



"Niagara Rhodo"



The Niagara Chapter,
Rhododendron Society of Canada
District 12, American Rhododendron Society

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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



Marta Brueckner, 1917-2013

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Marta Brueckner on Sunday, October 20, 2013, at the age of 96. Predeceased in 1994 by her husband Dr. Joe Brueckner, she is survived by her son Dr. Peter Brueckner, Christine Woodward (our Chapter's Secretary of the Brueckner Test Committee), 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her abiding love of music that inspired her success as a much loved and respected piano teacher in Mississauga and earlier, in Saint John, N.B. As a lover of all things beautiful, the flower gardens she created and nurtured are a lasting testament to her artistry and gentle nature and manifested in the devoted support she gave her husband in his life's work with rhododendrons and the development of Brueckner Rhododendron Gardens, Mississauga. For a more full account see <http://www.rhodoniagara.org/pdf/marta.pdf>

Speaker

Sunday, November 10, 2013, 2 PM

Rittenhouse Hall, Vineland Research & Innovation Centre, Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station. Follow QEW to Exit 57 and go north toward Lake Ontario.

November is a time when we finish our fall garden cleaning and preparation for the winter. For some it is a time of reflection on what was successful and what may be appropriate as an upgrade for next year to better reach some sought after goals. Accordingly, this month we introduce a new topic into our discussions, a rest for a little while from rhododendrons and azaleas, to venture into areas of design and symbolism that deal more with the spiritual aspects of garden design rather than focussing on concrete elements. To this end we have as our guest speaker, Wolfgang Bonham.

Wolfgang Bonham is an accomplished horticulturalist and landscape designer who is the principal at the landscaping design & build firm, *Peace, Love, and Landscaping*, serving clients from Oakville to Hamilton. His installations have achieved both Industry and Community awards. He is also one of the very few certified Dry Stone Wallers in Canada.



Wolfgang gained his sensitivity for *Feng Shui in the Garden* through his wide ranging interests and experiences as a jeweller, restorer of vintage motorcycles, nature lover, outdoorsman and back-packer

visiting and learning about gardens around the world including the far east and through intensive study.

Feng Shui in the Garden

"Feng Shui is the ancient Chinese practice of arranging your environment so that energy or "chi" flows gently and smoothly through your home or business, in order to bring good fortune, health, and success. Most Feng Shui focuses on the interior of your home but in fact, what happens outside is perhaps even

more important. If the good "chi" isn't able to flow into and through your property to your front door, it doesn't matter how good it flows inside. Wolfgang will show us simple and effective methods to boost the positive energy of your outdoor spaces, from a gardener's point of view."



A focus on your exterior environment:

- Invites healthy energy onto property and ensure proper circulation around it
- Protects the structure from harsh elements
- Creates a symbiotic relationship between the land and the structure
- Extends your indoor living space outdoors
- Designs a sacred space that personally speaks to you
- Creates balance in size, shape and placement of different functions and features
- Corrects negative influences in your surroundings



Photos from Kelly Jones & Open Photos on the www.

Our Program for Sunday

- **Opening comments**
- **Progress with Plants for Members. Availability in 2014**
- **Plants in the Brueckner Project.**
- **Plants for the General Plant Sale**
- **Speaker and Event Program for 2014**
- **Featured Speaker.**

We look forward to seeing one and all on Sunday, November 10. Remember, guests are welcome at no cost. As always we will have a fine collection of plants to offer in the raffle and everyone is invited to participate. The usual coffee, tea and sweets will be available.



Membership Matters



2014

Local Membership fees for the Niagara Region Chapter are now due.

Membership in the Niagara Region Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Canada, are valid for the calendar year.

We ask that all fee be submitted to the membership secretary, Lille Haworth, by November 18th . Of course that can be done at the meeting on Sunday November 10, 2013

Local Membership members entitles members to :

1. Newsletters/notices sent by email. This is for a \$5 membership fee.
or
Newsletters/notices sent by Canada Post. This is for a \$10 membership fee.
2. 10% discount at the spring plant sale.
3. Advance notice of plants available.
4. Ability to pre-order for the Annual Plant Sale.
5. P4M`s (Plants for Members) available only to members. These are specially acquired plants available to members at or near cost.
6. Participation in Research Projects such as evaluation of the Brueckner hybrids.
7. Garden Tours Open only to members.

Please return section below with payment made payable to ARS Niagara to:

Lille Haworth, 4 Deer Park Court, Grimsby, ON, L3M 2R2 OR

Bring your cheque for payment at the meeting on November 10, 2013.

Name:..... Address:

Telephone: Email:

Local Niagara Chapter Membership) (\$5 e-mail or \$10 Canada Post)

NOTE: Membership in ARS (\$35.00 CDN) entitles members to all Local Chapter benefits shown above plus

1. The quarterly, colourful and informative *ARS Journal*.
2. Access to special plant acquisitions made by the Niagara Chapter for ARS members.
3. Priority access to plants from Species Foundation.
4. Free Entrance to Species Foundation Gardens in Seattle, Washington.
5. Priority access to the seed exchange.
6. Discounts on books.

If you chose ARS membership, please complete the form shown above and forward your cheque for \$35 CDN to Lille Haworth at the address shown above.

