

the Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia group

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Bulletin 101 / November 2009 / www.rhodogroup-rhs.org



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Philip Evans

The sudden death at the beginning of August of our Chairman, Dr Michael Robinson, came as a great shock to all who knew him. Mike was a man who combined profound plant knowledge with a persona of quiet charm and friendliness to all. He was an outstanding Chairman, who achieved much for our Group. Our sympathy goes out to his partner Liz Tirard, and his two sons Alex and Richard. It is highly appropriate that the appreciation in this Bulletin should be by his old friend Everard Daniel - I have fond memories of enjoyable "cuttings and grafting" tuition days they ran together in Mike's fine garden in the Ashdown Forest.

What of the immediate future for the Group after this sad event? When I retired from the Yearbook editorship in 2007 Mike asked me to remain on the Committee as Vice Chairman. Under our constitution the role of the Vice Chairman is to "act in the absence of the Chairman", and in this extreme situation, this is what I am doing. We are fortunate currently also to have a strong team of officers, and I very much appreciate their support during this interim period.

I am, however, very glad to be able to tell you that Andy Simons, who is a member of the Executive Committee, indicated his willingness to serve as Chairman. The Committee, at its October meeting duly elected him with effect from 1st January 2010. I shall therefore continue as acting Chairman until the end of the year. Andy is also acting Chairman of the RHS Rhododendron and Camellia sub-committee.

In his last Notes, for the July Bulletin, Mike Robinson told us that, in May, a meeting of the Plant Group Chairmen and RHS representatives had recommended a model for the future relationship of the Groups with the RHS, which would necessitate amendment to this Group's constitution. This model, in fact, envisaged the Groups becoming separate legal entities linked to the RHS by affiliation and a licensing arrangement for the use of the RHS logo. During September I asked each member of our own Committee for their opinion, and discovered there was overwhelming opposition to the concept. Our Treasurer, Alastair Stevenson, and I subsequently attended a further meeting of the Plant Group Chairmen, and we were successful in persuading the RHS Council Members attending that the May decision should be reversed, certainly so far as our Group is concerned.

To preserve the "status quo" there may well still have to be changes to our constitution, in order to satisfy RHS concerns over the control and integrity of its "brand", although I hope these will be negotiable. The Committee has supported the action we have taken.



Mike Robinson in typical stance identifying a species within subsection Laponica at 13,000 ft near Zhongdian, Yunnan, probably *R. hippophaeoides*.

Photo by the Editor

I hope that this route will now also lead on to a satisfactory rationalisation of the relationship between the Group and the Rhododendron & Camellia sub-committee. In the meantime we shall continue the successful practice of holding our meetings on a joint basis. That, from January 1st, the two committees will again have the same Chairman, is, in my opinion, a good thing.

Gerald Dixon, who since 2006, has served on the Committee as "Convenor of the Seed bank" resigned in September, due to pressure of work. We are very grateful to both Gerald and Brigitte (of Brooklands Nursery near Axminster) for all their work on the Seed bank and seed distribution. The good news is that Henry ('Chip') Lima, who was the previous Convenor, is now in a position and willing to take the job on again. So the Seed bank returns north again to Falkirk, and we welcome Chip back to the Committee.

Continued on page 2

Mike was a man who combined profound plant knowledge with a persona of quiet charm and friendliness to all

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Chairman's Notes
- 2 Editor's Notes
- 3 Group Tours - 2009
- 5 Rhododendrons - The RSCG
- 6 Members Notes - Flower initiation from drought / Letters
- 7 Book Review 'Scotland for Gardeners'
- 8 Branch Reports
- 10 Membership / Group Notices / Group Website
- 12 Coming Events

In the course of the SW Wales Tour last Spring, the Group visited Clyne Garden at Swansea. A notable sight there, was an old plant of *R. vesiculiferum*, an uncommon species in UK gardens, and this one now in poor condition. *R. vesiculiferum* is a species of Subsect Glischra, with bullate leaves similar in size to the better known *R. glischroides*. What distinguishes *R. vesiculiferum* are the white bristly hairs on the underside of the leaf, petiole and elsewhere. It was Mike Robinson's suggestion at the time that the Group should try to arrange for the Clyne plant to be micro-propagated. The Committee has now decided, as a gesture to its former Chairman, to fund this. Ivor Stokes, who is a Committee member and a former Curator at Clyne, has undertaken to supervise the project.

A Personal Tribute to Dr Mike Robinson

Mike, our Chairman, died suddenly on August 2nd. He taught Physics in Sussex for most of his career. At his memorial service, James Flecker, former Head of Ardingly College, spoke of "the enthusiasm for the subject his lessons had imparted" and of "his ebullient, never ending enthusiasm for his passions in life which included plants, opera, literature, good wine and good food." and further "...he was such fun to be with, his professionalism as an educator, his dedication to physics and the fact that he was a really terrific teacher..."

Tributes have come from many quarters. From former pupils such as Nick Norton - "His enthusiasm for Science was an important influence for me.... Outside of lessons we constructed a telescope... I saw the rings of Saturn and Moons of Jupiter for the first time - vivid memories still"

And from Tony Tyler, now Chairman of Cathay Pacific, "I owe him a lot. He taught me physics for over 5 years... that subject took me to Oxford....the basis on which I have built my career." and goes on to say:

"Mike drove me up to meet the Tutor for Admissions..." and "...that level of commitment from my principal teacher played a big part in my being offered a place there."

He was an especially active Chairman. Colin Brown has written of his chairing committees, saying how well-prepared and competent he was, firm yet patient and thoughtful, and helpful and encouraging to newcomers. Andrewjohn Stephenson Clarke pays tribute to his Chairmanship of the Garden Council at Borde Hill garden in Sussex - "... a delight to have Mike stand out through his warmth and generous service his uplifting demeanour... a smile to our hearts.." and "...during his tenure the gardens improved enormously."

Always keen to propagate both knowledge and rare and beautiful plants, he ran a number of Propagation Workshops to pass on valuable skills of grafting and taking cuttings. His natural enthusiasm and skill as a teacher inspired us all. Many regulars came back year after year (including you, Mr Editor!). We were lucky enough to be able to collect from a number of very fine collections, especially the Valley Gardens at Windsor. He hosted nearly all these at his then home in Ashdown Forest and was always generous with cuttings from his own garden. Our babies would then stay in his greenhouses until they grew away the next year, when we would collect and add the best forms and rarities to our own gardens. By such distribution is the widest range of plants kept going and enjoyed by as many as possible.

From Lukesland Garden in Devon, Rosemary Howell writes of his visits "...so helpful and interested in all our plants. In person and in his writings, he was not only a source of great knowledge but also a wonderful inspiration to people like me, struggling with names and identification problems. The gardening world has lost a true friend and a great champion."

