RHODODENDRONS 1988-9

with Magnolias and Camellias

The Royal Horticultural Society
London

Acknowledgements

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Front cover: Rhododendron elliottii KW 7725 at Clyne Castle (pp.46-8) *Photo: Ivor Stokes*
Back cover: Camellia 'Augusto L'Gouveia Pinto' at Tregrehan (p.59) *Photo: George B. Hargreaves*

RHODODENDRONS 1988-9

with

Magnolias and Camellias

No. 41

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
VINCENT SQUARE
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Foreword

This year sees a major change in the editorial arrangements for the *Year Book*. Regrettably, John Sanders has felt that he can no longer continue as editor. His resignation has been accepted with great reluctance by the Committee who wish to thank him for the excellent Year Books he has produced during the last five years. His place has been taken by Cynthia Postan and at her suggestion the idea of an editorial board has been revived.

As usual, this year's contributions cover a wide field which we hope will appeal to all tastes. There are articles describing recent expeditions to areas of China and the Himalayas little visited since the great days of plant collecting. Together with a veteran collector's thoughts on the techniques of the trade and their significance for both botanists and horticulturists. Advances in micro-photography can assist identification of species and we see that the photographs themselves may be surprisingly decorative. British, American and Japanese botanists collaborate on yet another revision based on recent field work in Japan which happily restores certain well-loved names to their familiar place. An account of the activities in recent years at the Clyne Castle garden helps to explain the recent successes of Swansea Corporation at the Shows. The quality of Maurice Mason's contribution to our stand at the May Show, set up by the South-East Branch, is also explained in a description of his amazing collection of rare species at Talbot Manor. Magnolias have this year inspired several members to commit themselves to paper. The proper nomenclature of species and clones is discussed as well as the wealth of new hybrids from the US and this country. It is particularly pleasing that so many members have contributed to the Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Notes, although we would welcome more about camellias.

An important innovation is the Group's experimental seed exchange. There are details of this and a useful article on the technique of hand pollination. Another innovation has been the photographic competition: the editor hopes that it will stimulate members next year to be more adventurous in their choice of subjects and to add variety to the coloured illustrations of the Year Book.

The Registration Officer of the International Rhododendron Register explains the new rules for the registration of names and it is confirmed that the annual Supplement will continue to be distributed with the Year Book.

Finally, the Plant Pathology Officer at Wisley tells us some of the most frequent problems she is asked to advise on and gives us her remedies and suggestions for treatment.

All contributions, photographic and written, should be sent to the honorary editor, 84 Barton Road, Cambridge, CB3 9LH. Double spacing would be appreciated and the last date for acceptance of material is 30 April, 1989.

BRUCE ARCHIBOLD

The importance of collectors' numbers

PETER COX

Over the years, there have been many changes in plant collecting. Collectors in the early part of this century often spent the whole of the flowering and seed collecting seasons in the field. Now most people are there for no more than two to three weeks. Weeks or even months were taken to reach the collecting ground while now it is possible to be there within a week. Plants and seeds can be potted or sown within a week or two of being collected instead of many months between a porter's back, train and sea journey. But one thing that has not changed is the necessity for careful documentation of all collections and the value of field notes and collectors' numbers.

Many gardeners consider that Latin names, let alone collector's numbers, are an unnecessary evil which should be discarded and forgotten about and do not warrant any effort to remember or record. Even many knowledgeable plantsmen use common names for a plant in preference to botanical names, or may even dream up one if none already exists. Thank heavens that there are too many rhododendrons for common names to be feasible. *Abies delavayi* should, according to some people, be called Delavay's silver fir but so far *Rhododendron delavayi* has not to my knowledge become Delavay's rhododendron. Although each genus tends to have different classifications and some people accept one and others another, basically, botanical names are international and are the only way that natives of different countries, usually speaking different languages, can communicate about plants. Collectors' numbers are the only way of referring a particular plant as to its origin. Once that number is lost, that plant has botanically lost its value. Its source and the name of its collector are lost for ever. As a collector, I can go to someone's garden, see a plant that has a collector's reference and number, recognize something I have collected myself and tell the owner of the plant the day it was collected, where, from what altitude, under what conditions that plant or its parent grew and perhaps some intriguing story to do with the actual collecting. If that number has gone, I just view the plant as say a *R. decorum* and carry on to look at something else. Collectors' numbers have two parts, the name of the collector or group of collectors and a separate number for that one collection. The collector is often abbreviated. Thus, Sino-British Expedition to China becomes S.B.E.C. and the accompanying number 1060 refers to *R. decorum* and nothing else, while Ludlow and Sherriff become L. & S.