**September, 21, 2013:
End of summer picnic and P4M Distribution**

Some 30 members braved the rain to visit Lille Haworth's Garden, to chat with fellow gardeners, to enjoy the BBQ hamburgers and BBQ "Guralska" kielbasa and the wonderful side dishes in the pot luck menu at the "End of Summer" picnic. See photos in the adjoining column. The P4M plant distribution was approached with much interest and all 80 plants were snapped up.

As a special event at the picnic, Alice Klamer, the owner of Blue Sky Nursery was presented with the American Rhododendron Society Bronze Medal, the highest award that can be awarded by a Chapter for exemplary service to the Chapter.



The citation reads

" to Alice Klamer and the staff of Blue Sky Nursery

in recognition of more than 30 years of producing high quality rhododendrons and azaleas and providing service to the horticultural community in Niagara Region by offering superb plants and excellent customer service. Your assistance in the work of the Niagara Chapter has contributed significantly to increasing membership in the Chapter and to encouraging interest in rhododendrons"



From L to R: Wendy Fletcher, Sondra Meis, Alice Klamer, Mike Little, Christina Woodward, Gordon Polych

Some Members at Lunch



Photos by N. Yarmoshuk © 2013

“Fallingwater” & Rhododendrons

Frank Lloyd Wright’s name is well known in architectural circles. Equally well known to this group is **Fallingwater**, considered to be a masterpiece of a comfortable “vacation country cottage”. This item of architecture was unknown to me until recently. Wanda visited the home with daughter Lisa and on her return convinced me that I should inform myself of this item of architectural history. This I did by reading the splendidly detailed and highly informative book, **Falling Water Rising** by Franklin Toker. One of the pleasures of the book is its rich evocation of the upper-crust society of Pittsburgh. . . .Carnegie, Frick, the Mellons . . . a society that was socially reactionary but luxury-loving and baronial in its tastes, hobbies, and sexual attitudes. But the book also details the problems of design for eccentric wealthy people, and discusses the engineering challenges to build such an imaginative, beautiful and complex structure in the wilderness, in the mid 1930s during the depression.



Our visit to this site in early October was an all-day affair. The guided tour of the building was filled with interesting information. But, an equally interesting experience was walking for several hours on the trails within the woodland property. We should emphasize here that the property is located south west of Pittsburgh in the Laurel Highlands of the Appalachian mountains in the southwest corner of Pennsylvania. There is a lot of wilderness in the area.

Soon after arriving at the site, I was struck by the large number of Rhododendrons growing in the wilds. They

appeared to be a dark green colour, somewhere around 4 to 10 feet tall, well-formed and obviously having flowered well in the past spring. They are growing in considerable shade under tall trees many of which appeared to be oak. Other tree species were present but I could not identify them.



Below is a typical view of these plants growing everywhere on the site. They certainly were not planted there by man. They are rhododendrons that are native to the mountains of Pennsylvania, the specie, *Rhododendron maximum*. Judging by the appearance of the plants and the bud set that we observed, I would imagine that the spring show of bloom will be magnificent.

Rhododendron as far as the eye can see



Rhododendrons as high as an elephant’s eye



Fallingwater photos by N.Yarmoshuk © 2013

Clearly, this specie of rhododendron does very well in the deep shade of this forest. The plants are not leggy, they are green, do not appear to be chloritic, and for sure, nobody fertilizes them each spring. Another observation that may be worth noting is that they are growing on limestone. Rhododendrons required a lightly acid soil in the 5-6 pH range. It seems that the natural decomposition of the organic material from trees and whatever nitrogen comes in solution with the water is sufficient to provide all the nutrients they need.

Limestone open rock face where rhodos grow.



A final observation worth sharing is how shallow is the soil in which the root ball is positioned.

Rhodos growing in soil less than 12 inches deep on top of limestone.



Conclusion

In the wild, rhododendrons are happy with excellent drainage, are not fertilized, grow in shallow soil, and are tolerant of limestone. This specie grows well in deep shade, while other species, in high mountain area grow in full sun with ample daytime humidity.

Program Dates for 2014

We have finalized our dates for the winter and spring program but have yet to confirm speakers for the February and March meetings. Members will be notified as soon as speakers have been confirmed.

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are scheduled for Rittenhouse Hall at the Vineland Research & Innovation Centre, Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station. Just north of Exit 57 (Victoria Avenue exit) on the QEW.

February 2, 2014, Sunday 2 P.M. - Speaker TBA

March 2, 2014 Sunday, 2 P.M. - Speaker TBA

April 5, 2014 Sunday 2 P.M. - Annual presentation of cultivars to be available at the General Plant Sale and for P4M distribution. Discussion of planting and growing techniques.

April 17, 2014 - Deadline for placing "members only pre-order" advance sales.

April 26, 2014. Saturday 9 A.M. - Annual General Plant Sale.

May 2014 - Garden Tour and P4M plant distribution. Date and Venue TBA.

Wildlife in the Garden

Recently, the Rhododendron Chat Line had extensive discussion of the ravages that racoons can visit on lawns. These beasts, which are well known to both urban and rural gardeners, apparently consider grubs as gourmet treats. When grubs become established on a lawn, neighbourhood racoons will quickly sense their presence and may well leave a lawn appearing to have been roto-tilled overnight. This apparently is a well-known problem throughout eastern North America as comments were made by rhododendron growers from Cape Breton in the north to south of Long island, New York. Solutions to this problem were not offered, but one grower provided a beautiful photo of a young family. *Copywrite 2006 Patricia Poor.*