Our thoughts and prayers are with his partner, Liz, and his two sons, Alex and Richard.

A more full obituary will appear in the Yearbook.

Everard Daniel. Reigate, Surrey.

Dr Mike Robinson

On behalf of Mike's sons, Alex and Richard, and myself, may I please extend our gratitude for the many cards, letters, emails and messages we received after Mike's sudden death. May we also thank all those who attended the service to celebrate Mike's life.

We have been overwhelmed by the kindness and care shown to us by so many, and it has given us much comfort in these sad and difficult days to know how many lives he had touched.

Thank you all so much.

Liz Tirard. Honiton, Devon.

EDITOR'S NOTES

John Rawling

I apologise for an error which crept into the Bulletin for the dates of:-

The Australian Rhododendron Society Golden Jubilee conference in 2010.

The Australian Rhododendron Society write:

"The Australian Rhododendron Society would like to thank you for adding our announcement re our Golden Jubilee Conference in October next year. We are hoping that it will interest gardeners in the UK and they can plan their visit around it.

The dates should be **17th-20th Oct 2010** (not 29th!).

A 12 day conference would be extremely difficult to organise!!!

Marcia Begg. Conference Co-ordinator.

(For further details, see the advertisement in Bulletin 100)

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I need your letters, reports from branches, articles, future events etc, to keep the members up to date!

So, please send me your letters and copy

for the March 2010 Bulletin

by 14th February 2010.

Please send to: John Rawling, Hon. Bulletin Editor,
The Spinney, Station Road, Woldingham, Surrey, CR3 7DD.

E-mail: jr.eye@virgin.net or Tel. (&Fax) 01883 653341



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GROUP TOUR - SPRING 2010

There are still places available for our tour of the gardens of East Germany – 11th to 15th May 2010. Don't miss this opportunity to visit some of the finest rhododendron gardens around Dresden. We shall be staying at the first class Schlosshotel Pillnitz, located within the grounds of Pillnitz Castle, where we are assured of every comfort!

Reservations should be sent to Arena Travel as soon as possible using the booking form enclosed in the last issue of the bulletin.

(Mislaidd your form? Contact Arena Travel on 01473 660800 [or the Bulletin Editor] to request another!)

Don't forget you can extend your holiday by attending the International Rhododendron Symposium and garden tours being organised by the German Rhododendron Society. More details of this special event can be found on their website www.rhodo.org/2010 and featured in their advertisement on the back page of the last Bulletin.

TOUR REPORT

Joint ICS and Rhododendron
Camellia and Magnolia Group
Autumn Tour, October 2009.

Two dozen or so members from the ICS and the Rhododendron Group embarked on Eurostar from St Pancras, under the channel to Paris and then by coach to a compact hotel just south of the capital.

Friday 16th October / Les Journées des Plantes

On our first day, and for the main event of our visit, we travelled to Les Journées des Plantes held in the extensive parkland of the Domaine de Courson.

Now in its 27th year, this is a combination of a village fete with some 260 plants stalls, and an RHS Flower Show!

The many stalls, selling almost every plant, shrub and tree imaginable, were a mass of autumn colour amongst the stately parkland of the Domaine, itself colourful with its tall Limes, Oaks, Beeches and other trees.

The fair is all about plants, and nurserymen from all over Europe, including the UK, were showing many rarities, new cultivars and specialities. One nursery was showing as many as 40 different magnolia cultivars and another as many varieties of camellia. Rhododendrons were represented with a number of large leaved species on one stand, and on another the regular array of dwarf hybrids.



A bronze leaved *Albizia julibrissin*

(All photos by the Editor)

The overall impression was of colour – from the leaves of plants for sale showing bright autumn colour, and of flowers such as a brilliant display of gentians (from the UK) and another of hydrangeas.

Amongst the enormous range on display, I spotted plants of *Acacia baileyana* purpurea, a bronze leaved form of *Albizia julibrissin*, the *Magnolia grandiflora* 'D.D.Blanchard' with its almost black indumentum, two forms of *Catalpa*, *Cercis chinensis*, and *Tilia henryana* with bristle-like teeth edging the leaves.

Many members of the tour group succumbed to temptation, and came away from this immensely enjoyable show with bags full of plants – including myself (with *Magnolia* 'Lois', *Camellia* hybrid 'Francoise Dorleac' and *Michelia figo* var *crassipes*).

The Editor.

Saturday 17th October / Walled Garden Arboretum Vilmorin (4 ha) at Verrieres-le-Buisson

We were greeted by charming Mme Natalie de Vilmorin, then she and Mme Mary Buisson divided us into two groups and led us round the arboretum and garden. With us also were 3 ladies who were Friends of Great Dixter. We were given a map which showed the site of each important tree, and lists of all the Rhododendrons, Camellias and Magnolias therein.

The chateau was a former hunting lodge of Louis XIV, and was acquired by Philippe-Andre Vilmorin in 1815. Andre le Notre established the plan, and Philippe introduced trees and shrubs from all over the world. The soil is neutral. A great storm in 1999 caused much damage. Seven generations Vilmorin have maintained the arboretum and brought in many new introductions.

We were stunned by the hugeness of a *Cedrus libani*, its lower branches covered in light-brown flowers, spreading its branches towards a large lawn behind the chateau.



The path, bordered by camellias and low shrubs, led to a broad avenue of limes, and at lower level small pillars of ivy, and remarkable swags of ivy strung between them.

All the notable trees were pointed out as we were led quickly around. Excellent labels, on sprung wire which circles the trees and expands with growth, caught our attention. We were encouraged to collect seeds, if we wished, from the rare and interesting trees and shrubs. A Scientific Committee of eminent dendrologists now assists the Vilmorin family in this important Arboretum, to maintain and develop the collections. Natalie is the present enthusiastic "curator".

We wandered around the "garden" near the chateau, admiring the fruit trees, the wisteria pergola, greenhouse and beds.

Our visit to this wonderful garden in the outskirts of Paris was much enjoyed, as were the refreshing drinks, and we presented Mme de Vilmorin with *Camellia chekiangoleosa*, a new species camellia which is being used in breeding programmes.

Joyce Warren.

A Tourist View of the Albert Kahn Garden

As dolls' houses are to architecture, my impression of Kahn's garden to the west of central Paris, very close to the Pont de Saint-Cloude over the Seine, is a microcosm of his global garden experiences. Each garden within the area is a scaled down example of some of the real gardens he would have seen on his travels.

