



R & A News: January – February 2021

In this issue, we offer some detailed articles and extra links to give our members some pleasant distractions during this winter as we continue to cope with the pandemic. Best Regards from the R & A News committee: Don Hyatt (co-chair), Maria Stewart (co-chair), Steve Henning, Dave Banks, and Linda Derkach.

Above Photo: Winter Foliage - *R. makinoi* and other seedlings in the Brusco Garden, MA.



Rhododendron Foliage: *The Other 50 Months of the Year*

Most people focus on the beautiful flowers of a rhododendron when they buy a plant but those blossoms only last just a week or two. Don Hyatt has put together this pictorial essay with well over 100 images that tries to show the incredible diversity that exists in the genus *Rhododendron*. Be amazed at the incredible variations in foliage size, shape, and color, as well as plant habit from giant trees to tiny ground covers. The scene shown above is just one of many tranquil trails at the Rhododendron

Rhododendrons can enhance a woodland garden even when they are not in bloom.

Rhododendron Foliage

Winter Care of Rhododendrons

Steve Henning has written an excellent article about caring for Rhododendrons in Winter. He discusses many topics including why leaves droop and curl in cold weather, how to avoid undesirable late fall bloom, what factors assist in hardiness, and what can be done to help prevent winter damage. Thank you, Steve, for sharing your expertise with us!



Rhododendrons in Winter

The ARS Seed Exchange

We want to thank Norman Beaudry who retired in 2020 as the Chair of the ARS Seed Exchange. With the help of his wife Jean and others, he ran the exchange for many years. Norm and Jean are pictured right.

Photo by Betty Ann Addison.



Norm & Jean Beaudry

Welcome to the new chairs of the Seed Exchange, Ray and Ann Clack of the Portland Chapter. They live in Oregon City and have been working hard to get seeds packaged and ready for sale. Follow the links below to see the current offerings. Ray and Ann are pictured right.

Photo by R & A Clack



Ray & Ann Clack

2021 ARS Seed Exchange

Mirror Site (Danish Chapter)

Seed Propagation at the RSBG

Nursery Manager Atsuko Gibson at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden shows in a detailed video how to raise rhododendrons from seed.
(video – 8 minutes)



Seed Propagation at the RSBG

Another Approach to Propagation by Seed

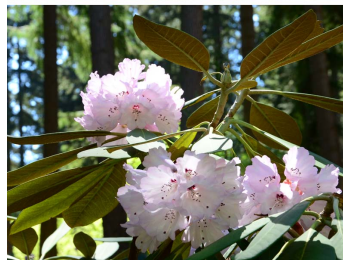
This is a link to Don Hyatt's PowerPoint show on how he raises rhododendrons and azaleas from seed. Don also explains how to make a cross. Run online from this link or you can download the program from the ARS Store.



ARS Propagation by Seed

Steve Hootman Discusses Large Leaf Species

In this video, Steve Hootman tours the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden as he discusses closely related large leaf species native to China and the Himalayas. He compares *R. rex* ssp. *rex*, *R. rex* ssp. *fictolacteum*, and *R. arizelum*. These plants form what is called a "cline" since they merge into one another as their natural ranges overlap. Admire these lovely species as Steve explains their subtle differences.
(Video - 12 minutes)



R. rex ssp. *rex*



R. rex ssp. *fictolacteum*



R. arizelum

Photos from the RSBG video

The "Rex Complex" Explained

The Next Generation Program

A new cohort of eager young people is waiting to be introduced to the exacting and exciting realm of the Rhododendron. Their interests are divided between horticulture and science, climate conditions and speciation. Share your knowledge and expertise. Work with us in creating projects that are of value in their career trajectories while increasing ARS membership. Stay tuned as we roll out the Program.

Join us for our presentation at the 2021 ARS Convention.

Contact: C. Woodward at canadacaw@yahoo.ca or Dr. J. Medeiros at jmedeiros@holdenarb.org

Photo: J. Medeiros



The Next-Gen Program

Reminder: Since there are limitations on travel in many regions due to Covid-19, the ARS has set up a virtual registration option for those unable to attend the 2021 Convention in Nova Scotia in June. Virtual Registration is open now and regular registration begins February 15. Check out the Convention Website and please try to support this endeavor.

2021 ARS Convention

Winter Color: *Hollies, Hellebores, and Hamamelis*

Don Hyatt has assembled another photo essay showing some companion plants that can bring winter color to a rhododendron garden. Consider adding a few hollies, hellebores, or hamamelis plants (witch hazels) to your landscape this year.



Hollies, Hellebores, and Hamamelis

Useful Links



The American Rhododendron Society

The American Rhododendron Society website has much useful information. There are details about the organization, its activities, membership, articles on many topics including selected pieces from past journals and rhododendron culture, an interactive database with images and more. It has a members-only area where people can see full color digital versions of ARS Journals dating back to 2011.

[The ARS](#)

The American Rhododendron Society Members Worldwide

ARSStore.org Where every purchase benefits the American Rhododendron Society

TARGET

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We are now featuring Target* [Subscribe to the ARSStore mailing list](#)

The ARS Store

The ARS store has access to many interesting items people can purchase as well as programs to download. When you purchase items online from certain vendors, the ARS also gets a small commission. This will only happen if you link to them from the ARS Store so think of us when buying online and begin your searches at the ARS Store.

The ARS Store

RHODODENDRON Species Botanical GARDEN

About ▾ Visit ▾ Events ▾ Explore ▾ Learn ▾ Participate ▾ Shop ▾ JOIN

The RSBG is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Before you visit, please read our [UPDATED GARDEN POLICIES](#) & [STEVE'S BLOG IS BACK!](#)

About the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden is a wonderful partner to the ARS. It is a nonprofit organization that maintains a beautiful garden in Federal Way, WA, and houses one of the largest collections of rhododendron species in the world. They also offer rare varieties propagated from their collection that members may purchase by mail order. Consider becoming a member so you can help support this organization and their very competent staff.

The RSBG

American Rhododendron Society

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