



# Niagara Rhodo



*Newsletter of the Niagara Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Eastern Canada*  
*District 12, American Rhododendron Society*  
*Our website: [www.rhodoniagara.org](http://www.rhodoniagara.org)*

## November 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.

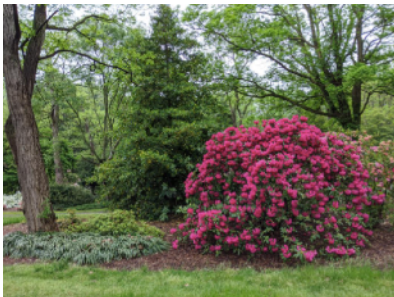
### ***In this Issue***

- |  |  |                                   |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. November Speaker                            |  | 5. Delightfully Blue, Liz Malicki |
| 2. Message from the President                  |  | 6. Rooting Dormant Cuttings       |
| 3. Membership Matters                          |  | 7. Notes from R-RN                |
| 4. FEATURE: Review article, Dixie Szasz-Taylor |  | 8. Readers' Page                  |

**Mark your Calenders - Sunday, November 8, 2020 @ 1:45 p.m. - via ZOOM**

### **Connor Ryan**

Rhododendron Collections Manager, Holden Forests and Gardens, Cleveland, Ohio



### ***80 Years of Rhododendrons at Holden Forests and Gardens***

2020 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Leach Rhododendron project of the Holden Arboretum. We will hear how the collection was shaped by powerhouse hybridizers, including David Leach and his successor Dr. Steve Krebs. "As I take the reins," Connor explains, "I have taken some time to reflect on our history and create a vision for what's next."

## **A Message from the President**

Greetings!

Welcome to the era of Zoom! Niagara Chapter members are a pretty resilient group so we will adapt quickly to this new technology which facilitates virtual meetings.

Although we are just embarking on this new way of conducting meetings, we are already seeing some fantastic opportunities to educate and entertain our membership, and to broaden our network within the ARS and to other associations /institutions. It is like accessing a new Discovery Channel on television at minimal cost. The increased connectivity will lead to new sources of plants and bonds of friendship.

So, tune in.....

At its recent meeting the ARS Board of Directors urged Chapters to share their presentations when feasible; many Chapters are scrambling to book speakers, and often it is for the same individuals. Please mark your calendars for the Chapter's schedule of events for the remainder of 2020:

**November 8th** - Live launch of NRC ZOOM program: Connor Ryan, Rhododendron Collections Manager at Holden Arboretum, will share highlights of the evolution of the Arboretum as it celebrates its 50th anniversary and the vision he has for its future. Instructions and the link to the ZOOM program will be available ahead of the date.

**November 18th** (a Wednesday) - hot on the heels of the previous program, but one not to miss. Steve Hootman, Executive Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation & Botanical Garden, will share his most recent (2020) plant hunting expedition to Vietnam.

**December 6th** - Glen Jamieson, JARS, will present a video of his 2005 trip to Yunnan, China. Stunning photos of the vegetation, notably rhodies, and the people and customs of the region, very different after 15 years of tourist activity!

You will also have noticed that we have more frequent publications of Niagara Rhodo. Please consider the Readers' Page where you can contribute to the content.

We hope these efforts are helping to keep you informed, entertained, and in touch. Please consider that by renewing, or taking out new, membership in the ARS, many of our Chapter programs are supported.

