



Niagara Rhodo



*Newsletter of the Niagara Chapter, Rhododendron Society of **Eastern** Canada*
District 12, American Rhododendron Society
Our website: www.rhodoniagara.org

September, 2020 Edition

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.

Update to the Society's Name

Recently Niagara Region and Atlantic Region discussed and agreed to modify the tag name *Rhododendron Society of Canada* to read as *Rhododendron Society of Eastern Canada*. The modified name better defines us as distinct from Western Canada. The ARS Board is informed of this change and reckons it makes perfect sense. Below: Niagara Chapter website, updated.



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Mark your calendars - November 8th Speaker:
Connor Ryan, Rhododendron Collections Manager, Holden Arboretum.

A Message from the President

Greetings!

Autumn is a wonderful season for **Niagara Chapter** members to enjoy the Fall ambience, the fruits of our bountiful harvest, and an opportunity to experience our gardens as they evolve through the seasons...



Niagara Chapter has been blessed with a Board of Directors who have a history of developing good strategies and effective implementation of new initiatives which have contributed to a strong Treasury, an interesting program of speakers, and new plant offerings. All our activities contribute to membership enrichment and social fellowship, and are continuing apace.

Our challenge going forward is to learn how to conduct successful virtual meetings. Yes, we will miss the socializing, and the refreshments – Talk about being spoiled!! coffee, tea, and hand-wrought cookies, cakes ... We intend to keep you engaged in other ways. Stay tuned.

Remembering that we are all in this together, every effort will be taken to assist and facilitate YOUR participation in our virtual events (a.k.a. ZOOM). We'll be joining many ARS Chapters and other societies which have successfully experimented for the same purpose. As we learn to adapt to this new environment, we are sure to find added benefits.

At this time we are excited to be offering our first virtual meeting on November 8th, featuring Connor Ryan, Rhododendron Collections Manager, Holden Arboretum. The presentation will be live and available later as a video. More later.

Our 2021 annual plant sale will take place, and will include rhododendrons propagated from cuttings taken from member gardens, most unavailable elsewhere. New events and projects are under discussion. Your own suggestions are welcome!

In closing, I'd like to share a portion of a message from Bill Meyers, current ARS Eastern Vice President (upon Steve Krebs' retirement). We can learn from what other Chapters are doing.

"Many Chapters are having excellent success having virtual meetings, garden tours, how-to sessions, photo contests, and guest speaker meetings. Several, including my Mason-Dixon Chapter, have had virtual Truss Shows. A number have increased the frequency of their newsletter publications, and have also increased the number of pages and color content of them. Many Chapters have upgraded, or are upgrading their websites, all in an effort to offer at least as much benefit for members as they had previously and in many cases, even more. Some Chapters have formed phone teams to stay in contact with their members, particularly with older members. The ARS Journal is, of course, continuing publication quarterly so there are lots of benefits for both renewing members as well as substance to offer new members."

Stay safe, healthy,

Sondra Meis, President



ARS Gold Medal

Glen Jamieson

For 25 years you have immersed yourself in support of the American Rhododendron Society. Ten years ago you became editor of the Journal of the ARS, the premier periodical of rhododendron culture. Further, you have reached out to rhododendron societies world-wide with your personally initiated Rhododendrons International Journal, aiming for a cohesive and collaborative international association.

You are a regular speaker at ARS chapters and other horticultural groups on the genus, with emphasis on your favourite, the vireya sub-section. You have encouraged youth membership, have been personally involved in the

establishment of the recently created Greig Rhododendron Species Garden in Qualicum Beach, held by Vancouver Island University and maintained, in part, by horticultural students.

For recognition of your outstanding contributions, the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to present the Gold Medal to Dr. Glen Jamieson.

This medal was originally scheduled to be presented at the ARS 2020 Spring Convention in Portland, Oregon. With the cancellation due to the pandemic, Glen was surprised at a meeting of District 1 clubs in Milner Gardens in August.



ARS Silver Medal

Art and Susan Lightburn

Art and Susan Lightburn have been long- term members and supporters of the ARS and the genus rhododendron through hosting garden tours in their magnificent garden, presentations, club displays, and by serving on the executive of both NRS and MARS for many years. Susan's photography has enhanced not only our local newsletters, websites, and the ARS Journal, but in documents around the world where exceptional photography of rhododendrons are required. Art and Susan have been tremendous supporters of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Garden and Woodland in Qualicum Beach, B. C. including their gift of more than fifty mature species rhododendrons. Their generosity will help to educate and foster a love of rhododendrons for generations to come on Vancouver Island.

A New ARS Initiative

The image reproduced below from the ARS website is the “landing page” for a new ARS Program: **ARS - Next Gen**. This initiative was introduced by the Niagara Chapter and given Committee status by the ARS Board of Directors in late 2019. Its purpose is to attract and prepare the next generation of Rhododendron experts. In preparation for its launch at the 2020 Convention a number of in-person projects for the Program were well underway, only to be cancelled with the rest of the Convention. Since then we have designed the Program’s unique logo, prepared content for the web page with the assistance of Bob Weissman, ARS Webmaster, and we’re moving forward with innovative plans and virtual platforms. These plans will gradually populate our web page as we feature the Program’s projects, essential resources, and anticipated participation in ARS-NG.