The late Frank Kingdon Ward probably saw and collected more rhododendron species in the wild than anyone else, before or since. In *The*

Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book of 1956 he wrote an article called 'Collectors' numbers, reasons for their retention'. He pointed out the importance of a number so that the plant can perhaps be re-collected from the same place, or that it is a means of separating a group of good or/and easily grown forms from inferior ones collected under another number. One point he mentioned was that some collectors tended to collect one species under many consecutive numbers, which were perhaps showing some minor differences in the wild. This definitely made people handling and sowing the seed fed up and this was one of the reasons for a dislike of numbers. In fact, one is likely to get a similar variation out of one capsule. However, it could be that certain species, or a variation of that species, will in the next few years be exterminated in the wild. A group of seedlings from one collector's number could therefore be the only group left in the world of that actual plant population. If the collector's number is lost, that group's value will be gone.

A garden should surely have interest in addition to just beauty. A garden containing only unlabelled plants of very doubtful origin, perhaps full of mostly open-pollinated seedlings, has about as much interest as bedding out at Versailles! Every plant can tell a story if it is properly labelled and recorded. Over the years, I have attempted to keep rough records of most of what has been planted at Glendoick, but they have not been as good as I would have liked. This last winter my son and I made a start towards mapping and computerizing every tree and shrub in the garden and stock beds, some thousands of plants. I am not suggesting that everyone should do this, but it is a rewarding occupation to pass the time over a long and often tedious winter. Another method is to use a card index. The details that should be recorded are the name of the plant, collector's number (if any), source, date when planted, position in the garden; later other details can be added such as date and season of first flowers, one's personal opinion of the plant, its health and so on. On the television, that great plantsman, Roy Lancaster, has enthused on how enjoyable it can be to know the history of at least some of the plants in one's garden and I fully endorse what he says.

Does one go to south-east Asia in the spring or autumn? This is a very debatable question. If the prime object is to see spring flowers, the answer is fairly easy. I say fairly because the timing in spring is all important. If one is old and/or lacking in fitness and not able to climb up high, the answer is simple, go in April or early May when the weather is generally good, though this depends on area and season. There will be plenty in flower below 3,000m (10,000ft) and a little just above, but of course no true alpines. In many areas, there is a decided tendency for the weather to deteriorate towards the end of May and even more so into June, but it is a gamble. The Sino-British Lijiang Expedition in spring 1987 was very lucky and it was virtually dry to mid-June. If you want to see the true alpine flora in bloom, it is essential to risk the weather and remain out to at least mid-June. Before June there may be little

out above 3,700m (12,000ft). The autumn has decided advantages. In late September, early October, the weather is often good and there can be a surprising amount of colour. Many herbaceous plants are still good, while gentians are at their glorious best; but you need to get up high for the latter. We even saw the occasional flower on meconopsis in Sichuan in September 1986. Late September-October often brings brilliant autumn colour and berries.

If one is able to collect seed, spring is by no means hopeless for rhododendrons and late spring is the best time for most Petiolarid primulas and certain other early fruiting plants like some daphnes. In May 1981 on Cangshan, Yunnan, we were able to collect at least some seed of nearly every rhododendron species that we found, partly because the previous season had been good for flower and the spring weather was largely dry and still. In contrast, May 1985 in Nepal was beset with thunderstorms, hail and wind, resulting in seed being very hard to come by. In these circumstances, it is necessary to gather every available old capsule one can find in the hope that a few seeds are still adhering. This spring-collected seed has always germinated satisfactorily with me and, if refrigerated, larger seed such as *R. sinogrande* has kept some viability for up to five years. To my surprise and delight, very green capsules collected in September all gave a good germination. In contrast, old capsules gathered at the same time were worthless and what seed there was, did not germinate. One decided benefit of autumn collecting is that a few capsules will produce an abundance of seed.