Continue to stay safe and in good health,

**Sondra Meis, President**

~~~~~

## ***Membership 2020 Matters - Renewals are Due Now***

### **Local Membership (\$5) entitles members to:**

- Speakers with international reputations
- Newsletters/notices sent by email
- P4M's (Plants for Members) available only to members. These are specially acquired plants available to members at or near cost
- Pre-ordering for the Annual Plant Sale
- Participation in Research Projects such as evaluation of the Brueckner hybrids
- Regular meetings with speakers, plant raffles and socializing over refreshments
- Garden Tours—open only to members
- Access to ARS virtual programs

***Please consider supporting continuation of these programs by taking out ARS membership***

### **International Membership (\$40 for up to two names per household) entitles members to:**

- All benefits of Local membership
- Full membership in the American Rhododendron Society
- Print and digital access to the quarterly ARS Journal - *don't miss the early issues, renew now*
- Access to special plant acquisitions made by the Niagara Chapter for ARS members
- Free entrance to Species Foundation Gardens in Seattle, Washington
- Priority access to the ARS seed exchange
- Access to ARS virtual programs

**For new or renewal of either membership, please send your cheque or eTransfer to our Director of Membership:**

Lil Haworth

4 Deer Park Crt.

Grimsby ON L3M 2R2

Email: [ljhaworth@sympatico.ca](mailto:ljhaworth@sympatico.ca)

Please make cheques payable to ARS Niagara.

# ***Ancient Origin of World's Richest Temperate Alpine Flora in Southwest China***

## **Introduction**

Providing fresh insights into the complexities of environmental change and the evolution of modern terrestrial ecosystems, in particular species-rich alpine biomes, readers should enjoy this recent excellent paper by Ding et al, July 31, 2020, in **Science** magazine. The story begins with years of multidisciplinary research by teams of U.S and Chinese scientists and culminates in the discovery of the oldest, most species-rich temperate alpine flora in the Tibet-Himalaya-Hengduan Mountains (THH) region, namely the alpine flora of the Hengduan Mountains. On the east margin of the THH,

the Hengduan range is exceptionally diverse with an estimated 3030 species of alpine seed plants, including a remarkable distribution of 280 *Rhododendron* species, representing 49.04% of the total found in China (Yu et al, 2020). The Hengduan Mountains have also been compared in area and richness to the Paramos in the tropical Andes.

How did this come about? Evolution of high alpine floras is strongly influenced



Showy alpine Rhododendron in Hengduan Mountains. (Stokstad, 2020 ).

by tectonic and climatic history, and more than ever mountains are recognized as the cradles of plant origination and of terrestrial biodiversity. But understanding how and when these alpine communities evolved and adapted to stressful environments while being especially sensitive to global warming and anthropogenic disturbances, remains a grave concern. As such, the Hengduan Mountain region is also considered one of the most vulnerable of all global biodiversity hotspots (Ding et al, 2020).

Ding et al document the timing, tempo and mode by which the world's most species-rich alpine flora in the THH region was assembled, and confirm that the temperate alpine flora of the Hengduan mountains is older than any other modern alpine system. This center of alpine plant diversity began when two continental plates, the north-drifting Indian tectonic plate and Asia collided about 50 million years ago, slowly pushing up the Himalaya, the Tibetan Plateau and the Hengduan Mountains. Plant DNA reveals that by 30 million years, ongoing mountain-building and associated climate change which continue to the present, had a major role in making the Hengduan Mountains the richest biodiversity hotspot on Earth today.



