

**From:** dfbanks@earthlink.net  
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## **R & A News: May – June 2021**

**In this issue, we have many items related to the recent and very successful 2021 ARS Virtual Convention hosted from Nova Scotia. We provide a quick summary of those who received ARS awards. We also include a column showing the exciting new rhododendrons being developed by our hybridizers, the focus of the Breeders' Roundtable.**

**The general theme for this issue focuses on deciduous azaleas. Check out Steve Henning's wonderful article that discusses both species and hybrid groups. Don Hyatt presents a photo essay of some species in the wild that should be in full bloom at this time of year. We have a few**

.. .. .

video suggestions and other items of interest, too.

Best wishes from the R & A News committee: Don Hyatt (co-chair), Maria Stewart (co-chair), Steve Henning, Dave Banks, and Linda Derkach.

Photo Credits: Don Hyatt

## News Items!

### 2021 ARS Virtual Convention *A Grand Success!*



Bill Meyers - New ARS President

Ken Webb - Outgoing President

We want to sincerely thank the team who hosted the first ever Virtual ARS Convention in Nova Scotia from June 3 - 6, 2021. It was a complex process coordinating live Zoom presentations from around the world, virtual tours of gardens, taped award presentations, and interactive

discussion groups. We must congratulate all of those involved, especially our Canadian hosts, their expert technicians, and the presenters who provided such excellent programs from remote locations. Well done!

We also want to sincerely thank our outgoing ARS President, Ken Webb, for his leadership through some very challenging times. Ken reminded us during his convention address, "It may have been the rhododendrons that brought us together, but it is the people who brought us back." Ken, we appreciate your hard work, kindness, and friendship. You have indeed kept us together!

Let us all welcome our new ARS President, Bill Meyers. As people get vaccinated and the pandemic wanes, may we return to more normal times where we can meet face to face as we share our interests with good friends.

For those who were unable to attend the meeting, all of the presentations including virtual garden tours are now posted on YouTube at the link below.

Photo Credits: Don Hyatt

## ARS Virtual Convention Talks and Tours

# ARS Gold Medal Awards



## ARS Gold Medals

Ann Mangels - 2021



Jack Looye - 2021



John Weagle - 2021



Chris Callard - 2020



Glen Jamieson - 2020

**We were not able to publicly acknowledge our recent Gold Medal recipients until this year's convention so we have listed the honorees here for both 2020 and 2021. This award is designed for ARS members who have made major contributions on a national or international basis. The full citations for each person can be found at the ARS website link below. Congratulations!**

Photo Credits: ARS Archives, Betty Ann Addison, Don Hyatt, and Linda Derkach

## ARS Award Citations

# ARS Silver Medal Awards



ARS Silver Medals



June Bouchard & John Deniseger - 2021



Sherla Bertelmann - 2021



Nan Ray - 2020



Dennis Bottemiller - 2020



Art & Susan Lightburn - 2020

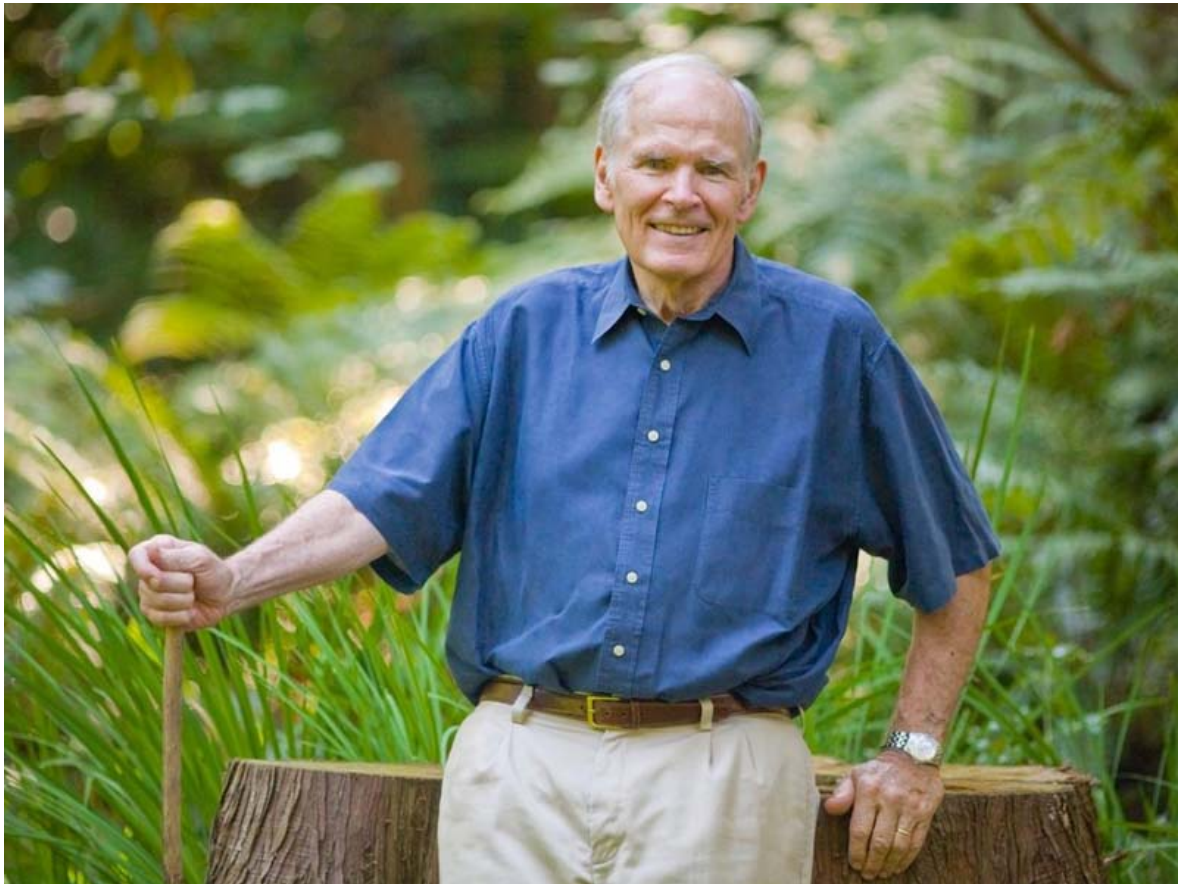
**We were not able to publicly honor our Silver Medal recipients until this year's convention either. These are the**