In a area of 4 hectares he shows us his global experience of grand gardens, but on a small scale. We can, in a matter of hours, wander the world from a Japanese hamlet with its tea house to an English landscape with artificial rope bridge and London Plane trees; via a French parterre, and a Palm house to a Prairie; up a mountain path; through a blue forest from Colorado; a natural area 'Le Marais' (Marsh); a formal fruit garden of old varieties and finally to a contemporary Japanese garden. Then you find a flat area with specimen trees, many of them showing beautiful autumn colours. A sensational sea of blue in the Colorado forest follows containing *Cedrus atlantica* glauca and many examples of *Picea pungens* 'Kosteriana Glauca'.

It is truly a global trip but the highlight for me was the contemporary Japanese garden. The thoughtful layout and many viewpoints encompass the ideology of Japanese garden layout, but on a micro scale. Every twist and turn is a thought provoking experience. The greatest is climbing the azalea enveloped 'Mount Fuji' and look down through the autumn colours of the Acers onto the swirling circular falls of the Fuji river as it appears to disappear downwards to the sea.



The Japanese garden – Albert Kahn Garden

It is an experience not to be missed and I highly recommend a visit. I would love to return in other seasons to see the changes; to see the fruit trees and rhododendrons in flower. That must be extra special.

Albert Kahn (1860-1940) was a visionary. He has used his wealth to leave us a truly remarkable legacy.

Sunday morning 18th October

We left the hotel on a misty morning with a slight ground frost and after an hour's coach journey down the A6 we arrived at Milly-La-Forêt.

Historically this area has always been famous for its cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants and this is where the "Conservatoire National des Plantes à Parfum, Médicinales, Aromatiques et Industrielles", to give it its full name, is located.

We were welcomed at the Conservatoire by Sarah, our guide for the morning, an attractive erudite young lady with a charming accent who plied us with peppermint tea and *petit gateaux*.

Apparently in the 1950's a deep crisis linked to synthetic products and imported plants pushed the industry to modernise and develop new varieties.

The Conservatory was established in 1987 to consolidate various past local initiatives and exploit the genetic resources of medicinal and aromatic plants, becoming the partner of choice for the industry.

Its main aims may be summarised:-

- The protection of endangered Plants.
- The maintenance of a seed bank.
- The management and conservation of plant resources, now 1200 species. (They hold the national collection of Lavenders)
- The identification and development of plants for the industry.

Having summarised the background I must emphasise that this is a first rate establishment. The collection of plants is set out in specialist beds such as plants for perfume, toxic medicines, colourants etc. and consists of at least 50 beds each with a specialist subject. The beds are all well maintained and each plant is labelled.

To conclude, if you are interested in herbs this is a must visit, if you are a normal mortal with interests in Camellias, Rhododendrons and Magnolias it made an absorbing and educational morning.

As a grand finale, members were treated to a coach trip around Paris in glorious sunshine, with many photo stops at the main tourist attractions.

Peter Bucknell.

Altogether a most enjoyable event and so very well organised by Pat Short of the ICS.

Rhododendron Species Conservation Group Spring Conference : West Highland Gardens The Astley Hall, Arisaig, Lochaber

Saturday 10th April, 2010

*Restoration and Conservation in Action :
Larachmhor : An Enchanting, Enigmatic and Wild
Garden on 'The Road to the Isles'*

A unique opportunity, through a real-life case study, to discover the historical background, the rescue, the restoration and recent conservation work, at a remote and intriguingly beautiful garden on 'The Road to the Isles'. Three keynote speakers will provide an introduction to the trials and tribulations of caring for and maintaining a wild garden that its eccentric, and eclectically brilliant creator, John A. Holms, developed against all the odds at Arisaig. We have also arranged a full conducted tour of the garden.

Sunday, 11th April, 2010

Tour of Three Private Highland Gardens

Take a slight detour on approach to Fort William to enjoy three gardens being opened specially for delegates; Conaglen House, and Ard-Daraich House near Ardgour on Loch Linnhe, and Brecket House at Ballachulish.

For Conference and Registration details contact :
John M. Hammond, Hon. Secretary RSCG, The Three Chimneys,
Cockey Moor Road, Starling, Bury, Lancashire BL8 2HB
e.mail: hammondsrhodies@supanet.com

The R.S.C.G is a Recognised Scottish Charity No. SC038113

Rhododendron Species Conservation Group A Brief Overview : Summer 2009

Whilst the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group [R.S.C.G.] is a relatively new organisation that was inaugurated only three years ago, it arose from concerns about the ongoing losses of original Rhododendron species plants that were raised from wild collected seed brought back from the expeditions of the great plant collectors from the mid-1800's to the outbreak of WWII. In reality, these losses are due to a wide variety of causes, which have been the subject of much discussion between horticulturalists and enthusiasts for some years; nevertheless, whatever the reasons, the losses are significant and ongoing. Unfortunately, none of the existing societies, with an interest in Rhododendrons, had sufficient active members or financial resources, or the will to become directly involved in a major new project; so, a group of enthusiasts from within the Scottish Rhododendron Society decided that if anything was to be achieved within their own lifetime it would only happen if they took up the challenge themselves. As you will be aware, it takes a long time, and a great deal of background work, to establish a new organisation and the Group only began to distribute membership brochures around eighteen months ago. Many of our members are key personalities and enthusiasts in the Rhododendron world, including some from Overseas. This project was never going to be an easy task, particularly for a specialist Group; nevertheless, we continue to make good progress in many spheres of what is a complex project.

From a 'networking' perspective, we are currently in detailed discussion with Plant Heritage [N.C.C.P.G.] in connection with the possibility of working together in regard to Rhododendron Collections, as they have indicated they have difficulty in dealing with this complex genus. Dr. David Chamberlain is working with the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh [R.B.G.E.] to set up a plant records database for the Group that will utilise the BG Base system in a way which will mutually benefit both organisations, and a database trial using the plant records for Gargunnoch Estate is currently being inputted to test the way of approach. The R.S.C.G. is scheduled to carry out a two-day field trial next Spring at Eckford when data will be collected of the species in the garden for subsequent entry into the database. We have established a working liaison with the RHS R.C. & M. Group through our discussions with the late Mike Robinson, Group Chairman, and we are currently in discussion with Joseph Ronsley, President of the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden, near Seattle, WA, to create a working relationship with the Garden. The German Rhododendron Society has also contacted the Group as they wish to establish a similar organisation in Bremen, and they have requested that we implement some form of affiliation.

From a practical perspective, we are currently formulating the necessary procedures that need to be put in place for establishing 'out-based distributed collections' of Rhododendron species material, much in the way that the R.B.G.E. developed their 'Conifer Project.' A number of large gardens have indicated they would be very interested in this way of approach and would

be prepared to work with the Group in setting-up a network of locations and would provide plant material for the Group to work with. We have reached agreement in principle with the Forestry Commission for the Group to use the ex-R.B.G.E. outstation at Glenbranter Forest, near Benmore, as a base for the Group to utilise for raising plants and establishing a collection. The next step is to formalise these arrangements.