~~~~~

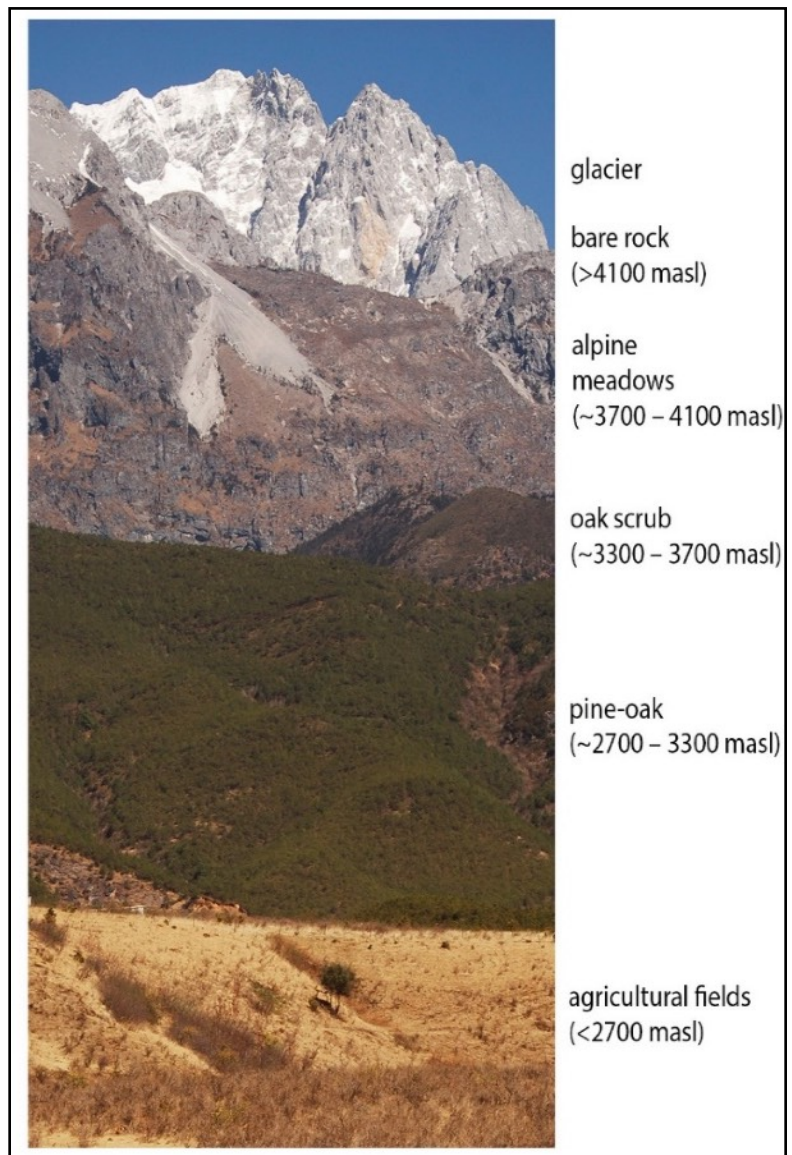
Consider the geology and biogeographic zones of the Hengduan Mountains: four major rivers, including the Mekong and the Yangtze pour off the massive Tibetan Plateau into a relatively small area at the eastern end of the Himalayas. Not surprising, this spectacular landscape of high, rugged mountains and some of the deepest gorges in the world has created not only the oldest, richest temperate alpine biodiversity on Earth, but also become a hotspot for ecotourism, partly due to showy alpine and non-alpine *Rhododendron* cloaking the slopes, and alpine meadows ablaze with wildflowers in summer.

Based on his field research on Mt. Yulong in the Hengduan Mountains (2012 to 2013), Robbie Hart, Ecologist and Ethnobotanist at the Missouri Botanic Gardens, observed that *Rhododendron* trees and shrubs bloom in ‘an elaborate sequenced progression’...in waves of intense colour on the slopes and in the alpine valleys and meadows. Most critical, however, ‘both flowering phenology and response to temperature directly impact reproductive success, making this progression vulnerable to future climate change’ (Hart Dissertation, 2015).

According to Richard Ree, evolutionary biologist at the Field Museum in Chicago, alpine meadows on the high slopes of the Hengduan peaks initially look like the majority of other alpine meadows such as in North America’s Rocky Mountains, ‘until you see 10 times more species’. *Rhododendrons*, *Primuloideae Delphineae*, *Saxifragraceae* and *Gentiana* are particularly abundant and diverse here. Ree and colleagues reveal that it is also much older, originating tens of millions of years before those of other mountains, which makes it the world’s oldest continuous alpine ecosystem (Ding et al, 2020).

Another important driver of evolution here was the intensification of the Asian summer monsoons from the mid-Miocene 15 million years ago, which facilitated not only the growth and survival of extant flora, but also caused major erosion and habitat fragmentation - thus separating and isolating plant populations that ultimately diversified into new species (Stokstad, 2020).

The diversity of Hengduan’s alpine flora also reflects its location on the east side of the THH region and its north-south orientation, thus protecting it from the intense glaciation that wiped out many ancient plant communities on other mountains.



**Mt. Yulong’s thermal zonation and vegetation by season and elevation, (Hart et al, 2018).**

As such the Hengduan mountains may have served as *refugia* for many plant species, as well as an escape route to warmer climate zones in the south, with seeds and pollen easily carried south by animals, wind or water.

Not surprising the complex history of the Tibetan-Himalayan-Hengduan orogeny, including the odd north-south orientation of the Hengduan range in contrast to the east-west orientation of the Himalaya and Tibetan Plateau, has long puzzled geologists. Until recently geologists believed that the Hengduan peaks which rise to 4500 metres, formed only 8 to 7 million years ago, but more recent studies, including new radiometric dating, support their formation 30 million years ago (Stokstad, 2020).

