia, and North America; including three journeys to Arunachal Pradesh.

His talk, given at the closing dinner, was an eye popping description of German hybrids that are likely to be hardy in various locals in North American and, quite possibly, in Ontario. He described, with photographs, new complex hybrids containing some yakushmanum heritage that were not the usually expected pink-turning-to-white yak hybrid. He also described other evergreen rhododendron developed by Hans and/or Holger Hachmann. He reported that all but two of the hybrids listed below (the two marked \*) have survived at least around - 20°C (- 4°F), some of these even - 25°C (- 13°F). Not all of these new cultivars have been thoroughly checked for their heat, draught or sun tolerance.

### **Broadleaf Evergreen Rhododendrons**

['Caruso' by Hans Hachmann](#)

['Haithabu' by Holger Hachmann](#)

['Konfettiregen' by Werner WUstemeyer](#)

['Goldinetta' by Hans Hachmann](#)

'Golden Everest' by Hans Hachmann \*

['Belami' by Hans Hachmann](#)

### **Broadleaf Evergreen Rhododendrons** *(continued)*

['Graffito' by Hans Hachmann](#) (prime example of a good foliage plant due to the waxy leaves)

['Metallica' by Holger Hachmann](#)

['Hachmann's Picobello' by Holger Hachmann](#)

['Hans Hachmann' by Holger Hachmann](#)

['Rabatz' by Hans Hachmann](#)

['Cherry Kiss' by Holger Hachmann](#)

'Brokat' by Wilhelm Bruns/Gerd Eiting

['Midnight Beauty' by Holger Hachmann](#)

### **Yakushmanum Hybrids**

['Bohlken's Snow Fire' by Heinz Bohlken](#)

['Bohlken's Lupinenberg' by Heinz Bohlken](#)

['Bohlken's Juditha' by Heinz Bohlken](#)

['Lucinda' by Jochen Bohlje](#)

'Whitestone' selected by Dr. Karl-Heinz

['Barbarella' by Hans Hachmann](#)

['Sasonade' by Holger Hachmann](#)

'Malaga' by Wilhelm Bruns/Gerd

['Bruns Julia' by Gerd Eiting/Bruns,](#)

'Aureolin' by Gerd Eiting/Bruns Nursery

***Click on any name to view a relatively large photograph of a cultivar. Where a name is not hi-lighted, no photograph is currently available.***

**Note on Photos:** Each of these photographs has been located somewhere on the internet. Many of them have been located on <http://www.hirsutum.info> This well-designed site, created by Danish enthusiasts, provides a valuable service to the rhododendron world. Additional information about these cultivars is available on this site.

Our challenge now is to attempt to identify sources of these cultivars so that our members may test them in their environments.

For readers' convenience, a catalogue of these hybrids is provided on Page 5.



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***Niagara Region Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Canada  
American Rhododendron Society***

**Membership 2012**

Membership fees for the American Rhododendron Society 2011 are now due.

To continue receiving *The Journal* all fees must be submitted to the membership secretary by November 15<sup>th</sup> for submission to ARS.

Please make cheques payable to RSC Niagara and send to . . . . .

**Lillie Haworth  
4 Deer Park Court  
Grimsby, ON  
L3M 2R2**

**ARS & Local Fees for 2012:**

- 1. **ARS** \$CDN 35.00 Individual or Family membership .....
- Commercial membership \$CDN 90.00 .....

This fee includes all the privileges of ARS membership i.e. *The Journal*, seed exchange, etc. as well as the Niagara Region Chapter Newsletter via email. Please note there is a \$5.00 surcharge if you wish your Niagara Newsletter by Canada Post.

Additional Chapter Membership: (\$10.00 each) Toronto ..... Atlantic .....

**OR**

- 2. **Local Membership Fees** e-mail only (\$5.00) ..... Canada Post Mail (\$10.00) .....

**Please return section below with payment** .....

Name:.....Address: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

ARS (includes Niagara Chapter Membership) (\$35).....

Additional chapter membership ~ Toronto &/or Atlantic (\$10).....

**OR** Local Membership e-mail (\$5)..... Canada Post Mail (\$10) .....

**Amount enclosed:** .....



'Caruso'



'Graffito'



'Cherry Kiss'



'Lucinda'



'Haithabu'



'Metallica'



'Midnight Beauty'



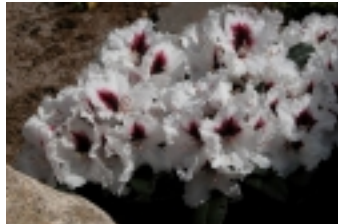
'Barbarella'



'Konfettiregen'



'Hachmann's Picobello'



'Bohlken's Snow Fire'



'Sasonade'



'Goldinetta'



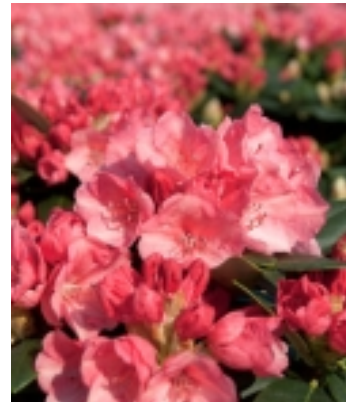
'Hans Hachmann'



'Bohlken's Lupinenberg'



'Bruns Julia'



'Belami'



'Rabatz'



'Bohlken's Juditha'



**Photos Unavailable**

'Golden Everest'

'Brokat'

'Whitstone'

'Aureolin'

'Malaga'

From a List provided by Dr. Hartwig Schepker  
Talk presented at the 2011 Convention of  
The American Rhododendron Society  
May 2011, Vancouver, Washington.