



# "Niagara Rhodo"

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



April 7, 2015

**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. March 8, 2015: Riverwood a teaching conservancy
2. Business Meeting Summary
3. Program for April 19, 2015
4. Membership matters
5. Plant Sale Photographs
6. Plant sale pre-order form

## 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*

## **1. March 8, 2015: Riverwood: A Teaching Conservancy** by Angela Calixto. Photos by Douglas Markoff

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, our group had an opportunity to learn about The Riverwood Conservancy (TRC). Douglas Markoff, its Executive Director and certainly one of the driving forces in the development of this unique place, combined his very visual presentation with work-related and personal anecdotes.

The Riverwood Conservancy is a volunteer and member-based charity that provides community programs in environmental education, natural areas stewardship, gardening, and volunteerism. All of these are appropriately done in a natural setting, a 150-acre property jointly owned by the City of Mississauga and the Credit Valley Conservation.

Riverwood is aptly defined as "the lungs of Mississauga, a living laboratory, a significant carbon sink, and a hidden gem in the heart of the city." It preserves a rich geological history, and it has a fossil record that dates back to some 415 million years ago. Credit River runs through Riverwood.

The initial purpose for the place upon land assembly and during its early stages was for it to become a botanical garden. However, in 2005, a shift from this focus occurred. It started to become less of a botanical garden and more of a garden park. To

accomplish this, several things had to happen both to the grounds and to the heritage buildings that came with the land. The McEwan Barn had to be renewed. This now still sports the original sturdy hand-hewn beams. Using and preserving only its façade, the McEwan farm house built in the 1850s had to be transformed into its current uses as a TRC classroom and an art studio for Visual Arts Mississauga. Walkways and trail systems had to be built, and finally, a main entrance along Burnhamthorpe Road had to be relocated and properly identified.

Another heritage building, the Chappell House built in 1919 in the Arts and Crafts architectural style, now serves as TRC official home. Current gardens surrounding this House are planted and maintained by volunteers in a style to complement the House.

Several educational and environmental programs and workshops have been developed mostly for children and youth, and all are very experiential, science-related, and hands-on. They also promote an understanding of Riverwood as a natural heritage area that needs to be restored and protected. These programs are being delivered at no cost to the participants, except for those activities that require materials. Costs are absorbed by the many sponsors who share the visions of TRC. One example program

is an award-winning teaching garden for the physically and developmentally challenged.

Douglas attributes TRC's success to an unbeatable combination of collaborations, partnerships, and volunteers. Currently, approximately 20,000 guests annually participate in TRC programs. In 2014, volunteers contributed over 22,000 hours.

Worth mentioning to our members is the donation of 12 fully mature rhododendrons by Steven and

Kristina Holinski, who are members of TRC. In partnership with the City of Mississauga, volunteers moved these plants into a section of Riverwood. TRC is also working with one of our Board Members, Christina Woodward, and the Master Gardeners of Mississauga to see if more rhodos can be added.

The presentation was well received by 43 members who opted to resist the "balmy" conditions outside on that Sunday afternoon.

## Images from the meeting



**Leading the young**



**Volunteers at work**



**More than Rhododendron**



**New Rhododendron**



**Wild Animals**



**Moving rhododendrons**



**Planting rhododendron**



**Spring fish run**



**Owl**



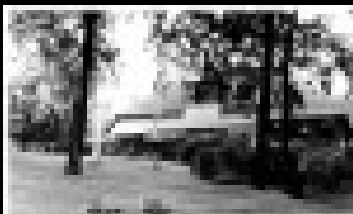
**Magnolia at HQ**



**Humming Bird**



**Almost ready for filling**



**Chappel House**



**Bird House**



**MacEwen House**



**A teaching moment**



## Business Meeting

### REVENUE & EXPENDITURES 2014

REVENUE		2014
Raffle		\$506
Memberships		\$2,303
Plant Sales		\$4,585
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$7,394</b>
EXPENDITURES		2014
ARS Membership		\$1,468
Bank fees		\$59
General Plant Sale		\$2,723
SERVICE Expenses		\$4,639
Speakers' Travel & Accommodation	\$2,263	
Speaker' honouraria	\$555	
Newsletters	\$141	
Website	\$420	
RSF Membership & Donation	\$200	
P4M Purchases and Brueckner Propagation	\$1,059	
Refunds - Plant Sale		\$546
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$9,436</b>
<b>2014 P/L</b>		<b>-\$2,043</b>