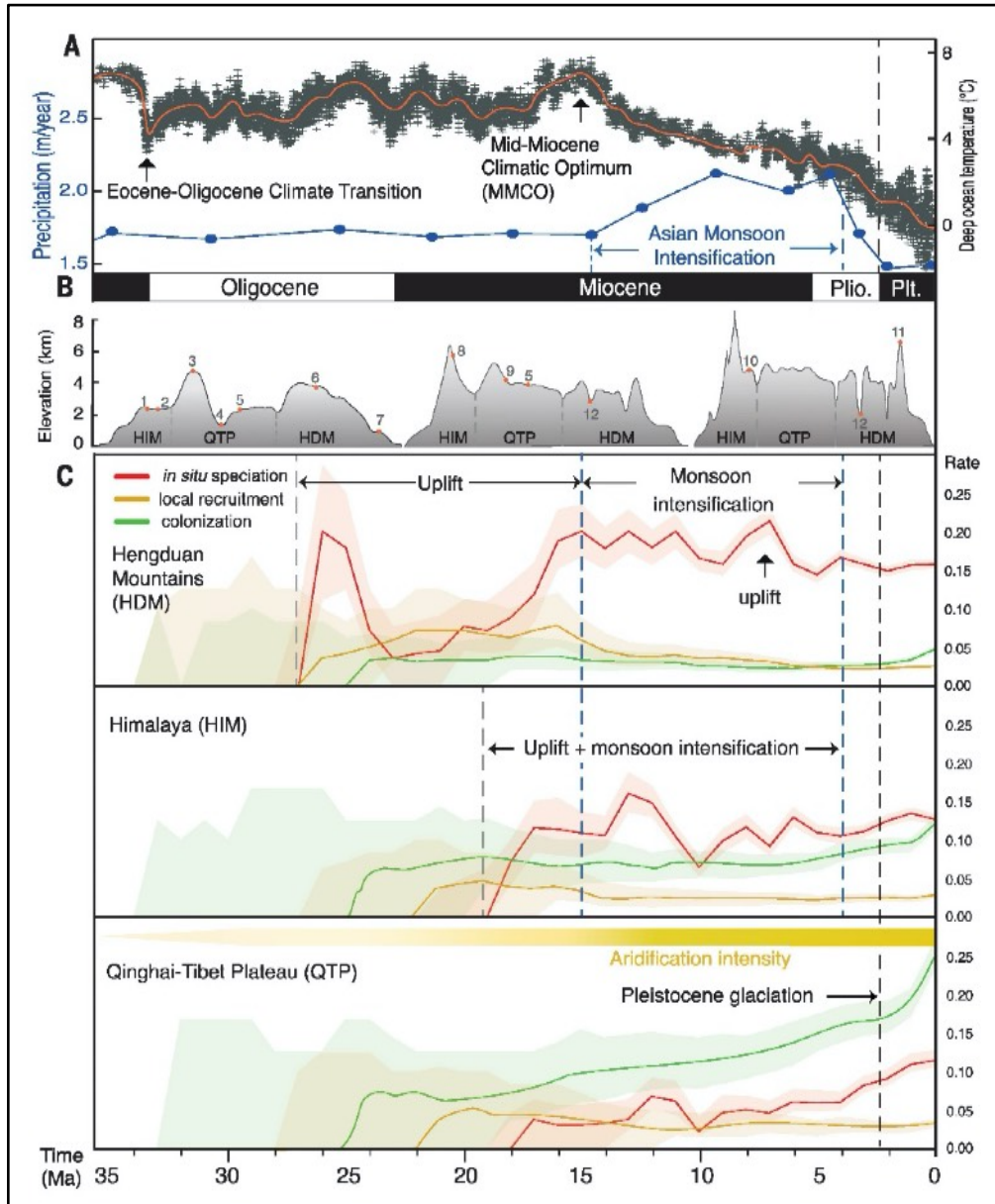
To find out whether the region's plant history also stretched back that far, Ree and PhD student Wen-Na Ding at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden in China used DNA sequences to create evolutionary trees for each of the 18 angiosperm plant groups found across the THH region. A total of 3,798 plant species were sampled, of which alpine species in the Hengduan mountains, the Himalaya and the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (QTP) numbered 587, 326 and 248 respectively (Ding et al, 2020). Plant fossils were also used to calculate when new species appeared as a link to key events in the region's geological history. The findings allowed them to estimate in-situ speciation rates, and how fast new species spread from one region to another (Stokstad, 2020).



