



"Niagara Rhodo"

Newsletter of the Niagara Chapter,
Rhododendron Society of Canada

District 12, American Rhododendron Society

March, 2013



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.

Inside This Issue:

1. Events in April
2. Brief Glossary of Rhododendron Terms
3. What's in a name? Rh. luteum & Rh. "Rosebud"
5. Pre-Order Deadline
6. Rhodos, Azaleas & Others in this year's Annual Sale.

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

Special Annual 2013 Plant Sale Issue

Program for April 2013

April is always a busy month for many of us. Not only will the important seasonal holidays require our attention, but the changing weather patterns will intrude on our planning for spring gardening work. As usual our chapter's annual plant sales are only a month away and the annual meeting at which available plants will be described.

Saturday, April 6, 2013

Starting at 10 A.M.

Vineland Research & Innovation Centre, Rittenhouse Hall

Topic: What will be at the General Sale ?

Description (Characteristics & Photos),

Discussion, Advice

This year's selections of plants were selected for their reputed hardiness, for their appropriateness in small gardens as potential filler plants where spaces have occurred under leggy plants, or for other reasons. The majority are old, proven performers. Some have been in short supply in the past and are being offered again.

Also, a number of new introductions are now available. These new varieties have colours which are usually available on plants that are hardy on the west coast. These Hachman hybrids, offered in eastern North America, are usually hardy in weather conditions experienced in regions represented by our membership. The parentage of these hybrids will be discussed at the April 6 meeting to show the hardiness that has been bred into these cultivars.

A list of most cultivars to be available at the Annual Sale accompanies this note. Other unusual plants are likely to be offered depending upon how they weathered the winter.

Annual General Plant Sale Saturday, April 27, 2013 9 A.M.

**Garage, Vineland Research & Innovation Centre
Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station**

Some Definitions

In recognition of the many new members of the Niagara Chapter who receive this Newsletter, we offer definitions of more common terms employed in discussion of plant characteristics, their sources and their parentage.

Lepidotes: Rhododendrons with scales, typically the smaller leaved rhododendrons. The Lepidote rhododendrons have minute scales on the leaves and are generally the small-leaved species. Most lepidotes are evergreen, but some are semi-deciduous, meaning they may be deciduous in colder climates or before spring.

Elepidotes: Rhododendrons without scales, typically the larger leaved rhododendrons.

Azaleas: Technically azaleas are listed among the elepidotes even though they usually have small leaves. For our and most growers purposes azaleas are treated separately since they are very different from other elepidotes. Indeed, when lepidotes are in flower, most casual observers usually refer to lepidotes as azaleas.

Deciduous Azaleas: Azaleas that typically put out new leaves each spring and drop them in the fall.

Evergreen Azaleas: Azaleas that put out spring leaves and then summer leaves. Neither set lasts a full season. Technically classified as rhododendrons, azaleas are generally more floriferous but have less impressive foliage.

Azaleas are classified as Rhododendrons and are members of the heath family. Typically, non-azalea rhododendrons are evergreen and have flowers that are in trusses (a **truss** is a flower-like structure composed of many flowers). Typically an azalea is either evergreen with flowers singly rather than in a truss or are deciduous and may have flowers singly or in a ball-shaped truss.

Vireya Rhododendrons: Lepidote rhododendrons that are tropical and will not withstand a freeze.

Indumentum: On rhododendrons it is commonly a woolly covering on the underside of mature leaves. Rhododendrons with indumentum typically do not have scales and are hence elepidotes. Some lepidotes, such as *R. edgeworthii*, also have indumentum which may obscure the scales leading them occasionally to be mistaken for elepidotes.

Tomentum: A woolly covering on the upper side of leaves. Casual observers and plant inspectors inexperienced with rhododendrons have been known to confuse powdery mildew with tomentum.

Species: For our purposes, species is a group of plants, with similar morphological, physiological, biochemical and behavioural features, which can interbreed to produce fertile offspring, and are reproductively isolated from other species. The importance of species is that most of the lovely rhododendrons and azaleas that grow were hybridized by creating seed hoping to produce hybrids that would have desirable characteristics of each of the parent plants.

Hybridize: To Crossbreed plants of two different species or varieties. To produce plant seed from two different species. To apply pollen from one plant species to the stigma of a flower on another plant species.

A Hybrid: The offspring of two plants or animals of different species or varieties, such as a hybrid of wheat and rye. A cross between different varieties of the same species is an **intraspecific hybrid**.