You might note a familiar face in the photo. **Stephanie Jocius**, a Niagara Chapter member and recent graduate from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, is our “poster girl” as we introduce the ARS - NG program on our new web page. Thank you, Stephanie!

The Next Generation Program



A New Program of the ARS

Our Goal: Attract and prepare the Next Generation (Next Gen) of Rhododendron experts.

The Program's Target Group

- Early career individuals who work in a professional capacity with students and/or with plants.
- Students in post-secondary education programs in horticulture, biology, conservation or other related fields.

Making ARS resources more visible and accessible to students, young scientists and horticulturalists is a primary objective of the Next Generation program at both the ARS national and local chapter levels.

Next Gen Benefits:

- Networking opportunities
- Mentoring by experts
- Research opportunities
- Experiential learning
- Publishing opportunities
- Conservation knowledge
- Research funding
- Sponsorships
- References for jobs



Photo by Christina Woodward

ARS Resources & Expertise:

- International network of experts
- Mentorships
- Volunteer projects
- Plant culture & care knowledge
- Journal publications
- Test and display gardens
- Rhododendron Research Network
- Research funding
- Sponsorships

For more information contact Christina Woodward at canadacaw@yahoo.ca or Dr. Juliana Medeiros at jmedeiros@holdenarb.org

American Rhododendron Society



Notes from the [Rhododendron Research Network](#) Facebook Page

What is *Community-based science*? - It's all about writing it down!

People often view science as a difficult subject, the realm of experts who undergo years of training to learn the skills necessary to conduct research. In reality, science is a human endeavor, and the only real requirements to conduct scientific research are curiosity, determination, and a notebook.

The Brueckner Hybrids Test Project is a community-based science project, established by the Niagara Region Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Eastern Canada. The project seeks to determine the horticultural potential of over 100 hybrids created by the late Dr. Joseph Brueckner. This photo collage (by Juliana Medeiros) shows all of the white-flowered plants that are being evaluated.



Look closely at the collage; you will see that each hybrid has been given a unique number. It might be tempting to simply call these flowers "white", but each one has something different, something special about the nuance of the white flower. The numerical identifiers represent the critical first step, a most important thing which forms the heart of scientific discovery, writing it all down in an organized notebook. Then questions may be asked? Is the growth of each cultivar the same? Which are hardier than others? When does each one bloom? Is each equally floriferous? How much sunlight is required by each to produce great bloom? Which cultivar is most likely to be tolerant of phytphthora?

In the coming weeks the R-RN Facebook page will highlight more aspects of this Project. Visit the posts at <https://www.facebook.com/RhodoResearchNet/>

Juliana Medeiros, Plant Biologist, Holden Arboretum, and Co-Chair of the Rhododendron Research Network.

Reproduced and edited with permission from Dr. Medeiros



What Kind of Science?

‘Citizen science’ or ‘Community-based science’ or ... The concept has a history reaching back over many decades. Today, it’s widely recognized as a movement, contributing to any and all branches of scientific pursuit. However, the term “citizen science” has recently come under careful scrutiny. One way or another most of us have been exposed to the concept of lay participation in scientific endeavours involving all age groups. In many respects we broadly understand the meaning of the term, but lately semantics have taken charge and the term is under review.

Wikipedia is a reasonable entry to understanding the background to the concept. Its extensive and fairly comprehensive report on the subject begins with a simple statement:

Citizen science (CS; also known as community science, crowd science, crowd-sourced science, civic science, volunteer monitoring, or online citizen science) is scientific research conducted, in whole or in part, by amateur (or nonprofessional) scientists...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizen_science

Google offers reams of reading on the topic, if you have the patience and the interest. Perhaps just a smattering from these sources will enhance our understanding of the concept of “citizen science” and the reasons behind the shift to more socially appropriate terminology to define the concept. This shift appears to be more prominent in the USA than in Canada.

Following are four excerpts from online sources illustrative of their perceived need for the change.

The Audubon Society’s rationale:

The word citizen was originally included in the term citizen science to distinguish amateur data collectors from professional scientists, not to describe the citizenship status of these volunteer observers. Today, however, it is important for us to recognize that the term has become limiting to our work and partnerships in some contexts.

Audubon welcomes everyone who finds delight in birds and nature. As part of Audubon’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, we have transitioned from using the term “citizen science” to the more inclusive term “community science.” No matter where a volunteer was born, or how they came to the United States, we value their contribution to our science and conservation programs. Citizenship, or the perception that a volunteer may or may not be a citizen, certainly isn’t a prerequisite to caring for birds.