**Topographic map of the Tibet-Himalaya-Hengduan (THH) region.** Inset images show representatives of the 18 clades of flowering plants that we analyzed (clockwise from top left: *Rheum*, *Leontopodium*, *Saussurea*, *Salix*, *Caryophyllaceae*, *Anaphalis*, *Gentiana*, *Saxifragaceae*, *Delphineae*, *Pedicularis*, *Allium*, *Rhododendron*, *Primuloideae*, *Rhodiola*, *Draba*, *Chesneya*, *Meconopsis*, and *Pleurispermum*). Pie charts show the proportions of sampled alpine species in a clade that occur in each area of the THH. Red circles denote sites from which data were contributed to estimate the paleoelevations and geological events of the THH (1. Kailas, 2. Qiabulin, 3. Linzhou, 4. Nima, 5. Lunpola, 6. Markam, 7. Lianchuan, 8. Everest, 9. Namling, 10. Zanda, 11. Gonggar, and 12. Yangtze River). The Himalaya is delimited by the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT) and the Yarlung-Tsangpo suture (YTS). The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau proper is bounded by the YTS to the south, the Karakorum to the west, the Altyn Tagh to the northwest, the Qilian Shan to the northeast and the Hengduan Mountains to the southeast. (Ding et al, 2020).



Even more remarkable, results showed that some of the plant groups in the Himalaya and Tibetan Plateau had originated in the Hengduan Mountains about 30 million years ago, far earlier than other alpine flora. Along with ongoing pulses in mountain building which continued from 27-24 million years in the Hengduan Mountains, and from 19-17 million years in the Himalayas, new plant species continued to evolve. Geologic evidence indicates that plant speciation accelerated again at 15 million years when the Asian summer monsoons intensified, and again around 7-8 million years in the Hengduan range when another phase of uplift coincided with increased topographic relief, habitat fragmentation, and separation of plant populations.



In contrast, the Tibetan Plateau shows major orogenic and climate differences from the Hengduan Mountains and the Himalaya. Whereas the latter experienced increasing topographic dissection and summer precipitation which led to higher rates of endemism and new plant species, the plateau has seen gradual aridification, extensive planation, and a strong Himalaya-induced rain shadow since the middle Miocene. The modern biota of the Tibetan Plateau therefore developed since 18 million years, and was driven by uplift -induced aridification and subsequent Quaternary climate change resulting in extremely dry, colder conditions less conducive to diverse alpine plant communities.

**Rates of biotic assembly in relation to climate and geological history in the Hengduan Mountains, Himalaya, and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (QTP).** (A). Evolution of global climate represented by deep-sea oxygen isotope records and estimated deep ocean temperature. Monsoon conditions are indicated by the modeled mean annual precipitation for each geologic stage, denoted by blue lines at idealized CO<sub>2</sub> levels. Plio, Pliocene; Plt., Pleistocene. (B) Schematic representation of the topography of the Himalaya (HIM), QTP, and Hengduan Mountains (HDM) in three phases, from the late Eocene to the present. Selected sites of reconstructed paleoelevation based on the latest evidence, are represented by red circles with numbers, as in previous Fig. (C) Rolling estimates of per capita rate through time in the Hengduan Mountains, Himalaya, and QTP. Solid lines indicate median values, shaded regions indicate 25 to 75% quantile intervals estimated from 1000 replicate simulations of joint biome-range evolution and diversification. The yellow colour gradient in bottom panel represents the intensity of aridification in QTP since the Paleogene. (Ding et al, 2020).





Selection of *Rhododendron* species in the Hengduan Mountains as represented by Robbie Hart's study area (2012 to 2013) on Mt. Yulong in northwest Yunnan Province:

For his PhD dissertation in 2015, 10 alpine and sub-alpine *Rhododendron* species on Mt. Yulong, or Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, were monitored by Robbie Hart from February to August (2012 to 2013) along season and elevation gradients. To measure flowering phenology in response to

temperature by season and elevation, Hart sampled and monitored 100s of *Rhododendron* plants every two weeks up to an elevation of 4100 masl. For comparison with historical records going back 125 years, Hart also photographed more than 12,000 historical herbarium specimens (Hart, 2012).