### Board of Directors

The following members were acclaimed to the Board of Directors of the Niagara Region Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Canada, District 12, American Rhododendron Society:

Angela Calixto, Wendy Fletcher, Kevin Kavanagh, Lillie Haworth, Sondra Meis, Peter Phelps, Christina Woodward, Nicholas Yarmoshuk. Sondra Meis remains as President.

### Assets as of December 31, 2014

ASSETS	
Cash in Bank	\$7,104
Brueckner Project Inventory (At cost)	\$500
P4M Inventory (At Cost)	\$350
Books	\$100
Projector (Depreciated after 4 years)	\$500
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$8,554</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$700</b>
Plants in Propagation at Van Veen Nursery	

2. Program for April 19, 2015. 2 P.M. Vineland Research & Innovation Centre, Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station. Just North of exit, toward the Lake.

## Sunday, 2 P.M. April 19, 2015 . . . . A 2 Part Program

### PART 1: John Brett, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Experiences with the Brueckner Hybrids in coastal Yarmouth County, and at other Nova Scotia locations.



### PART 2: What's in the Annual Plant Sale

A detailed discussion of strengths, weaknesses, suitability and characteristics of plants to be offered At the General Plant Sale on April 25, 2015.

Presented by Nick Yarmoshuk & Kevin Kavanagh.





## Part 1: John Brett, Halifax, Nova Scotia

### The Brueckner Hybrids: A Review from Nova Scotia's "Deep South"

Back in the early 2000's, a collaboration between the Brueckner family, and members of the ARS Niagara and ARS Atlantic chapters, created an opportunity to plant out a collection of Joe Brueckner rhododendron hybrids in Atlantic Canada. Rooted cuttings were distributed to a number of enthusiastic growers in Nova Scotia. The most extensive collection went to Peter and John Brett's coastal garden in Yarmouth County, the extreme southwest corner of the province.

Twelve years on, John Brett will be reviewing the Brueckner collection's progress to date, focusing mainly on the Yarmouth County plantings, but also including observations and photos from other Nova Scotia collections started from the same group of original cuttings. John's talk will include up to date photographs of the plants, and observations on their suitability for Maritime Canada. John will also talk about the unique growing conditions to be found in the extreme south western coastal areas of Nova Scotia, and he will be showing photos of some of the spectacular rhododendrons that thrive in this cool, foggy, zone 7 environment.



(MarsXBrachycarpum 'tigerstedtii') X Goldfort  
(Goldsworth's Yellow X Fortunei ssp Fortuneii)

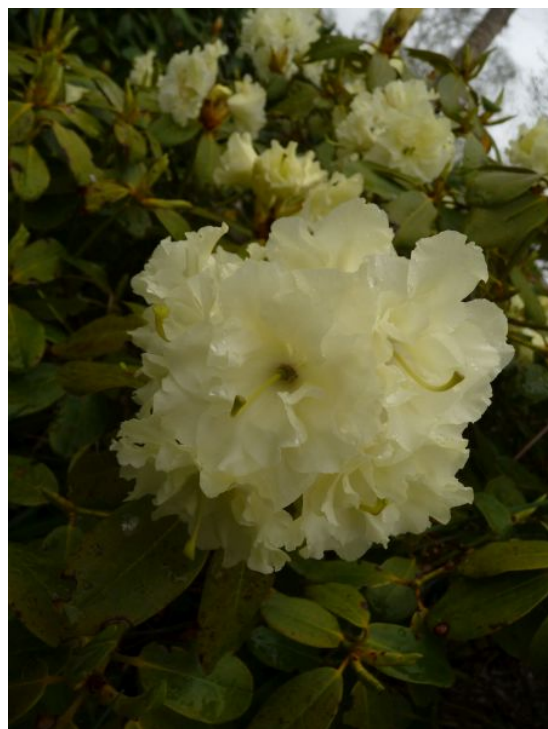
Catawbiense compactum X Treasure (Forestii ssp forestii repens group X Williamsianum)