Our first Conference, held at Garelochhead last Spring was a great success, when David Knott, Curator of Outdoor Collections, outlined the R.B.G.E.'s approach to Conservation, with particular reference to Rhododendrons. It was also suggested that some thought needs to be given to the conservation of early Rhododendron hybrids and discussed by the late Mike Robinson, who provided much food for thought in a well-illustrated programme. This year's Autumn Conference was held in Carlisle city centre on Saturday, 10th October and in the morning session, Jens Neilsen, Alan Clark and John Hammond outlined three practical ways of approach to the propagation of plant material for conservation work. Of necessity, this took into account that the plant[s] to be propagated may be aged, that only a limited amount of propagation material may be available, and the plant itself may not be in good health. After lunch, Dr. David Chamberlain demonstrated the work being done, in liaison with the R.B.G.E., to establish a plant database, utilising the BG

It was also suggested that some thought needs to be given to the conservation of early Rhododendron hybrids and discussed by the late Mike Robinson, who provided much food for thought in a well-illustrated programme.

Base system. He also outlined the approach required for collecting and recording plant records in the field. This was followed by a keynote lecture by Dr. George Argent who discussed the identification of threatened Rhododendron species in the wild and gave an overview of the 'Red Book' that is currently being compiled.

Few wild gardens have captured the imagination, and have intrigued key rhododendron personalities down the years, as the legendary garden of Larachmhor. Few gardens have been blessed with an enigmatic owner such as John Holms, who not only overcame all manner of obstacles to create one of the most important rhododendron gardens in Scotland, but also had the gift of being able to inspire, advise and support other key enthusiasts in their endeavours to create some remarkable gardens on Scotland's West Coast. And, equally intriguing, is Larachmhor's long-time Head Gardener, John Brennan, who resided in the garden for thirty years; two-thirds of which was to personally care for the garden after John Holms passed away. Larachmhor is a most unusual rhododendron garden and the 2010 Spring Conference, to be held on 10/11th April in Arisaig, will provide a unique opportunity to participate in an event that will cover the garden's creation, development, demise, restoration & recent conservation work; it will also provide you with an opportunity to see the plant and tree collections for yourself. The following day delegates will have an opportunity to visit three West Highland gardens that are being specially opened. For further information about the R.S.C.G. and its aims and activities, or the Autumn Conference, please contact:

John M. Hammond, Hon. Secretary R.S.C.G.,
The Three Chimneys, Cockey Moor Road, Starling, Bury BL8 2HB
e.mail: hammondsrhodies@supanet.com

I have received the following responses to the snippet in the last Bulletin, of research showing flower initiation from water restriction to rhododendrons, in the laboratory. *Ed.*

Does a Drought Trigger Flower Initiation in Rhododendrons ?

For years there has been advice regularly offered to the effect that a long dry spell in late Summer or early Autumn enables Rhododendrons to 'ripen the wood' and set an enhanced level of flower buds for blooming in the following Spring.

In reality, it seems to me that the process whereby Rhododendrons set an enhanced level of flower buds is far more complex than this, and in my view the experimental results in Dr. Ken Cockshull's report is but one component of a much more complicated process. I remain unconvinced that drought is a key factor in flower initiation and I will explain why.

In the Spring of 2008, a period of good weather in Northwest England commenced on 2nd May when Margaret and I picked up friends arriving at Manchester Airport from Oregon; prior to this date the weather had been cold, windy and exceptionally wet since the turn of the year. Three weeks of dry, mainly sunny weather, accompanied the four of us whilst we attended the International Rhododendron Conference at the R.B.G., Edinburgh and afterwards on our itinerary of garden visits in Argyll, Cumbria and North Wales. As we left home 3 weeks later to enable our friends to get their flight back to Oregon, the heavens opened and the rain was torrential. Driving southbound around the M60 was bad enough, but the return journey was horrendous as the carriageway was deep in water and we seemed to be driving along a canal! That was the end of both Spring and Summer for Northwest England in 2008.

The weather reverted to the cold, windy and exceptionally wet conditions for the remainder of the year. During the wetter periods we 'enjoyed' receiving somebody else's rain that in some weeks amounted to around six inches. There were no barbeques in 2008, the fuchsia hanging baskets were decimated in late August by the first air-frost of the Autumn (Summer?), and the first ground-frost arrived in mid-September. So, what's the point of all this ?

Well, in the Spring of 2009 we enjoyed the best Rhododendron flowering season for many a year, and this applied to many other genera. Not only was this the case in Northwest England, it was evident wherever my travels took me in Scotland, Northumbria, Yorkshire, East Anglia and the Pacific Northwest.

Do we need a drought to trigger enhanced flower initiation? I doubt it; as it was certainly not the case last year, or the previous two exceptionally wet years, in Northwest England. Perhaps it was a factor back in the 1940's and 50's, when in my younger years we enjoyed hotter summers, colder winters and clearly defined seasons every year. I would suggest it is more likely that a key trigger is a long wet spell in the late Spring and early Summer, which initiates an enhanced level of growth. Interestingly, Dr. Ken Cockshull's report does not indicate the climatic conditions that his plants experienced in the months leading up to the experiments.

All of this is subjective, of course, as it has no scientific basis; but equally, it is impractical to replicate or encompass all the wider processes of nature in a laboratory, or under controlled conditions. And, it is inevitable that one's own experience in the 'real world' will continue to be the key factor that leads enthusiasts to draw their own conclusions.

Drought is not beneficial, as it can cause more problems

than it solves for the unwary enthusiast so far as flower buds are concerned. If a drought occurs in the late-Summer, or early-Autumn, the Rhododendrons can begin to abort their flower buds if they are allowed to get too dry, and this is particularly relevant where the plants are located under the shelter of trees whose roots extend up to and beyond those of the Rhododendrons.

Some members may find these notes thought-provoking or maybe controversial; however, in our present unstable climate it is important to question the validity of reports and advice that are difficult to relate to what is actually happening in our gardens.

John M. Hammond. Starling, Bury, Lancashire

Dear Editor,

Further to the article in the July Bulletin on 'Research Matters - impact of withholding water'. In the autumn of 1959, I walked into the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens where to my astonishment, a number of rhododendrons were in full flower. This, of course followed a very dry summer and coupled with the ERBG's freely draining soil this had the obvious effect. I say obvious, as one questions the results of research which may appear to be short-term based.

If you project the subject back to one of the greatest examples of stress effect on plants, the work of East Malling Research Station (and others) on dwarfing apple rootstocks comes to mind. Apart from the advantages of smaller, more manageable trees, cropping was advanced in the tree's life. Other examples could include container growing - plant restricted in root space, and often nutrients and water, may flower or seed at a younger age.

I realise that there are constant anomalies in dealing with such a huge and complicated group of plants, not least under the UK's diverse climate.