The results were surprising, but relevant to most of the temperate alpine species in the Hengduan Mountains and surrounding regions, (Hart et al, 2018):

- At all elevations on Mt. Yulong, 30 species of *Rhododendron* make up a substantial portion of the plant community. Life forms vary from shrubs in forest understory, small trees at middle and higher elevations, and patches of dwarf shrubs in open alpine areas and on rock outcrops.
- Comparison with historical herbarium specimens (1884 to 2009) showed *Rhododendron* on Mt. Yulong growing an average several 100 metres higher than in the days of the avid plant collectors.
- Most puzzling, despite long-term indications of mean peak flowering time getting later, and weather records (1952 to 2009) showing that mean annual temperature had increased significantly ( $0.13^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ ), flowering progressions over this period showed no discernible trend or change.
- In the alpine biome, Hart explained, depending on season and elevation, three key variables influence flowering in *Rhododendron*: mean temperature in the previous year (2.26 days earlier/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), Fall temperature (chilling requirements) in the previous year (2.54 days later/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and elevation (1.4 days later/100 metres elevation), which effectively cancel each other.

*Rhododendron impeditum* at  
3,800 metres on Mt. Yulong.



## Selected References

- Chadwick, J. 2020. Oldest alpine plant region on Earth dating back more than 30 million years is discovered in the Hengduan Mountains of southwest China. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8577423/Oldest-plant-region-Earth-dates-30-million-years.html>.
- Ding, W-N. et al, 2020. Paleobotany. Ancient orogenic and monsoon-driven assembly of the world's richest temperate alpine flora. *Science* vol. 369, pp. 578-581. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6503/578>



- Hart, R.E., 2015. Climate-driven change in Himalayan *Rhododendron* phenology. UMSL Dissertations 174. <https://irl.umsl.edu/dissertation/174>
- Hart, R.E. and Salick, J., 2018. Vulnerability of phenological progressions over season and elevation to climate change: *Rhododendrons* of Mt. Yulong. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 34 (2018) 129-139. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2018.09.001>
- Scally, P., 2012. Interview with Ecologist Robbie Hart. GoKunming Features.
- Stokstad, E., 2020. Mountains and monsoons created Tibetan biodiversity. *Science* vol. 369, p.493. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6503/493>
- Yu, H. et al, 2020. Contrasting Floristic Diversity of the Hengduan Mountains, the Himalayas and the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau *Sensu Stricto* in China. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* vol. 8 article 136. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fevo.2020.00136/full>



