



# "Niagara Rhodo"

Newsletter of the Niagara Chapter,  
Rhododendron Society of Canada,  
District 12, American Rhododendron Society  
July 2016



**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. Special event announcement. July 17, 2016.
2. What where, when, what to bring.
3. Photos of holdings.
4. Location, maps and directions.
5. Contact information.

## 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*

## Pot Luck Picnic & Plant Opportunities

### South Coast Gardens, St. Williams Ontario

1634 Front Road RR#2 St. Williams, ON N0E 1P0

Sunday, July 17, 2016

1 PM - 5 PM

## Location

For the first time in over a decade, the Niagara Chapter is inviting members to a summer picnic to be held on Sunday afternoon, July 17. The venue for this event is South Coast Gardens. Located

along central Lake Erie in the heart of Ontario's Carolinian Forest Region, South Coast Gardens contains a large selection of unusual trees, shrubs and perennials. Some of the plant material in the display gardens will be considered by some gardeners as more typical of the southeastern United States. Several are proving to be acceptably hardy at South Coast Gardens (USDA zone 6a/6b) and at other locations around the southern Great Lakes. These include cold hardy cultivars of Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*),





Sweetgum (***Liquidambar styraciflua***), Bald Cypress ***Taxodium distichum***), Needle Palm (***Rhapidophyllum hystrix***), Alabama Snow-wreath (***Neviusia alabamensis***), Willow (***Quercus phellos***) and Laurel Oaks (***Quercus laurifolia***). Mixed in are nearly 150 species and varieties of [Rhododendrons and azaleas](#) and a diversity of [Magnolias](#). Also at South Coast Gardens are a diversity of plants native to Ontario and eastern North America along with frost-hardy sub-tropical plants that are ideal for outdoor container gardening from late April until early November.

The nursery hosts a sub-tropical greenhouse and garden beds where plant material is being grown to assess its cold hardiness and suitability to the climates of southern Ontario. Although some of gardens surrounding our home date to 2003, the first beds at the nursery were established in 2006 and have been expanding each year since then. Although the gardens are still young and many specimens are still in the process of getting firmly established, from the time the first Rhododendrons and Magnolias come into flower in late April until the Asters and Witch Hazel finish blooming in October, the gardens provide a myriad of colour and attract a wide assortment of butterflies and birds. Given that the owners are avid naturalists, as of April 2013, 225 species of birds have been seen from the property!

**The Picnic** is a pot-luck picnic where members are invited to bring salads and desserts, their own cutlery and plates and lawn chairs. Various BBQ meats and soft drinks will be provided by the Chapter.

The BBQ will be fired up to start serving cooked meats at 1 PM or as guests arrive. Directions to South Coast Gardens are provided on Page 5 of this Newsletter. Readers will note that it will require a little less than 2 hours to travel to South Coast gardens from most locations in Niagara or Toronto/Oakville. Accordingly, a flexible time table is planned for serving the cooked meats and for enjoying the pot-luck goodies.

It would facilitate planning if we could please have some indication of potential numbers at this event. Perhaps members could drop a short note to Christina Woodward indicating their potential interest in attending. [canadacaw@yahoo.ca](mailto:canadacaw@yahoo.ca)

**Plant Opportunities:** Members are aware that various Chapter committees have, for the last 4 years, been working on a number of projects designed to provide members with access to interesting rhododendrons and azaleas: **(1)** The Brueckner Hybrid Evaluations, **(2)** The Holly Spring Azaleas, **(3)** The Finland Rhododendrons, and **(4)** The P4M plants. Most of these plants are now ready for distribution, particularly the Holly Spring Azaleas and the Brueckner Hybrids. Christina Woodward's description of the status of the of the Brueckner Evaluation Project follows.

**The Brueckner Test Project** continues to make good progress. The rooted cuttings of Dr. Brueckner's rhododendron hybrids currently receiving room and board at Kevin Kavanagh's South Coast Gardens are about ready for distribution. We can anticipate the distribution of test plants selected for our institutional partners to take place as planned in early August.

**As well, there will be a good number of plants available for Chapter members.** More than 125 Brueckner hybrids will be ready for distribution in mid-July, coinciding with a BBQ lunch for chapter members at South Coast Gardens on Sunday, July 17th, when they can be picked up. The plants are robust and a much broader selection of hybrids is available than for the first phase of the project 4 years ago. Distribution will be on a first come basis. Cost hovers around \$10.00 per plant.



If you would like to participate in this project and receive a number of plants to test in your garden over the next 3 years, please let us know your interest. Participation consists of monitoring your plant(s)' progress and recording your observations on the evaluation protocols sheet that will be provided. Additional information, support, and answers to your questions will follow. Plants will also be available for pick-up at other chapter events later this summer and can be reserved in advance if you can't make the BBQ in July.

Please respond to Christina Woodward ([canadacaw@yahoo.ca](mailto:canadacaw@yahoo.ca)) if you have questions or if you would like to sign up for this Phase Two of the Test Project.