A question which is often asked is: 'why re-collect species that are already common in cultivation?' Every rhododendron species varies to some extent, some much more so than others, especially those with a widespread distribution. Any new collection may give plants with some different and often superior characters to plants already in cultivation. These could include superior flowers, foliage, habit, a new colour for that species, hardiness or heat resistance, or even interesting natural hybrids. Also, new collections always add to our knowledge of a species and are perhaps a help for taxonomists towards clearing up some queries in the classification of the genus. One advantage of spring over autumn is that seed can be collected off plants actually in flower, so superior forms can be selected (though an exceptional form is not necessarily going to produce offspring of equal merit). It is rare these days that plants can be marked in the spring for autumn seed collection, but that of course still remains the best way of collecting. Ideally, an outstanding individual plant should be vegetatively collected and propagated. This may not be permitted or may not be feasible owing to the time lag before reaching home. Outstanding individual plants do occur in the wild such as a *R. thomsonii* with white, flushed pink flowers that I saw in Nepal and a large trussed, rich pink *R. cyanocarpum* Ted Millais saw in Yunnan. Apart from the difficulties of being allowed to collect live material, there is the great problem

of being able to keep that material in good enough condition through all the rigours of the journey home.

I have now been growing rhododendrons from seed for close on 35 years and seed of my own collecting, whether hand-pollinated from my own garden or from the wild, has consistently given a better germination than much of the seed I have had from elsewhere. Sometimes it is full of chaff but very often perfectly good-looking seed just goes mouldy as soon as it is sown which means it has lost its viability. Apart from seed of Vireyas which only remains viable for a few weeks, all species are capable of retaining their viability for at least one year and up to six years if properly handled and refrigerated. What has gone wrong? The most likely causes of death to seeds are too rapid drying out over heat or storing under damp or hot conditions. All seed should be dried off *gently*. In many cases, sun through a window will ripen and open capsules but if necessary, *gentle* heat over a radiator may be needed to open the stubborn ones. Never store damp capsules or seed in polythene bags. This will encourage mould which is a killer. Always make sure seed is properly dried before storing. When I collected green capsules one September, I was very careful to dry them slowly at first, just sufficiently to stop them going mouldy. Once they had lost their greenness, they were subjected to a gentle heat to open them. Try to avoid crushing capsules. Some are very stubborn and will not open without assistance. Either the capsule can be cut in half crossways if very small and then the sections prized open and shaken in a riddle or, if larger, they can be split open longitudinally and, if necessary, each section carefully broken in half before shaking. Always remove as much chaff and dust as possible as these can create mould which may kill the seedlings; use a magnifying glass to distinguish between seed and chaff. I store all my seed in paper packets in plastic or glass airtight containers in our domestic refrigerator.

Far more people are now travelling to south-east Asia to see and perhaps collect rhododendrons and other plants than ever before with several parties up to about 20 going somewhere in this region every year. With China gradually opening up, the scope in theory is becoming greater but, in practice, this is not necessarily so. It could be true to say that early this century, western collectors plundered south-east Asia for plants. These plants were collected, taken home, named by *our* botanists and sold and distributed in large numbers. What say did the native inhabitants have in all this? None. It might be said that, at least in those days, they showed no interest, but how would we feel if a party of Chinese suddenly arrived in Britain, wandered all over the country and collected plants and seed of our rarest native plants and gave their own botanical names to them? The time has come that the people of south-east Asia are getting fed up with us foreigners pillaging all these seeds and plants, attaching our own names to them and not giving any credit or profit to themselves. For instance, the Japanese who have similar features to the

Chinese, have been known to disguise themselves as natives and to sneak into areas at present closed to foreigners where they have collected rare plants like orchids, often for commercial purposes. I suppose we can all be said to be guilty to some extent and we should show some sympathy to the feelings of the local inhabitants on this subject. Greed has been our undoing and those who have been over-greedy are now spoiling it for everyone.

It has now reached the stage where we are in danger of not being allowed to collect anything. All collecting is already officially banned in India and China; Bhutan may not be far behind. What does the future hold? The Chinese are evidently keen to export seed and even plants themselves, but at present lack the expertise to set about it properly. Hopefully, we shall be allowed into more remote areas and, provided we are not greedy, may be permitted to collect a few seeds. For me, collecting is only a part of the joys of visiting places where favourite plants grow wild. Studying their habitat, distribution and variation is of the utmost interest to me and just receiving seed collected by others would not now satisfy me. The Chinese are only really happy to let people in on *bona fide* plant hunting trips *if* they are given something in exchange, such as advice on a botanic garden and/or an exchange of Chinese botanists coming over here. If we are able to collect, it is extremely important to collect only small quantities and to do it very discreetly. This applies to Nepal, Bhutan, Korea and Japan and other countries as well as China. In other words, we cannot be too careful. We must realise that we have been extremely lucky to be able to collect anything in recent years and even the partial opening up of China has been a heaven-sent opportunity that a few years ago none of us ever dreamed would happen in our lifetime. It may even be detrimental to write about what has been collected. Frank Kingdon Ward in his article in *Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book 1956* wrote: 'It is, perhaps, extremely unlikely that any western Europeans will be collecting rhododendrons in Sino-Himalaya during the next fifty years.' Luckily for us, he has been proved wrong.