**Dixie Szasz-Taylor,** Geologist, Master Gardener

~~~~~

## *Delightfully Blue*

Nestled amongst stacks of various rhododendrons, evergreens, and acid loving plants, a beloved blue lepidote has been growing and blooming for the past twelve years. My relationship with *Rhododendron* ‘Little Boy Blue’ began in May 2008 when I first ventured into Woodlands Nurseries on Camilla Rd. in Mississauga simply to check it out. It was serendipitous to have the pleasure of



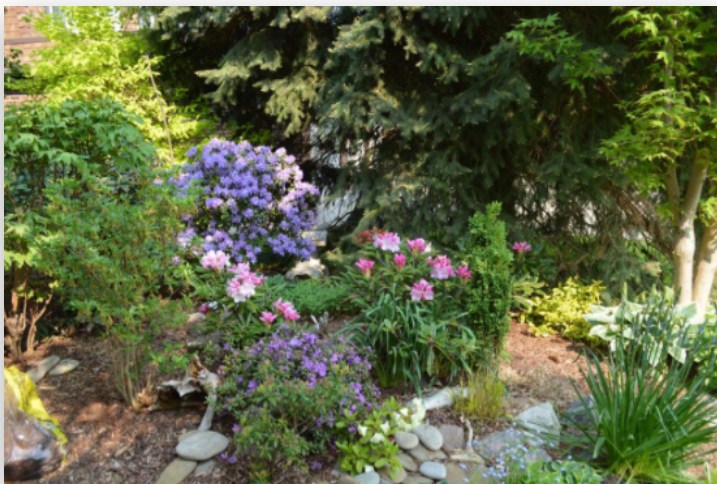
meeting Marjorie Hancock who sold me my ‘Boy’ along with all the accoutrements required for successful planting - grobark, chunky peat, 1 bottle of Sturdy fertilizer, and an entire hour’s worth of information. Little did we realize then, that this unique experience laid the foundation for my inordinate passion for this ericaceous plant.

The ‘Boy’ belongs to the crosses that were hybridized by Leslie Hancock, a well-respected enthusiast who was considered by peers to be the originator of rhododendron culture in the

Mississauga area. Following World War II, he began hybridizing smaller, slow growing crosses adaptable to gardens springing up in post war urban areas. During the years of active hybridizing, mentoring, designing gardens, contributing written articles to the Rhododendron Society of Canada and winning a grand bevy of awards Mr. Hancock became known fondly as 'Mr. Rhododendron'. His hybrids have been housed in many private and public gardens notably the Montreal Botanical Garden and the Hancock Woodlands Park as well as in one humble Malicki garden.



Every spring in late May or early June my love of colour propels me to study and truly appreciate my 'Boy's' emergence into beauty; the truss packed with 7-9 blooms, the light blue violet petals veined and edged in a darker hue, the violet pink pistil and nine stamens tipped with a rusty red stigma and anthers extending proudly out of the pale throat, mid-green leaves edged in rust with a plethora of white dots sprinkled throughout the leaf surface. Yellow ochre branches support the puffs of blue violet scattered thickly throughout the bush.



Little Boy Blue in the author's garden

My 'Boy' feasts well in his garden. Slow release fertilizer disperses nutrition throughout the roots covered by wood mulch, pine needles and lest I forget the used coffee grinds scattered sporadically now and then. Great for a pick-me-up! The correct protection, hydration and heaps of Mother Love top the bill for a contented and pampered rhododendron life!

Oh, the pleasure of blue...what every garden needs!



**Liz Malicki**, Award Winning Gardener, Rhodo Enthusiast

~~~~~



## *Rooting Dormant Cuttings*

We may not have had heavy snow in the DC area this winter, but the damage from falling branches during wind storms has resulted in lots of damaged plants. I felt fortunate that I had my largest oak tree taken down in January before that terrible March nor'easter. It died at the end of the summer, and I wanted it down before it took out my house or me. It was huge, maybe 80 to 100 ft tall. The arborists tried to avoid other plants, but a number of azalea and rhododendron branches were broken. If you find broken branches in your garden, don't throw them away. Try rooting some as dormant cuttings.

We usually root cuttings in summer or fall, but cuttings can root at almost any time of year. Even desiccated stems can often be salvaged. Just make a fresh cut at the base, stick the end in warm water, and cover the top with a clear plastic bag to increase humidity. The tissue will often plump back up in a day or two. If it revives, there is a very good chance you can root some cuttings from that branch.

For containers, I use anything that will fit inside a clear plastic bag to make a "mini-greenhouse." I fill the containers with my standard mix: 1/2 Peat, 1/4 Sand, 1/4 Perlite. The medium should be moist but not wet. Excess moisture encourages fungus diseases and rotting and is a major cause for failure.



Dormant cuttings from a broken branch

Since rhododendrons and azaleas are shallow rooted, I make short cuttings, only about 1 to 2 inches long. I also remove any flower buds since attempting to bloom will use up energy that could be put into forming new roots.

To further discourage fungus and insect pests, I usually "sterilize" the cuttings by soaking them for 5 minutes in a solution made of 1 part Clorox and 10 parts water. Afterwards, I rinse the cuttings well to remove the Clorox water.

Next, I dip the end of each cutting in a rooting hormone such as Dip 'N Grow, and insert the bottom inch into the medium. Rhododendron cuttings are wounded. When the container is full, I enclose the pot in a plastic bag to make a mini-greenhouse which keeps humidity high while the cuttings root.

Finally, I place the pots of cuttings under fluorescent lights with "long day" conditions, 16 to 24 hours of light every day. Roots do not need light to form but new growth is encouraged with long days. Placing pots on a north window sill with good light will work too. Try to avoid too much sun since bags can become easily overheated.