Hilary Newman. East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent.

LETTERS

Dear Editor

In response to the letter from Peter Fox in Sheffield about his difficulties with *Sasanqua camellias*, I have about 20 varieties of these camellias in my garden in North Devon. They flower well but some do better than others.

I have always considered that, like *Maddenii* series rhododendrons, the sasanquas do best in full sun with a little shelter from the north (they need light to do well), but not too dry at the roots, although they seem to be able to take some dryness. These are the conditions I have tried to give my plants, and they seem to have responded. They did not suffer at all last winter when the temperature in my garden went down to -9C, the lowest I have recorded here, so their reputation for tenderness is a little overstated.

My suggestion would be that your correspondent tries varieties which are the most reliable ones for our British climate. I find that Bob Cherry's Paradise series are not as good in my garden as the older varieties. They are bred for Australian conditions where they do very well, and although they do flower, are not as floriferous as others here, however spectacular on home ground.

I would suggest that your correspondent tries varieties such as Hugh Evans (nearest to the wild sasanqua), Narumigata, Crimson King, Sparkling Burgundy and Shishi-gashira. My personal observations, a matter of taste obviously, are that Rainbow has small rather insubstantial flowers overpowered by the foliage, as does Cleopatra. Jean May flowers well, but the individual flowers are only beautiful when just opening, turning a rather unpleasant orange-pink after that.

I have a group of sasanquas around the base of an *Acer x conspicuum* with beautiful bark and red/pink shoots, which, when lit up by the low sun in winter, form a beautiful picture,

so if all else fails, at least the glossy foliage and red new growth could be some sort of compensation for the lack of flower.

John Marston, Gorwell House, Barnstaple

***Camellia japonica* 'Korean Fire'**

I have now successfully flowered my first *Camellia* in my garden in Norway. It was a *C. 'Brigadoon'* which had some lovely flowers last spring. *Camellias* are not common in Norway, except as house plants and container plants. In Bergen a few specimens have been grown successfully for some years in the botanical garden, and a few enthusiasts have also grown *Camellias* for some years.

I have decided to try out some *Camellia* species and cultivars in my garden far north of Bergen. I have spent 20 years growing *Magnolias* which was considered impossible this far north. Now I have several flowering *Magnolia* shrubs and trees every spring. So my next mad project is *Camellias*.

In a book called "The Plant Hunter's Garden" I read about a very hardy and free flowering *Camellia japonica* called 'Korean Fire'. I have searched for that for some time, but in vain.

I would be very glad to be in touch with people growing this variety in their garden.

Ole Jonny Larsen at olejonnylarsen@hotmail.com

Dear Editor,

I must thank Anne Thorne for her comments in the July Bulletin on my article "Weather in Balcombe Forest" in the March 2009 issue.

If indeed carbon dioxide were to act as a thermally insulating blanket, the result would be warmer nights and winters, as I have observed. However, average temperatures are another matter. The amount of carbon dioxide injected into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuel increases year by year. According to the CO2 theory this should result in a continuous rise in earth surface temperature but my measurements indicate that this is not the case. Average temperatures here increased by 0.9C between 1991 and 1999 but by only 0.2C between the years 2000 and 2008. Either we are living in an island of cool weather, surrounded by increasing tropical conditions, or the CO2 theory is wrong.

John Lancaster. Balcombe Forest, Sussex.

and typographically eye-catching. More practically, the chosen paperback format, with its heavyweight cover, lends itself perfectly to the glove box – robust enough to go travelling but not so big as to be impractical.

From the moment one reads the introduction, the reader is in no doubt that candour is the essence and the book all the more valuable because of it. Ken devotes thirty pages of very considered thought to describing Scotland's particular place in the gardening world, taking on board all manner of issues relating not only to matters such as transient fashions in garden design but maybe more importantly, the pertinent problems of managing and maintaining gardens and keeping horticultural enterprises going in a challenged world.

This read, one enters the actual guide more enlightened, since this is not just a record of opening hours or the likelihood of afternoon teas or plant sales, characteristic of the Yellow Book type guide no, this book offers a potted but proper descriptive account of nearly 600 gardens, nurseries and garden centres regularly open or mostly so, complete with full-blooded comments in favour or not. Certainly enough to make or break the chances of visiting a garden! But Ken is responsible in his judgements, and never negative without justification it seems.

The guide itself is arranged by region, led by a map repeated inside front and back covers and printed at the beginning of the guide section of the book. Scotland has been notionally divided into eight regions and the guide progresses down the country from the 'North' to the 'South East', the pages for each region helpfully colour coded and with a separate detailed road map at the start of each section, the gardens arranged alphabetically within.

For each property, full contact details are provided, together with an idea of the entry charges, sensibly graded from £ to £££ so as to be comparative but not precise enough to become quickly outdated. Symbols accompany each entry, decoded at the start of the guide and repeated on the back cover flap – what a pity it wasn't on the inside of the flap instead where it could remain unfolded and ready to refer to whilst reading the pages.

I have a slight beef about the detailed maps although perhaps it's just because I'm unfamiliar with the territory, but I think locating the gardens would be so much easier if the numbers allocated on the maps were included on the main entry page along with a simple alphanumeric grid reference which relates to the map such that a garden could be quickly located as number 19, for example in grid square C3 rather than having to chase about the entire map which may have over 80 numbers on it!

That said, these are things which could easily be rectified or incorporated into a subsequent edition. This book is very reasonably priced, and significantly cheaper if Amazon is engaged, and acknowledging that information presented can only ever be a snapshot, regular editions are surely on the cards – this is such useful stuff.

So, is this guide of real interest to our members or is it too general for the rhododendron, camellia and magnolia enthusiast? My answers would be yes and no, since although it includes all the well known woodland gardens in Scotland for which we may not need any description, it adds plenty of less familiar ones, some of them only open by private arrangement, and provides information on current restoration work or new planting initiatives at familiar gardens which could provide a renewed interest and a reason to visit again. Moreover, the maps provide a perfect opportunity to spot gardens, nurseries or garden centres close by to favourites making a visit even more worthwhile.

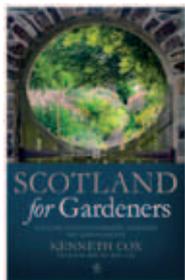
As Editor of the yearbook, I must say this is a great resource to have by me, replete with nuggets of information and informed comment, so much more entertaining and useful than the usual bland guide, and altogether I have no hesitation in recommending it to our members as a worthwhile addition to their bookshelves.

BOOK REVIEW

Pam Hayward

Scotland for Gardeners: The Guide to Scottish Gardens, Nurseries and Garden Centres

*By Kenneth Cox
Birlinn Limited 2009 £20
ISBN: 978-1-84158-576-5
230x148mm, paperback*



Well, I may not be the right person to pass comment on this book, having never been fortunate enough to travel to Scotland, let alone enjoy its famous gardens. However, that may be just the reason why my musings might be considered of worth, being, of necessity, objective and unclouded.