honorees for both 2020 and 2021. This award is designed for individuals who have made major contributions that are primarily regional in nature. The full citations for each person can be found at the ARS website link below. **Congratulations!**

Photo Credits: ARS Archives, Don Hyatt, Susan Lightburn, and Linda Derkach

## ARS Award Citations

# Pioneer Achievement Award



## **Dr. Benjamin D. Hall**

**The late Dr. Ben Hall, Professor Emeritus of Biology and Genome Sciences at the University of Washington, was posthumously awarded the ARS Pioneer Achievement**

**Award in 2020. He passed away in 2019 and since there was no convention in 2020, we were able to publicly acknowledge his achievement at this year's virtual convention. The Pioneer Achievement Award is designed to honor significant original research or outstanding achievement related to the genus *Rhododendron*. Dr. Hall used innovative techniques that he developed to study the genetics and evolution of rhododendron species. His citation is also posted on the awards page of ARS website.**

Photo Credits: ARS Archives

## ARS Award Citations

### ***Remembering Jens Birck by John Weagle***





Just prior to the ARS Convention, we received the sad news that 2009 ARS Gold Medal recipient, Jens Christian Birck of Denmark, had passed away. John Weagle offers a tribute to Jens, his best friend and an internationally renowned expert who will be greatly missed.

Photo Credits: Marc Colombel

## Tribute to Jens Birck

# Preview of Coming Attractions *Beyond the Breeders' Roundtable*



Check out some of the exciting new rhododendrons being developed by our ARS hybridizers. These may not be in the trade yet but you may want to keep an eye out for them at future plant sales or the ARS Seed Exchange.

The top picture to the left is the brilliant yellow 'Gotham Rheingold' developed by the late Werner Brack. John Weagle took the photo and shared it with the Rhodo Chat group as his "Best Yellow".



The second photo is from George Woodard of his plant with a very high flower count. The cross was: ('Offshoot' x





...the cross that (I believe is  
'Lofthouse Legacy'). Hey! We  
should cross those two!

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New Rhododendrons

# Deciduous Azaleas

*by Steve Henning*



Steve Henning has put together another very thorough article for the R & A News and this one is on Deciduous Azaleas. You will probably want to bookmark it for easy access. He describes all of our North American native

access. He describes all of our North American native azalea species as well as deciduous azalea species from other parts of the world.

He explains the differences between many older hybrid groups like Ghents, Knap Hills, and the Exbury Azaleas and includes the history of their development. He discusses modern groups as well including the very cold tolerant Northern Lights Series, heat tolerant Aromi hybrids, late blooming Weston introductions, and more.

Photo Credits: Don Hyatt - Parc der Garten, Germany

## Deciduous Azaleas

# Native Azaleas in the Wild

*by Don Hyatt*





This photo essay features images of three deciduous azalea species in the wild. Above is *R. calendulaceum* that Don photographed along the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina. Hans Eiberg has provided images of *R. luteum* growing wild in Turkey to supplement garden images from Europe. Don provides images of *R. occidentale* he photographed in several Northern California locations, too.