Brachycarpum 'Tigerstedtii' X Williamsianum



Parentage unknown<sup>1</sup>



**John Brett** is a long-time member of the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society, ARS district 12, Atlantic Chapter. He speaks frequently on a variety of topics related to rhododendrons, garden construction and design. He also operates Morris Island Nursery, specializing in the sale of estate-sized ball & burlap rhododendrons, and continues to develop two display gardens in Nova Scotia, one in Halifax and the other in coastal Yarmouth County. As well, he is the founder of Tideview Vintage Cider and has a keen interest in developing heirloom cider apple orchards for premium hard cider production.

<sup>1</sup> Parentage unknown. John Brett suggests affinity with nikkomontanum/chrysanthum/catawbiense crosses



## Part 2: The Annual Plant Sale: About what's Available, Prices & Pre-Orders

The annual sale will again be held at the Vineland Innovation and Research Centre, on Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station, starting at 9 A.M. The centre is just off the QEW at the Victoria Avenue exit 57.

Pre-orders should be sent to Lillie Haworth as shown on the accompanying preorder form. Pre-orders will be accepted at the meeting on Sunday, April 19. If you mail pre-orders please mail them as soon as possible.

**Membership matters: Pre-orders are available to any member in good standing on April 19, 2015.**

Pre-orders will be available for pick up at 9 A.M. on the morning of the sale. Please try to pick up your order before 10:30 A.M.

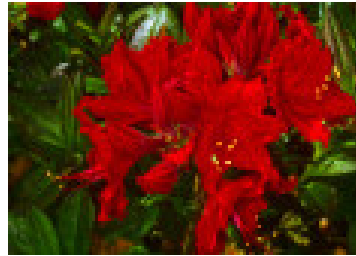
### Deciduous Azaleas



Baltic Amber



Candy Lights



Wallowa Red



Weston's Popsicle

### Evergreen Azaleas



Pleasant White



Rosebud



Bollywood



Girard's Hot Shot



Girard's Rose



Karen

### **Lepidotes – Small Leaf Rhododendrons**



Blue Baron



Blue Baron



Cornell Pink





Karin Seleger



Landmark



Midnight Ruby



Midnight Ruby Fall Colour



Patty Bee



Patty Bee Foliage

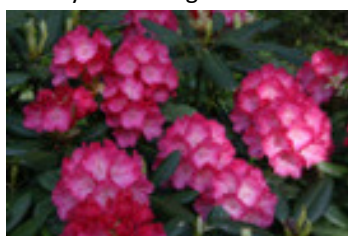


PJM Elite



Sugar Puff

## Elepidotes – Large Leaf Rhododendron



Fantastica



Blue Peter



Dreamland



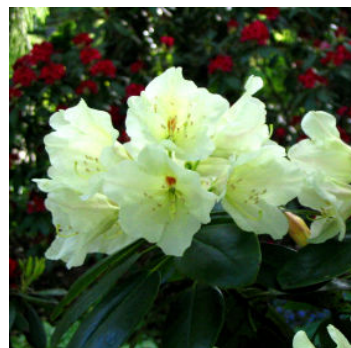
Florence Parks



Holden's Solar Flair



Holden's Spring Herald



Hong Kong



Lemon Dream



Lisetta



maximum "Red"



maximum "Red" variegated  
leaves



New Century



Pearce's American Beauty



Percy Wiseman



Percy Wiseman (Plant & Buds)

Elepidotes – Large Leaf Rhododendrons (continued). . . . .