Ken Cox needs no introduction to our members; as the youngest of the Cox dynasty so far to have devoted himself to the pursuit of things *Rhododendron* and more, we are all familiar with his forthright approach and have much appreciated his written contributions in several recent offerings.

My initial observations were that this is a superbly produced book. The images (mostly provided by Ken's photographer brother, Ray Cox) are almost without exception outstanding, managing to be evocative and informative at the same time and with enough visual variety to keep the pages fresh – the formulaic nature of guides very often leads to dullness, but certainly not in this case. The overall design, likewise, is bright

Peak District Branch

The Peak District Branch has held three different events during 2009. In mid-May we commenced with an interesting visit to two gardens in the north of Nottinghamshire. The first was to the garden of two of our members, Lynn Drake and Mark Carr, on a hill at Burton Joyce with views over the surrounding country, being a well established garden in need of some refurbishment, on a site of 3 or 4 acres, with a number of large trees. Partially re-landscaped it has recently been planted with a large number of good sized rhododendrons and a few magnolias and camellias, from several good sources such as Hydon Nurseries; all of the specimens were well budded when acquired and were coming into flower at the time of our visit on 16th May. As this garden develops it will offer a fine show in future years. After an enjoyable tour of the garden, our hosts very kindly served us all a hot lunch. From Burton Joyce we transferred to Papplewick Hall, about 9 miles away at Papplewick; here we were kindly received by Dr R. Godwin-Austen, responsible for recent developments, and his son Jonathan, now taking on the garden in his stead. This garden, associated with a fine Hall, was first landscaped in the 18th century, as is still evident, but in the recent decades Dr Godwin-Austen had acquired and planted above 500 rhododendrons in variety, predominantly hybrids, and some magnolias. These plantings, partly in the open near the house and partly in woodland, were at the time of our visit putting on a fine show, as were a couple of flourishing Embotriums in full flower. At the end of an interesting tour tea and cakes were kindly provided, rounding off a good day.

Our next event, was a visit in North Yorkshire to Peter Roberts's garden, The Hutts or the Himalayan Garden at Grewelthorpe near Northallerton. Peter has developed, in just over 10 years, a very fine garden spread over previously wooded hillsides with an attractive lake at the bottom. This garden was written up in the The Garden two or three years ago. Most kindly Peter gave generously of his time, taking us around the garden and in doing so demonstrated his real enthusiasm for our three genera. As we went he pointed out many interesting aspects of his approaches to planting, of problems in some places, and marked satisfaction in others. We saw many fine plants and had a very enjoyable visit.

Finally we met up on 18th October at Brackenfield, in the Peak District between Matlock and Alfreton. Here another of our Group members, Peter Ratcliffe, entertained us with a lively presentation under the title "The Development of the Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Garden" with illustrations taken from his own garden but also from as far afield as New Zealand. We then removed a short way to the home of another member, Ralph Millward and his wife Jennie; here Ralph had dug up, with some assistance, more than 80 seedling rhododendrons surplus to his requirements, grown from wild collected seed, from which members were encouraged to choose freely among some very fine plants to enhance their own collections. These plants were most generously made available by Ralph, at no gain to himself. but members made donations towards Branch funds. Warm thanks are due to each one of the members who contributed in different ways to making these successful visits possible. David Ives

South West Branch

Branch, Camellia Show at RHS Rosemoor, April 26/27, 2008
(The editor regrets he was unable to include this item in the appropriate Bulletin - 'I just ran out of space!')

The season had not looked kindly to camellia blooms. It had proved difficult to find good specimens; the numbers shown were down on last year.

Jennifer Trehane judged the competition. Before doing so she cast her eye over the exhibits. Some were in the wrong class and were moved to the appropriate section. This was done to avoid the dreaded NAS (Not As Specified). She commented that the *Camellia reticulata* cultivar is a very small group and should probably only include the Kunming camellias. Several blooms were moved over to the *C. reticulata* hybrid class. She also made the suggestion that there should be a class for "other hybrids and species"

Results. (First prize only)

Class 1: *C. japonica*, single bloom.

John Bodenham with 'R.L.Wheeler'

Class 2: *C. japonica*, three blooms.

Arthur Nancarrow showed 'Phyllis Doak', 'Bob Hope' and 'Alexander Hunter'.

Class 3: *C. reticulata* cultivar.

Pat Bucknell showed the only entry with *C. 'Mou Chang'*. This was not yet fully open so was awarded a Third.

Class 4: *C. reticulata* hybrid, single bloom.

Pam Hayward with a very good 'Forty-niner'.

Class 5: *C.x williamsii*.

Sir John Quicke had entered 'E.G. Waterhouse'.

Class 6: *C.x williamsii*, three blooms.

Pat Bucknell won showing 'Anticipation', 'Julia Hamiter' and 'Willber Foss'.

Class 7: Any six camellias.

Arthur Nancarrow produce a very good selection of 'Elegant Beauty', 'Spring Frill', 'Dr. King', 'Eleanor Hagood', 'Pink Bouquet' and 'Auburn White'.

Class 8: a spray of camellia.

Alas, the exhibits put up the evening previously had developed severe bloom drop by the morning. Alun Edwards.

South West Branch - Garden Visits - Spring 2009.

Wednesday, 8th April 2009 - Trewithen and Enys Gardens.

We had been scheduled to go to Trewithen at about the same date in 2008 but the severe frosts that occurred in this part of Cornwall a few days prior to our visit left us with no option but to cancel. So our fingers were crossed when the date came round again. However it turned out to be a glorious sunny Spring day. The late but frost free Spring had resulted in rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias being in prime condition and full of flower.

For those who do not know **Trewithen** it contains fabulous collections of all our three genera. It is quite beautifully gardened by Head Gardener, Gary Long, who has only two gardeners and a few volunteers to help him. Quite how they manage to present such a large garden in such immaculate condition is a secret known only to them. Trewithen is also virtually unique among Cornish gardens in that it is flat and has excellent paths everywhere - very elderly visitor friendly!

At the time of our visit the huge specimens of *Magnolia campbellii* were over but *M. sprengeri* and *M. x veitchii* and many others were still in full flower. But it was the rhododendrons which excelled, even this early in the season, and everyone was able to select their particular favourites or argue about the labelling - much encouraged by Gary who was anxious to correct any inaccurate or missing labels. My own particular memories are of a superb specimen of *R. niveum*, at least 3m high and twice as wide, laden with full trusses of blue mauve flowers, so much better than some of the colours usually achieved by this species. Memorable too was of a group of a lovely form of *R. davidsonianum* growing on the lip of a small quarry.