Heath family: the heath family is principally composed of evergreen shrubs that grow in acidic and infertile soils. Since heaths thrive on acidic soil, they are often found on moors, swamps and mountainsides

The forgoing **Definition of Terms** is freely edited from a collection of terms provided by Steve Henning. A detailed Glossary of horticultural terms may be found at Henning's web site
<http://rhodyman.net/rhodynglo.php#anchorA>

A Rose by any other name

We rely on plant names to identify cultivars that have specific qualities. When we purchase a plant with a specific name we assume it will have a specific, colour, scent, growth habit and cultural preferences. When we come across two plants that have the same name but have different characteristics we have a problem. Especially troublesome could be the same name, but allegedly hybridized by two different people, some 80 years apart and bearing totally different parents. Furthermore, the name appears to have been for both plants by the same international registration body.

Such was the dilemma we encountered when we tried to obtain detailed information about the rhododendron offered this year as **"Rimini"**.

We had discovered that a **"Rimini"** had been registered by Lionel Rothschild. This plant's heritage is shown as (R. dichroanthum ssp. apodectum X R. fortunei ssp. Discolor) bred in 1930. The other **"Rimini"**, was bred more recently by Hachman in Germany in 1983. Its parents are (R. 'Goldbukett' X R. Nippon Group); it is an interspecific hybrid. Parents of these parents include R. wardii and other interspecific hybrids a complex cross indeed. The two plants are here in the right-hand panel. Both are beautiful. Rothschild's is not likely to be hardy in Niagara. Hachmann's plant has survived the test of Bremen's climate in Germany and is rated as hardy to Zone 6. That's the one in our sale.



Rothschild's Rimini (1930)



Hachmann's Rimini (1983)

The back story to how this situation developed was provided by a participant on the yahoo rhododendron forum. He wrote "A hybridizer wanted to register a new hybrid, **R. 'Lionheart', (R. 'Rimini' x R. 'Mrs. Lammot Copeland')**. Upon application to the registration authority, she was informed that her application could not be accepted as **R. 'Rimini'**, one of the parents, was not a registered hybrid at the time. After considerable prompting the Rothchilds registered it, allowing **R. 'Lionheart'** to be registered.

It appears that **"Rimini"** by itself is acceptable as a registered name; but so is "Hachman's Rimini".

“Rimini” is not alone in having a confused registration. It appears that Rh. “Sugar Puff”, also in our offering this season, is known by two names. Apparently there is an identical plant in Harold Greer’s Nursery. Harold is probably the most sharp eyed commercial plants-man in the United States. He writes on the same Yahoo chat line where Briggs got ‘Sugar Puff’? I have always thought that ‘Sugar Puff’ looked like ‘Donna Totten’ and now I am sure that the plant Briggs sold as ‘Sugar Puff’ is Nearing’s plant of ‘Donna Totten’. The picture”. (in the right hand panel) “shows the two held together, the two flowers that are on the left side of the picture are from my plant of ‘Donna Totten’, the two on the right are from ‘Sugar Puff’. Same plant I would say!”



Two flowers on left ‘Donna Totten’. Two flower on right ‘Sugar Puff’.

). . . .” this is the confusion of the same plant being given two names.. As is true for example of ‘Lem’s Monarch’ and ‘Pink Walloper’. Same plant, two different names.” **May the buyer beware.**

Rhododendron luteum



R. luteum is native in the Ukraine and the Caucasus, along the Turkish coast of the Black Sea and is found in some disjunct populations in what was Yugoslavia and in Poland. It was first described by Linneus in 1753 as *Azalea lutea*.` Although this species has been known by many names since Linneus described it, its current name is a genuinely descriptive one, meaning 'yellow', referring to its lovely flowers. *R. luteum* forms a small shrub, 4 to 6' in height, with an open, upright habit. It has a wonderful spicy fragrance that fills the space the plant occupies. Greer rates its hardiness at – 15F .



Rhododendron “Rosebud” (Lois Gable x Caroline Gable) The parentage of both intraspecific hybrids include Rh. kampheri and Rh.poukhanense. This evergreen azalea is a slow growing beautiful plant. After 20 years it is approximately 4 ft. tall by 2 ft. wide. It has been plant and bud hardy in St. Catharines for more than 20 years. It blooms in early to mid- May, but this late blooming makes the buds susceptible to late frost damage.

Pre-Order Deadline Date: Friday, April 19, 2013

Members' Pre-Order Received by Lil Haworth

Pre-order from this year’s list for pick-up on April 27

See Accompanying Order Form on Last Page

Rhododendrons Available at 2013 Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, April 27, 2013 (9 am to whenever plants are SOLD OUT)
Garage, Vineland Research & Innovation Centre, Vineland Station
Exit QEW at Victoria Avenue to Just North of the QEW - in direction of Lake Ontario

Evergreen (E.G.) & Deciduous (D) Azaleas

Descriptions will be provided and larger photos shown at the Meeting on

Saturday, April 2013 at 10 A.M.