In addition to the Brueckner plants, the Holly Spring azaleas and many P4Ms will be ready for distribution. A final determination will be made close to the day of the Picnic whether or not the Finnish hybrids will be ready. Samples of the colours available are show on page 4.





Holly Spring Azaleas (above)  
Brueckner Hybrids (below)



## 2016 P4M Plant Program



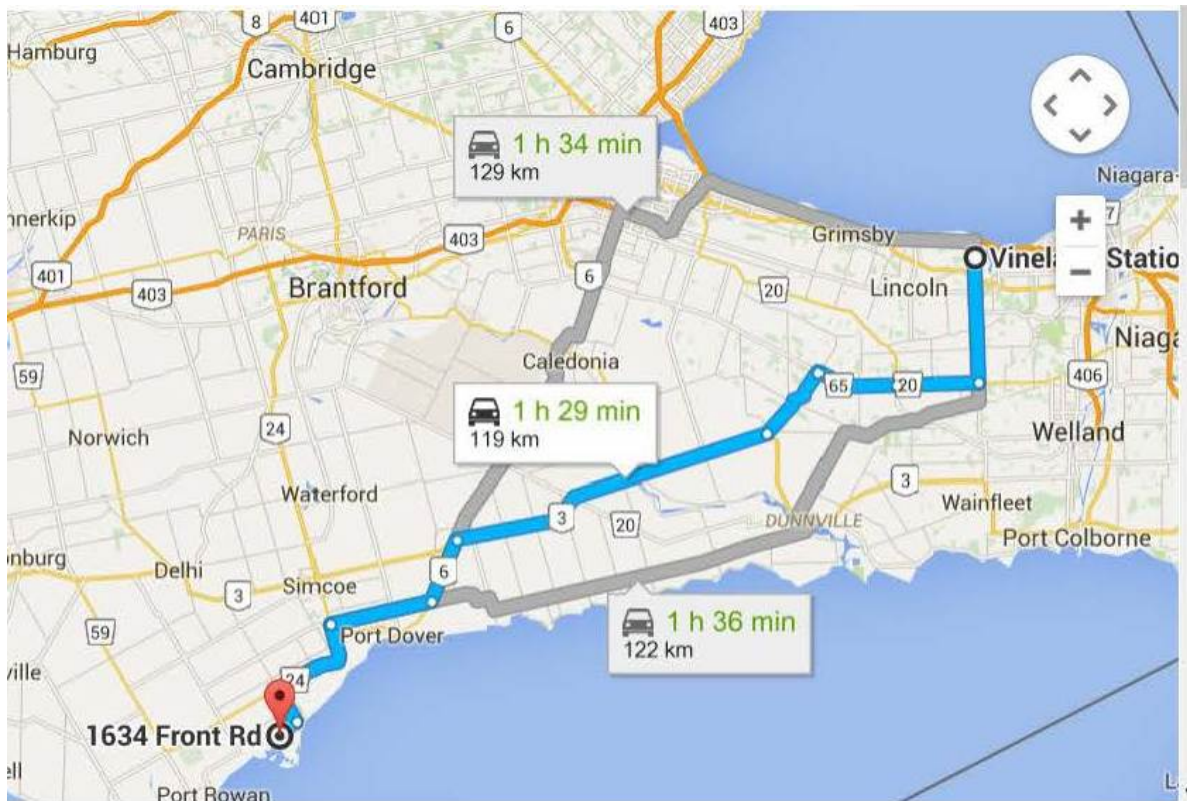
Hybrids From Finland – Kristian Theqvist (above)  
Good Doers P4Ms from Niagara (below)



### Please Note:

- Some GPS systems are unreliable for the area around St. Williams. For example, my system is unaware of 1634 Front Street.
- Recently mosquitoes have been a trial especially in the late evening. But not too serious during the bright afternoon. Bug spray might be helpful to those who are sensitive to insect bites.

## Directions to South Coast Gardens from Vineland Ontario



### From Oakville (1 hr 20 minutes)

- Take QEW to Highway 403 west through Brantford.
- Hwy 24 SOUTH (exit is just west of Brantford) to Simcoe where it turns into Regional Highway #24 (Norfolk Street through the town of Simcoe).
- Continue on #24 through Simcoe to Regional Road #10 (Turkey Point Road).
- Left on Hwy 10 to Turkey Point Road.
- Right on Turkey Point Road to 1634 Front Road (about 2 kms)
- Nursery on Right Hand Side Just past the Winery.

### From Niagara (1 hr 45 minutes)

- Go to Hwy 20 at Fonthill.
- In Fonthill pick up Hwy 63 (also known as Canboro Road) to Canborough & Talbot Rd 3
- Right on Talbot Rd 3 to Jarvis Hwy 6;
- Left on Hwy 6
- Hwy 6 to Hwy 24.
- Left on Hwy 24 to Hwy 10
- Left on Hwy 10 to Turkey Point Road.
- Right on Turkey Point Road to 1634 Front Road (about 2 kms)
- Nursery on Right Hand Side Just past the Winery.

**Telephone Numbers:** South Coast Gardens 647-408-9361  
 Nick Yarmoshuk 289-241-8275

**Happy Travels on Sunday, July 17.**