Rhododendron scales as an aid to identification of species

K. H. R. CLAPP

The amateur gardener who becomes interested in rhododendrons is usually attracted, in the first place, by the showy flowers of the hybrids. Frequently, however, it is not long before his interest is diverted to the more subtle attractions of the species. It is then that the great game of identification begins. There are many means of identification but it is only in recent years that the amateur's attention has been drawn to the consideration of rhododendron scales. This has been largely brought about by the introduction in the last few years of the so-called illuminated microscope which gives a magnification of 30 times. Following interesting and informative talks about scales given by Dr Florence Auckland to members of the Rhododendron Group, many of them have equipped themselves with this instrument and have become more familiar with the appearance of rhododendron scales. Some years ago the amateur was content to know that rhododendrons were divided into scaly, or lepidote, species and non-scaly, or elepidote, species. Since elepidote rhododendrons do not cross readily with lepidotes, it was important for the amateur to know which was which, but beyond this, interest in the scales themselves was minimal. In Part I of the *Rhododendron Handbook* 1967, for example, it was considered sufficient to say, when describing a lepidote rhododendron, 'sparsely scaly below' or 'densely scaly below'. Recent works on rhododendrons, however, tend to give much more information as to scales, as for example in the following description of a leaf of *Rhododendron heliolepis*, 'lower surface clad with golden and darker scales of equal size one-half diameter or one diameter apart'. The amateur today, therefore, not only has the means to examine scales more closely but can now refer to books which will assist him to understand what he sees.

A person who has not previously been concerned with rhododendron scales but who wishes to know more about them may well say, 'Where do I look; what do they look like?' The answer to 'where' is that scales may be found on many parts of the rhododendron but the most convenient place to look is on the underside of the leaf. The shape of a scale somewhat resembles a mushroom in that it has a stalk attached to a round central part. This in turn is surrounded by a thin rim, or flange, which varies from very narrow to a breadth of about half the diameter of the central portion. There is very considerable variation in the appearance of scales and it is this variation which can assist in identification. Within each species the colour, size, distribution

and general appearance of the scales tends to remain the same. The size and shape of the rim is said by the botanist to be of particular significance. Unfortunately, however, the magnification of the illuminated microscope referred to earlier does not make these differences readily apparent and the amateur must rely, for the most part, on the colour and size of the scales and of their distribution, as the best means of identification assistance. Of these, distribution is the most easily observed, and although recent authors warn that this means of identification must be used with caution, they nevertheless continue to give details of the distribution of scales. However, it must be borne in mind that scales tend to change their appearance as they get older and indeed, in some instances, become deciduous. For this reason the observer is advised to confine his observations to the newest leaves on a plant. A few examples of scale description, showing the variation between different species, are as follows:

R. tephropeplum: golden brown scales, one diameter apart, smallish with a few very large scales (see Fig. 1A)

R. zaleucum: medium brown scales, three to five diameters apart (Fig. 1B)

R. fastigiatum: pale brown scales contiguous or overlapping, broad rim (Fig. 1C)

R. searsiae: three types of scale; large, slightly opaque or milky scales about 0.3mm diameter; smaller milky scales 0.15 to 0.2mm diameter and large golden brown scales 0.3 to 0.4mm in diameter (Fig. 1D)

R. rubiginosum: very large scales up to 0.5mm in diameter - brown or gold, overlapping.

R. campylogynum: golden rimless scales four to eight diameters apart (Fig. 1E)

It might be of interest to compare the scale descriptions of three species in the Triflorum Series (Subsection Triflora) frequently to be found in rhododendron collections namely:

R. davidsonianum: small or medium scales with the dark centre being nearly one-half the diameter of the scale; scales contiguous or one to two diameters apart.

R. augustinii: rim one-third the diameter of the scale - golden or brown - one-half diameter to five diameters apart.

R. yunnanense: unequal, medium-size brown scales two to six diameters apart.

Another interesting comparison is that between *R. triflorum* and the nearly related *R. ambiguum*, the scales of which are quite different from each other. The scales of *triflorum* are very small, uniform and almost rimless and are one-half to one diameter apart whereas the scales of *ambiguum* are overlapping or one diameter apart and are very variable in size, some scales being large and broad rimmed.