The article shows not only native azaleas in the scenic places where they often grow, but also the amazing diversity in flower and color forms found within each species. One representative of a species is never enough!

Photo Credits: Don Hyatt

## Deciduous Azaleas in the Wild

# *A Century of Excellence* Exbury



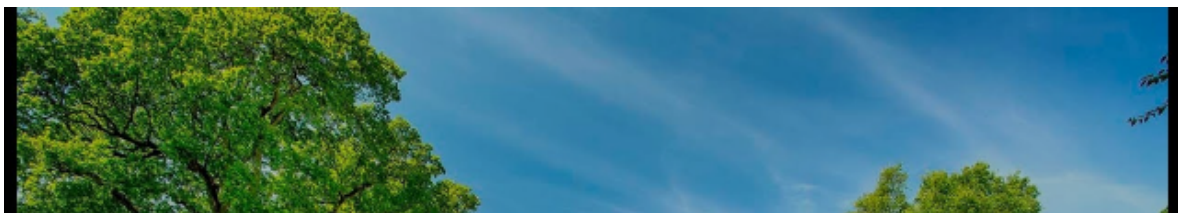


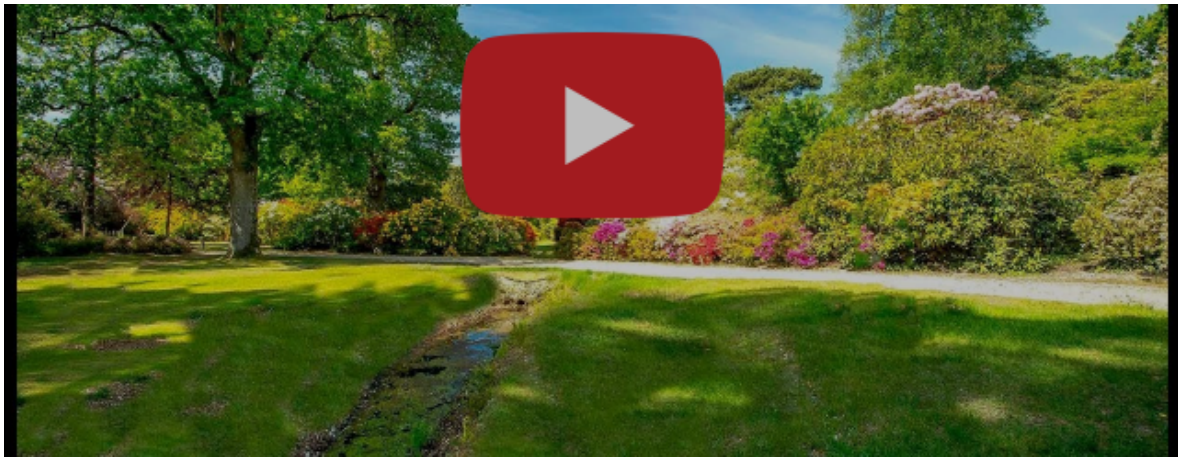
**Exbury Gardens in England celebrated its 100th birthday in 2019. We appreciate the leadership in horticulture that members of the de Rothschild family have provided during the past century. We look forward to hearing Lionel de Rothschild's keynote address scheduled for the 2022 ARS Convention in Portland. Below are links to two videos on the exquisite Exbury Gardens that you may enjoy.**

Photo Credits: Don Hyatt



Exbury Gardens in Spring (4 minutes)





Exbury Gardens - Spring 2019 (8.5 minutes)

## Glendoick Gardens



**Ken Cox, a keynote speaker at the 2021 Virtual ARS Convention, revealed that Glendoick, the family estate where he lives in Scotland, also celebrated its 100th**

where he lives in Scotland, also celebrated its 100th birthday in 2019. Members of the Cox family have been noted plant explorers, authors, and nurserymen during the past century and we appreciate their many contributions to the genus *Rhododendron*. Below are links to two videos. One shows views of Glendoick Gardens including many deciduous azaleas in bloom. In the other, Ken explains how stunning and versatile these azaleas can be.