(EG). Herbert



(EG) Rosebud



(D) Girard's
Pleasant White



(D) Molalla Red



(D) Weston's
Lemon Drop



(D) Weston's
Lollipop

Lepidotes (Small Leaf Rhododendrons)

Descriptions will be provided and larger photos shown at the Meeting on

Saturday, April 6 2013 at 10 A.M.



Weston's Aglo



Bubblegum



Blue Baron



Manitou



Molly
Fordham



Landmark



PJM Compacta



Sugar Puff

***Two More
Azaleas***

> > →



Dec Azalea



Evergreen
Azalea Rosebud

Elepidotes (Broad leaf Rhododendrons)

Descriptions will be provided and larger photos shown at the Meeting on

Saturday, April 6 2013 at 10 A.M.



Dreamland



Hot Dawn



Ingrid Melquist



Kalinka



Lemon Dream



Lisetta



Melrose Flash



Milky Way



New century



Pearce's American
Beauty



Polarnacht



Rimini



Trocadero

Helleborus

New

> > > →



Peppermint Ice



Sparkling
Diamond



Pink Frost

Miscellaneous Other Cultivars

Descriptions will be provided and larger photos shown at the Meeting on

Saturday, April 6, 2013 at 10 A.M.



Paw Paw Tree
Summer



Paw Paw Tree Fall



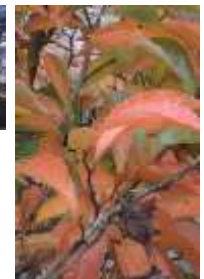
Paw Paw Flowers



Paw Paw Fruit



Stewartia
sinensis Tree



Stewartia Sinensis
Fall Colour



Styrax Japonica Tree



Styrax Japonica
Flowers



Magnolia
macrophylla Ashei
Leaf Size



Magnolia
macrophylla
Ashei
Flower



**daphniph-
yllum Fruit**



**daphniphyllum
Seed**



**Daphniphyllum
Plant**

Nandina
domestica
Harbour Dwarf
3 Photos
>>>>>→





"Niagara 2013 Annual Plant Sale"

Members' Pre-Order form

Name:

Address:

.....Postal Code

Telephone: Email:

* These prices per plant apply to Memberships paid prior to April 1, 2013

* Prices include members' 10% discount and all applicable taxes.

Details at: http://www.rhodoniacara.org/2013_sale/Plant_descriptions_2013_Annual_Sale.pdf

Plant	Members' Price	Qty.	Plant	Members' Price	Qty.
EVERGREEN AZALEAS			LARGE LEAF RHODODENDRONS		
Herbert	\$20		Dreamland (Yakushmanum)	\$22	
Pleasant White	\$20		Hot Dawn (Brueckner hybrid)	\$16	
Rosebud	\$20		Ingrid Mehlquist	\$16	
DECIDUOUS AZALEAS			Kalinka	\$22	
Molalla Red	\$22		Lemon Dream	\$22	
Weston's Lemon Drop	\$22		Lisetta	\$22	
Lollipop	\$22		Melrose Flash	\$22	
Luteum "Golden Comet"	\$10		Milky Way	\$22	
SMALL LEAF RHODODENDRONS			New Century	\$16	
Weston's Aglo	\$22		Pearce's American Beauty	\$22	
Blue Baron	\$22		Polarnacht	\$22	
Bubblegum	\$22		Rimini	\$22	
Cornell Pink	\$10		Trocadero	\$22	
Landmark	\$22		OTHER GENERA		
Manitou	\$22		Paw Paw	\$5	
Molly Fordham	\$25		Stewartia Sinensis	\$15	
PJM Compact Form	\$22		Styrax Japonica	\$15	
Sugar Puff	\$16		Magnolia macrophylla Ashei	\$15	
HELLEBORUS			daphniphyllum	\$5	
Helleborus "Peppermint Ice"	\$20		Nandina domestica Harbour Df	\$10	
Helleborus "Sparkling Diamond"	\$20		Fargesia dracocephala "Rufa"	\$15	
Helleborus "HGC Pink Frost"	\$15				

Total number of plants ordered # Please make Cheque (payable to **ARS - Niagara**) \$

* **Pre - Orders close April 19, 2013**

* **Pickup** between 9am and 11 am at the Plant Sale, April 27th,
at Vineland Research & Innovation Centre, Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station

Mail this form and Cheque to: Lillie Haworth
4 Deer Park Court, Grimsby, ON L3M 2R2

For Information concerning orders write to:
ljhaworth@sympatico.ca or **Call:** 905-945-2433