Furthermore, participation in volunteer data-collection initiatives like the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count are, at their best, communal experiences that bring us together as a caring community of people who are inspired by birds and want to protect them. The term community science better reflects these social and relational realities.

[Audubon Center at Debs Park, CA]

Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County statement

At the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County, we understand that words are important. They can communicate power, authority, inclusion, and exclusion. It is in this context that we have been examining the term "citizen science." Over the past few months, we have read comprehensive reports, talked with experts in the field, and listened to people in our local community. Based on what we have learned, we have elected to stop using the term "citizen science" at NHMLAC and begin using "community science" instead.

We are also changing the name of our program to the Community Science Program. Although "citizen" often means simply the resident of a place, it can also be defined as a person who is a legally recognized subject of a place. Because this latter definition has nothing to do with our program, and may potentially discourage the participation of some members of our community, we have decided to replace the word "citizen" in the title of our program with the more naturally inclusive word "community."

As a community-based program in a museum that is of, for, and with Los Angeles, it would be counterproductive and against the ethos of our work to risk excluding any person from collaborating on our projects or attending our events based on a misinterpretation of the program's name.

The NHMLAC Community Science Program will continue to do the same work that we did under our previous name, including crowdsourcing data for our museum scientists and organizing "projects in which volunteers partner with scientists to answer real-world questions." (We will continue to use this definition of Citizen Science by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to describe our work.) Although we will continue to retain membership in, collaborate with, and greatly appreciate the work of many national and international organizations that use the term "citizen science," we are not alone in making this name transition to "community science."

As science professionals, we are aware that technology and the world of crowdsourcing data are rapidly evolving. The ability to mobilize large numbers of people to make observations over a broad geographic area, or to engage our community to intimately monitor small areas over time, can enable us to answer complicated scientific questions like never before. In order to accurately and effectively gather data in our urban research areas, it is imperative that we make participation in our projects as accessible as possible to all people.

excerpt from Darwin's Ark

First and foremost, Darwin's Ark is committed to the concept of open science. The term may sound vague, but it's a fairly simple guiding principle. Open science simply is an approach to science in which all the products are released into the public domain so that any researcher can collaborate and contribute. This means that data, methods, processes and outputs are made freely available to the public, under terms that enable reuse, redistribution, reproduction and expansion of the research. The whole idea is that human knowledge is built on top of each other; thus, knowledge we acquire should be free and available to everyone. We believe science advances more quickly when all the available data is publicly accessible. This doesn't mean your personal data would be shared - we protect privacy by making the data anonymous or sharing the results in aggregate.

By extension, citizen science (also known as community science or crowd-sourced science) is the idea that anyone can contribute to science, not just those who are highly trained or hold PhDs in

the field of study. Lay(wo)men - adults, teens, even children - can record observations, explore results and learn by analysis. Citizen science operates under the principle that given common context, tools and frameworks, data collection and results analysis can be done by anyone, anywhere who has the same tools. Citizen science propels research advancements in a way that can not be otherwise achieved. You can learn more about citizen science by listening to [Ted Talk] “Citizen Science: Everybody Counts” by Caren Cooper.

<https://darwinsark.org/open-science-and-citizen-science-what-does-it-all-mean/>

from **Citizen Science: Theory and Practice** (Open Access journal)

In 2003, I completed my MSc project, entitled Space Exploration Advocacy in the 21st Century: The Case for Participatory Science. In it, I argued that contrary to popular belief, there was a lot of latent public interest in science in general and in space exploration in particular but that unfortunately, there was very little for enthusiasts to actually do to support their cause. Advocacy was mostly limited to donating money to a well-meaning society or association and writing letters to local government representatives.

I went on to argue that a far better approach to advocacy was to increase the number of ways someone could become involved and suggested the best method for doing this was something I dubbed ‘participatory science.’

Compilation by the Interim Editor

Have you made this Mistake?

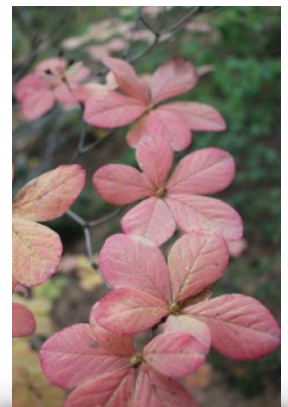


The word “specie” refers to
“money in the form of coins
rather than notes”.

When you talk of one Hibiscus
[or, rhododendron] species
it is ALWAYS “species”, NEVER “specie”.

This is the same for all plant and animal
species.

- **Harold Greer**



R. Schlippenbachii, Royal Azalea



This is the Readers' Page

Share your comments, suggestions, questions; your observations about your rhododendrons.

We love photographs. Let us post yours here.

Have a story to tell? We'll listen.

Contact: canadacaw@yahoo.ca

A shout-out to the students at Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. May you have a successful and fulfilling year, despite all the current hiccups and handicaps!

A 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 the most beautiful of all plants.

H. Edward Reiley