Polarnacht



Rimini "



Dreamland

## Woody Companion Plants



Forsythia "Show off Starlet"



Hydrangea - quercifolia "Ruby slippers"



Hydrangea- quercifolia "munchkin"



Hydrangea- serrata "Tiny Tuff Stuff"



Pieris "Scarlett O'Hara"



Pieris "Mountain Fire"



Pieris "Little Heath"



Pieris "Kerenoma"

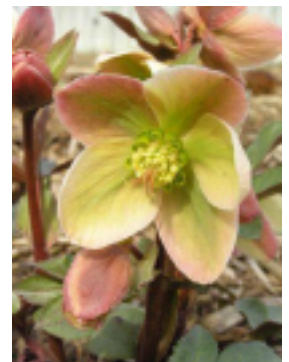


Umbrella Pine – Sciadopitys Verticulata



Umbrella Pine – Sciadopitys Verticulata

## Perennials



Helleborus "Ivory Prince"



Helleborus "Rose Quartz"



Helleborus Sunshine Ruffles



Helleborus Peppermint Ice



Helleborus Midnight Ruffles





Phlox subulata "Emerald Pink"

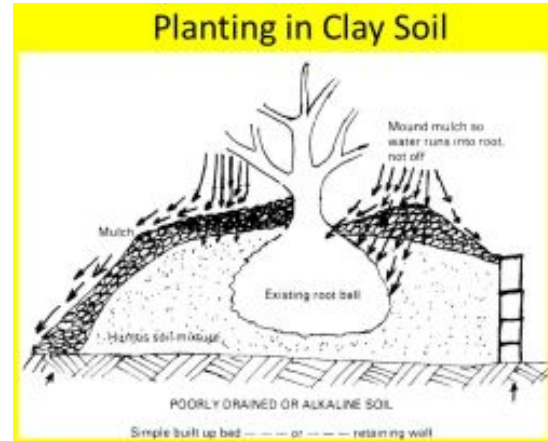
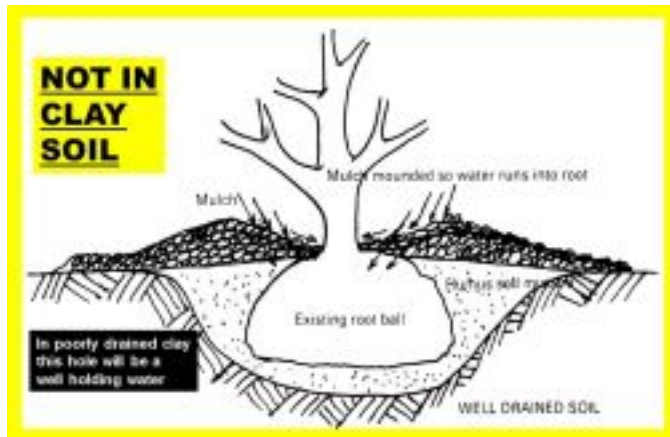


Phlox subulata "Emerald Blue"



Tricyrtis Gilt edge

## Planting a Rhododendron



## On the toxicity of Aluminum Sulphate

**Do not use Aluminum Sulfate:** If you google "aluminum sulfate rhododendron azalea" you will find some extension agents in the United States still recommending aluminum sulfate while most are warning against using it. It is sad that such bad advice is still being given.

Aluminum ions under very acid conditions are very toxic to all of the rhododendron genus.

Never use aluminum sulfate for making the planting medium more acid. Thousands of azaleas and rhododendrons are killed each year by the addition of aluminum sulfate to planting mediums.

Aluminum is not considered to be an essential element for plant growth. In fact, for most plants, high levels of available soil aluminum are toxic causing stunting of root growth and eventual death if soil aluminum is high enough. Usually the soil pH has to be less than 4.5 for this to happen. Rhododendrons and azaleas are more vulnerable than many other plants.