Sadly our visit soon came to an end but not before most of us

fell victim to the exciting plant sales area and consoled ourselves in the Tea Room. Trewithen is a great credit to its owners and to its wonderful team of gardeners.

A forty minute car ride took us south-west to the **Enys Estate** close to the town of Penryn. Enys is another of Cornwall's lost gardens (it is actually a whole estate with a boarded up Georgian mansion) and one wonders how many more of them there are, slumbering away the years! Enys covers a much larger area than Heligan but, sadly, may be beyond complete retrieval.

A small but fascinating rhododendron grove, close to the house, has been rescued and is thriving whilst other groups of exotic shrubs and climbers are being carefully tended and supplemented even though they have lost the succession of glass houses that once protected them and which have left plenty of relics to fascinate the archaeologists. Elsewhere we all marvelled at the tallest wisteria we had ever seen and the ginkgo behind the house must be close to being the tallest in the UK but the star of the show, as far as I was concerned, was the huge water ram that had once supplied all the water features in the garden. Much of the mechanism has survived and if it could be made to operate I feel sure that it would, on its own, attract bus loads of visitors. We wish the trustees and their staff well in their gargantuan task.

Thursday, 30th April 2009 – The Chine, Drewsteignton and Lukesland Gardens, Ivybridge.

It is always exciting to visit Barry Starling's garden, tucked away in woodland close to the north-east corner of Dartmoor. Barry is a widely acclaimed specialist in the collection, cultivation and hybridisation of miniature rhododendrons and other allied ericaceous genera but has catholic tastes and will turn his hand to growing just about anything especially if it has the reputation of being difficult!

A large party of us assembled and, full of coffee or tea, we followed our host up the hill to his garden of treasures. In no time at all we were scattered far and wide, some on hands and knees peering at the tiny rhododendrons, some conversing with the enchanting alpacas in their paddock half way up the hill and others wondering whether they would ever find their way out of the full-sized disused quarry they had wandered into.

Barry has a collection of recently introduced rhododendron species and grows them mixed up with many of the latest and best hybrids from all over the world. It was fascinating to see rhododendrons growing happily and healthily which are normally only seen together on the show bench. Hybrids such as 'Phyllis Korn', 'Rubicon', 'Horizon Monarch' and 'Ice Music' made a lasting impression.

The sensation in this shady area of woodland was the drift after drift of beautifully vigorous trilliums, of more species than most of us had heard of let alone managed to grow. Barry truly is a great plantsman whom it is a pleasure and privilege to know.

We next turned south to **Lukesland**, a Victorian mansion with 24 acres of gardens in the foothills of Dartmoor. It was acquired many years ago by our member Rosemary Howell's family who made it their life's work to improve and extend the gardens and to amass a truly important collection of trees and shrubs, the most impressive being the rhododendrons.

As we gathered by the tea-room we were able to admire a small display of rhododendron hybrids on a raised bank in front of us, outstanding amongst which was a particularly beautiful specimen of *R. 'Cream Glory'* which certainly deserves to be better known. Another feature of the garden turned out to be the extensive collection of x *Loderi* hybrids which were at their best. There was much argument about the accuracy of some of the labels but all were agreed that there were more names than was justified by the differences between the various cultivars, many of the so-called pinks fading rapidly to an indistinguishable white.

As we followed Rosemary around her garden, we saw many things to marvel at. The UK's largest *Magnolia campbellii* was stupendous even though its flowers were over and the groups of large leaved species and hybrids either side of the upper reaches of the main stream were some of the best and healthiest I have seen. The same applied to a large proportion of the rhododendrons - obviously the local micro-climate and high rainfall suit them.

Incidentally, like Trewithen, the Lukesland gardens are maintained by a tiny workforce consisting of Rosemary, members of her family and one part-time man! Our grateful thanks and congratulations to all of them.

Saturday, 9th May, 2009 - Botallick and Tremeer

For our final day of visits we returned to Cornwall. We had cancelled our visit scheduled for the previous year because this garden had been devastated by the same frosts that wrecked Trewithen and so many other gardens in south Cornwall. It was a great pleasure, therefore, to see the **Botallick** gardens fully recovered and at their very best.

Peter and Pat Bucknell have been developing and planting this mostly new garden for nearly fifteen years. It is in an area which was a farmyard until quite recently. There is plenty of natural water and shelter but soil quality is sometimes unpredictable. Nevertheless they already have an amazing collection of the best magnolias available backed up by impressive selections of show quality camellias and rhododendrons. Show worthiness is an excellent criterion to apply when seeking out new plants and is one that is already bearing fruit in no small measure - Pat won both the McClaren Challenge Cup and the Loder Challenge Cup at this year's RHS Main Rhododendron Competition at the RHS Rosemoor Spring Show, no mean achievement from so young a garden.

Our visit was enjoyed by everyone and the questions came thick and fast. We tend to visit rather grand, long-established gardens but Botallick was a new garden, created by colleagues and emerging as we watched. A garden we could all associate with and hope to emulate rather than being completely overawed by it. Well done the Bucknells!

In the afternoon we visited one of the Cornish gardens famous for the part it played in the history and culture of rhododendrons in the UK. Our member Lady Vanessa George had invited us to explore the famous garden at her home **Tremeer** near Bodmin, a garden she and her late husband had been restoring for several years.

Tremeer was bought at the outbreak of the second World War by Major General Sir Eric Harrison, who immediately set about extending the collection and embarking on a programme of hybridisation. This he continued when he returned after the war. Then in 1961 he married Roza Stevenson, the widow of J.B. Stevenson who owned the very famous rhododendron garden at Tower Court in Surrey. When she moved down to Cornwall, she took with her a significant portion of the Tower Court collection, re-installing the plants in the Tremeer gardens. This took quite a long time, the transfer being recorded in meticulous detail by the General, who even noted where each of the plants was relocated. It is exciting to know that all these notes have survived.

Thus it was that on a beautiful summer's afternoon Vanessa (accompanied by her Head [and only] Gardener, Bradley Newton) led a large party of us to see a garden famous in English rhododendron history and lore. We admired the large collection of Japanese Kurume azaleas which had accompanied Roza on her move from Tower Court, we hunted for the Tower Court selections of blue rhododendrons especially *R. augustinii* Tower Court Form (which, in my opinion has never been surpassed) and puzzled over beautiful hybrids that no one could put a name to.

Many labels had disappeared and Bradley was kept very busy writing new ones as one or other of our experts pronounced their verdicts. Even the rather less expert of us were able to contribute

a name or two. My own favourite discovery was a huge plant of the old Slocock hybrid, *R. 'The Master'*. I have never seen it growing so well or so large.