Photo Credits: Don Hyatt



Glendoick Gardens in May (2 minutes)





Ken Cox - Deciduous Azaleas at Glendoick (4 minutes)

## Van Veen Nursery *Custom Propagation*



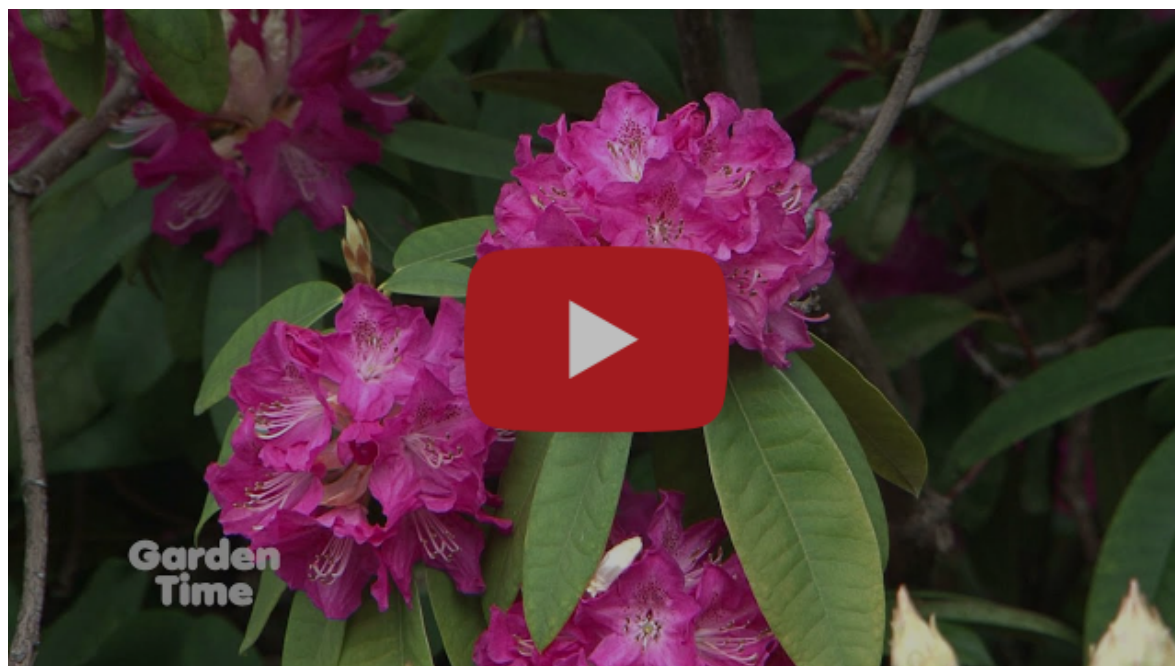
For nearly a century, the Van Veen Nursery in Portland, OR, has been a major wholesale nursery for rhododendron enthusiasts. Started by Theodore Van Veen Sr. in 1926 and then continued by his son, Ted Van Veen (Jr.), the nursery was eventually turned over to Ted's daughter, Kathy Van Veen. This nursery has been invaluable in providing

custom propagation for ARS chapters and individuals.

Sadly, Kathy passed away in 2017 but she willed the nursery to the ARS so this invaluable resource would not be lost. Mike Stewart and Brenda Ziegler have been working with the Portland Chapter to get the place modernized and in good working order. If your chapter members want rhododendrons beyond the ordinary, find a few cuttings of the plants you want to grow and send them to Van Veen Nursery. They will send you back liners for you to grow. Details about how and when to send them cuttings can be found on their website. We also provide a link to a recent video of Mike Stewart talking about what is happening at the Van Veen Heritage Garden and Nursery.

Photo Credits: Don Hyatt

## Van Veen Nursery Website



Van Veen Heritage Garden - Mike Stewart



# ***ARS Virtual Fall Conference*** ***October 23-24, 2021***



**The ARS will be holding a Virtual Conference this fall on October 23-24, 2021. They will have eight national and international speakers giving presentations on varied topics including plant exploration in the wilds of Sichuan, China, and the Southern Appalachians. There will be talks on rhododendron culture related to soils, mulch, and winter hardiness. They have scheduled talks on heritage plants, rock gardens, and even fragrance.**

**This meeting will be FREE to anyone in the world but people must register through the ARS link below. Feel free**

**people must register through the ARS link below. Feel free to share this link as well as any issue of the Rhododendron and Azalea News with other gardening groups or friends.**

Photo Credits: Don Hyatt.

**Register for the FREE 2021 Fall Conference**

# **ARS 2022 Convention**

***May 4-8, 2022***



**The 75th Anniversary ARS Convention planned for 2020 in Portland, OR, was canceled due to the pandemic but we are pleased to announce it has been rescheduled for 2022. There will be tours offered before and after the meeting.**

**Registration will open November 1 but it is not too early**

to start planning your trip. Check out the convention website for details.

Photo Credits: Don Hyatt

## The 2022 ARS Convention

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### *Support Our Organizations*



## 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.

ARS

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## 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.

## ARS Store

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RHODODENDRON *GARDEN*  
Species Botanical

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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!](#)





## 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. Later in June they are planning a virtual symposium with world class speakers. Check out their website for details.

RSBG

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## *Back Issues of the R & A News*





## **R & A News: Archived Issues**

If you missed any back issues of the R & A News, we have started posting them online.

Archives



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## **American Rhododendron Society**

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