Although aluminum sulfate often is recommended to gardeners for increasing the acidity of the soil, it has a toxic salt effect on the roots of plants if it is used in large amounts. Small amounts do not cause much of an effect. About 7 lb. of aluminum sulfate are required to accomplish the same effects as one lb. of sulfur.

The one area where aluminum sulfate is recommended is in making blue hydrangeas blue. The chemistry of hydrangeas is such that not only acidity is necessary, but also aluminum ions are also necessary to make the flowers blue due to the aluminum binding with the anthocyanin. Hence, blue hydrangeas shouldn't share the same beds with rhododendrons and azaleas. Very heavy application of aluminum sulfate can be toxic even to hydrangea.

I am sure that part of the reason for the bad advice is that aluminum sulfate is very quick in modifying the soil pH. Sulfur is very slow, but is much more effective eventually.

In the Niagara area Sulphur pellets are available from Vineland Growers CO-OP at 4150 Jordan Road, , Jordan Station ON, L0R 1S0

Abstracted from: <http://rhodyman.net/rhodynho.php>





# "Niagara" 2015 Annual Plant Sale

## Members' Pre-Order form

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Postal Code .....

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

\* These prices per plant apply to Memberships paid on or before April 19, 2015

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

Details at: [http://www.rhodoniagara.org/2015\\_sale/Plant\\_descriptions\\_2015\\_Annual\\_Sale.pdf](http://www.rhodoniagara.org/2015_sale/Plant_descriptions_2015_Annual_Sale.pdf)

Plant	Members' Price	Qty.	Plant	Qty.
<b>EVERGREEN AZALEAS</b>			Hong Kong	\$25.00
Bollywood	\$22.00		Lemon Dream	\$25.00
Girard's Hot Shot	\$22.00		Lisetta	\$25.00
Girard's Rose	\$22.00		Maximum Red Form	\$25.00
Karen	\$22.00		New Century	\$25.00
Rosebud (Pink)	\$22.00		Pearce's American Beauty	\$25.00
<b>DECIDUOUS AZALEAS</b>			Percy Wiseman	\$25.00
Baltic Amber	\$22.00		Polarnacht	\$25.00
Candy Lights	\$22.00		Rimini	\$25.00
Wallowa Red	\$22.00		<b>WOODY COMPANIONS &amp; PERRENTIALS</b>	
Weston's Popsicle	\$22.00		Helleborus Ivory prince	\$17.00
<b>SMALL LEAF RHODOS</b>			Helleborus Midnight Ruffles	\$17.00
Blue Baron (3 Gallon)	\$30.00		Helleborus Peppermint Ice	\$17.00
Cornell Pink (3 Gallon)	\$30.00		Helleborus Rose Quartz	\$17.00
Karin Seleger	\$24.00		Helleborus Sunshine Ruffles	\$17.00
Landmark	\$24.00		Pieris japonica Little Heath	\$24.00
Midnight Ruby (3 Gallon)	\$30.00		Pieris Mountain Fire	\$24.00
Patty Bee	\$24.00		Pieris Scarlet O'Hara	\$24.00
PJM Elite	\$24.00		Pieris Karenoma	\$24.00
Sugar Puff	\$24.00		Phlox Emerald Blue	\$9.00
<b>LARGE LEAF RHODOS</b>			Phlox Emerald Pink	\$9.00
Blue Peter	\$25.00		Hydrangea quericolia Munchkin	\$24.00
Florence Parks	\$25.00		Hydrangea quericolia Ruby Slip	\$24.00
Dreamland	\$25.00		Hydrangea quericolia Tiny Tuff	\$24.00
Fantastica	\$25.00		Sciadopitys - Umbrella Pine	\$30.00
Holden's Solar Flair	\$25.00		Tricyrtis formosana Gilt Edge	\$9.00
Holden's Spring Herald	\$25.00			

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

\* **Pre - Orders close April 19, 2015**

\* **Pickup** between 9am and 11 am at the Plant Sale, Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>,  
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](mailto:ljhaworth@sympatico.ca) or **Call:** 905-945-2433