After our tour we all sat in the huge stone courtyard under an open kitchen window through which emerged a steady supply of tea, scones and clotted cream. In thanking our hostess, I was happy to say with complete conviction that Tremeer was particularly fortunate in its new owner and her Head Gardener. It is a great garden again.

Colin Brown.

GROUP WEB-SITE

Graham Mills

www.rhodogroup-rhs.org

We have upgraded our server which gives us a lot more space. We needed this for the increased number of photographs that can now be found in the Dictionary section.

Member's Photographs

We now have a number of Magnolia and Rhododendron species pictures, but no Rhododendron hybrids and very few Camellias. If anyone could supply a good photo of *C. 'Firefalls'* or *C. 'Mathotiana Rosea'* that would mean that all our Camellia dictionary entries had pictures. We also have no photos for *M. 'Ann'*, *M. 'Etienne Soulange-Bodin'*, *M. 'Susan'* or *M. virginiana*. Remember there is a monetary prize for the best photograph in each of the five groupings, as well as the glory of having your photo on the Group's website home page during 2010.

Further details of the competition and how to send photographs are given on the web site.

Membership renewals

It will soon be time to renew your membership. We have for some time been accepting payments for publication purchases and taking applications from new members on the web. From this autumn you will be able to renew your membership on line. So save yourself a trip to the post box and just connect to our web site and access 'Renewals' under 'Group Information'

..... and finally

We achieved a peak of visits during the summer, of 5000 individuals per month visiting the site; if you have not done so then please join them.

If there are additional features that you would like to see added to the site then please contact webmaster@rhodogroup-rhs.org

MEMBERSHIP

Rupert Eley

We are very pleased to welcome the new members below, and hope they will enjoy the many benefits of membership.

GROUP NOTICES

Pat Bucknell, Hon Secretary

The 2010 Annual General Meeting will be held on 15th June 2010 at RHS Gardens Wisley, at 2.30p.m. in the Lecture Hall. There will be a Workshop on "Late Flowering Rhododendrons" in the morning, so this will make it a day well worth attending. Lunch is available at Wisley in the restaurant or cafeteria. Please make a note of this date and come to this AGM.

Committee Members.

Mr. Ivor Stokes and Mr. Stephen Lyus will have served their present three-year term on the Committee in 2010. Both are willing to be re-elected.

A nomination form is enclosed. Please come forward yourself or nominate someone, making sure he/she agrees; a proposer, a seconder and a brief horticultural history of the nominee are all that are required. Please telephone the Hon. Secretary on 01503 220215 if you require any further details.

SEED LIST 2009/10

Seed donations should be sent to the new Seed Convenor:
Chip Lima

11 Robert Bruce Court, LARBERT, Stirlingshire FK5 4HP

Seed should be properly named and include as much detail as possible, cleaned, and packaged to avoid dehydration or damage in transit.

The 2009 Seed List has been fully revised and is available online at www.rhodogroup-rhs.org or by email on request from RCMseedlist@googlegmail.com

Details can be provided arranged alphabetically by species or by number.

Seed older than 2009 entries is now available at reduced prices and this list will remain open for orders until the 2010 edition is available.

The following publications are offered to Group Members exclusively and are sold in support of the Group. Previously advertised titles not featured here may still be available – please enquire.

Pocket Guide to RHODODENDRON SPECIES

John McQuire & Mike Robinson

704pp RBG Kew 2009

Full Price: **£59** Member's Price: **£42**

Postage: UK **£5.50**, Europe **£8.50**

Rest of World **£15.50**



NEW TREES John Grimshaw, Ross Bayton & Hazel Wilks

992pp RBG Kew 2009

Approximately 1,000 species are described and illustrated. Each species account provides a botanical description and discussion of the tree in the wild, and its performance and cultivation in the garden.

Full Price: **£99** Member's Price: **£76**

Postage: UK **£8** Outside UK: please enquire.

SEEDS OF ADVENTURE Peter Cox & Peter Hutchison

Full Price: **£35** Member's Price: **£27**

Postage: UK **£4**, Europe **£6**, Rest of World **£10**

CAMELLIAS: The Gardener's Encyclopedia Jennifer Trehane

Full price: **£35** Member's Price: **£23.50**

Postage: UK **£5.50**, Europe **£10**, Rest of World **£19**

Please make cheques (Sterling) payable to: *The Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group*. Payment may also be made by *Mastercard* or *Visa* or via *PayPal* to rcmgpaypal@woodtown.net

Contact: Pam Hayward, Woodtown, Sampford Spiney, Yelverton, Devon PL20 6LJ

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11/09

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the Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia group forthcoming events



NOV / 2009

10

Holehird

Propagation:
Cuttings & seeds

Lakeland RCM Soc.
Robert Smith
01539 443041

14

The Hillier Garden

Talk by John Anderson,
Head Gardener, Exbury

New Forest Branch
Martin Gates
023 8025 2843

21

Ness Gardens

“Renovation of Bodnant
Gardens”, Talk by Troy
Scott Smith, Bodnant.

North West Branch
Ted Brabin
0151 353 1193



21

Ardingly College

“Plants for the perfect
woodland garden”
Talk by John Anderson.

South East Branch
Barry Haseltine
01342 713132

DEC / 2009

8

Holehird

Treasures for the
woodland – three Gulf
streams Gardens
by John Anderson

Lakeland RCM Soc.
Robert Smith
01539 443041



JAN / 2010

9

Ness Gardens

“The Dorothy Clive
Garden” Talk by Marcus
Clifton-Jones

North West Branch
Ted Brabin
0151 353 1193



FEB / 2010

13

Ness Gardens

“Understanding and
identifying rhododen-
drons for amateurs” -
Carol Rowe.

NW & N.Wales
Ted Brabin
0151 353 1193

19

Annual dinner

Lakeland Society
Robert Smith
015394 43041

MAR / 2010

9

Holehird

Rhododendrons and
Associated Plants Talk
by Peter Bland

Lakeland Society
Robert Smith
015394 43041

11-17

Tour to Cornwall

Lakeland Society
Robert Smith
015394 43041

24

Dorothy Clive Garden

Garden visit

North West Branch
Ted Brabin
0151 353 1193

24-25

Rosemoor

RHS Main
Rhododendron
Competition
& SW Camellia and
Magnolia Competition.

South West Branch
Colin Brown
01647 277268



Photograph by: RHS Garden Rosemoor

MAY / 2010

1-3

Ness Gardens

Annual Show

North West Branch
Ted Brabin
0151 353 1193



2

Ramster

Annual Show

Wessex Branch
Miranda Gunn
01428 644422

7-10

East Anglia

Gardens Tour

North West Branch
Ted Brabin
0151 353 1193

11-15

Dresden Eastern Germany

Group Spring Tour

North West Branch
Judith Hallett
01981 570401