Cuttings should break dormancy in 4 to 8 weeks and at that time they are usually forming new roots. I watch the bags



Mini-greenhouse

carefully to pick any out dead leaves and remove cuttings that rot. It helps keep fungal diseases at bay. There should be no need to water the pots for many months since the condensation on the bag continues to recycle moisture inside that tiny greenhouse ecosystem.

I keep containers under lights during the rest of the winter and early spring. In late spring, I start opening the bags to allow cuttings to get accustomed to lower humidity for several days. After they have hardened off, I try to repot them into individual pots.

By early summer, I have moved the cuttings into 3-inch or 4-inch pots and have given a few doses of weak fertilizer. By midsummer, plants get no more fertilizer as I want them to go dormant before frost. Cold frame protection that first winter is helpful, but dormant cuttings are often large enough by fall to make it on their own. I rooted 1200 azalea cuttings for the 1982 ARS Convention favors that way.



Cuttings break dormancy, sending out new roots and shoots

Don't let those broken branches go to waste. Even if you don't have broken branches, try rooting some cuttings. It is as easy as starting seeds!

**Don Hyatt**, Editor,  
Newsletter of the Potomac Valley Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Early Spring Newsletter: March 2018

***Reprinted with permission***

~~~~~



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

**Variety is the spice of life...and plant breeding...and science!**

How do you discover a new garden plant? Quite simply, you find something unusual in nature, grow it on, and find out the limits of it's growth. This is exactly the method that Dr. Joseph Brueckner used in his work breeding cold-hardy Rhododendrons for the harsh Canadian winters.





The image on the left shows *Rhododendron lapponicum*, which grows in some of the coldest regions of the world that can support plant life, the boreal forests and tundras of Europe, America, and northwest Siberia. This plant is very short in stature, reaching only about 12-18 inches (30-45 cm) tall, and this short height is thought to help the plants survive cold and dry winters by allowing them to stay warm under a blanket of snow. Although snow feels cold to the touch, a blanket of snow traps the heat of the ground, allowing snow-covered plants to avoid the damaging effects of frost.

In an 1973 article, Dr. Brueckner described what led him to embark on a project to investigate the garden potential of a rare variety of *R. lapponicum*. "My interest in this plant was aroused by a letter of Dietrich G. Hobbie, of Northern Germany...he told me that on one of his visits to the Canadian Arctic, in the vicinity of the Great Slave Lake, he stumbled upon... a rather tall, erect form of *R. lapponicum*, growing up to almost 30 inches."

In fact, this surprising variety of *R. lapponicum* was 2-3 times taller than any other *R. lapponicum*! Dr. Brueckner goes on to note that these plants were likely to experience temperatures as low as -70 F (-60 C), and these extremely cold temperatures are combined with drying winds and low mean annual snowfall in the region. Thus, plants of this taller variety were not likely to benefit from a warm blanket of snow.

Based on this, Brueckner concludes "Indeed, this form of *R. lapponicum* must possess exceptional cold hardiness and is probably hardier than the type itself, which as a rule remains under the snow cover during the winter. Therefore, I decided to try to obtain this plant for a closer examination of its requirements, its potential as an ornamental garden plant and for hybridization experiments."

And the rest, as they say, is history. The image on the right shows one of the *R. lapponicum* hybrids created by the late Dr. Brueckner. This hybrid is one of the plants being evaluated by the Brueckner Hybrids Project, a community science project being conducted by the Niagara Region Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Eastern Canada (RSEC).



Follow this link to read more of Dr. Brueckner's article describing his adventures with this rare variety of *R. lapponicum*: <http://www.rhodoniagara.org/.../journal/RSCBulletin1973v21.pdf>

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

***Reproduced and edited with permission from Dr. Medeiros***



## ***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](mailto:canadacaw@yahoo.ca)



Q. A Lichen-like growth is spreading across azaleas in one of our public gardens. Many branches are affected but most of the plants continue to put out new shoots. Is there treatment once it has lived on the plants for years?

A.If you can provide information to this question, please send to the above email and it will be posted in the next edition.

Fabulous Fall colours - something else by which to remember 2020!



### ***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.*