The Glaucophyllum Series (Subsection Glauca) is particularly interesting in

having two distinct kinds of scales which can be clearly seen through the hand microscope (Fig. 1F). Most of the scales are pale gold in colour, small to medium in size with a narrow rim. Scattered over the leaf surface are a few large brown scales with a broad rim. These usually have longer stalks than the pale gold scales, as is indicated by the shadow they throw shown in Fig. 1F)

The appearance of scales under magnification can be most interesting and visually attractive. When slides of scales are projected onto a screen, it is not unusual to hear comments from the ladies of the audience as to the suitability of the designs for curtain materials etc! This attractive appearance is enhanced in many species which have a papillose leaf surface giving a glaucous background to the sacles (see Figs. 1B and 1E).

Mention must be made of the scales in Section Pogonanthum. These are very difficult to distinguish even under considerable magnification. They are described as 'lacerate'. The margin of the scale is deeply indented and irregular. The stems of the scales are of varying length and, as they are closely packed, there is considerable overlapping and intermingling of scales resulting in a muddled scurfy appearance. The fact that this is unique to Sections Pogonanthum and Vireya, however, can in itself be an aid to identification.

The botanists divide scales into five groups namely: 'entire', 'lacerate', 'crenulate', 'undulate', and 'vesicular'. The amateur in the field, with the equipment then available, cannot often usefully distinguish between them. The great majority are in fact 'entire', having a circular appearance. 'Lacerate' scales have already been referred to. 'Crenulate' are described as notched or scalloped as in the Saluenense Series. 'Undulate' is self descriptive – example *hippophaeoides*. 'Vesicular' indicates a rimless bladder-like scale, an example of which is *campylogynum* (Fig. 1E).

After considering the usefulness of the rhododendron scale to the observer seeking to differentiate between different species, one wonders what the real purpose of scales is in the life of the plant. This is fully explored by Dr Macqueen Cowan in *The Rhododendron Leaf* (1950). It is, of course, not possible adequately to summarize what the book has to say about scales, but the key sentence would appear to be that 'they are intimately concerned with the water balance of the plant, regulating the process of transiration'. It appears that they can exude moisture when there is an excess of it and retain moisture in the plant when there is a lack of it. The majority of lepidote species are found in the eastern Himalaya where the year is divided into a rainy, a cold and a hot season. The rainy season extends from June to October when the average relative humidity may exceed 95%. Plants take up their food in solution. What moisture they take up by their roots must leave the plant by evaporation through the stomata. With rhododendrons, however, living in such a high relative humidity, evaporation from the leaf surface is minimal and it is then that scales can act as water-secreting organs to supplement

transpiration. During the drier season of the year the plant cannot afford to lose much water and it is during this period that secretions of gum and resin dry and seal over the scale preventing further loss of water. Also, densely packed scales will maintain a layer of air over the transpiring surface of the leaf, thus reducing transpiration. It is also suggested that scales can, in certain conditions, absorb water and pass it into the leaf. As Macqueen Cowan says, no structure 'is more efficient than the rhododendron scale, a minute organ, wonderfully made'.

A visit to the mountains of western Yunnan

E. G. MILLAIS

Following an invitation from the Institute of Botany of Kunming my wife and I travelled to China in May 1987 to study rhododendrons in Yunnan. We had met Professor Mrs Fang Rhuizheng in 1985 at the International Rhododendron Conference at Seattle, and Guan Kaiyan, the Administrator, had visited us in England the following year. Therefore in May 1987, after two years of negotiating, we found ourselves travelling by train from Chengdu to Kunming, full of expectations and in a state of considerable excitement. I can recommend this railway journey to anyone visiting China. It takes about twenty-four hours, passes through several mountain ranges and the scenery throughout is terrific. We shared our reasonably comfortable sleeper with a young married couple from Hongkong, who were good company and very kind to us. They were, I think, intrigued to find two English OAPs travelling alone in western China. We were met at Kunming by Professor Fang and the Director, Professor Feng Guomei, and spent the day being shown round the Botanical Institute. The Institute employs a large staff who are mostly concerned with extracting drugs from plants for medicinal use.

The next day we left for Xiaguan, 300 miles to the north-west. Eight hours in a bumpy truck is not everyone's idea of heaven but it had compensations. For instance, we saw Chinese farmers threshing their wheat either by the wayside with flails or else by laying it on the road for the traffic to do it for them. We also saw young pigs being transported lashed to the handlebars of bicycles and many other curious sights. Our party consisted of Mrs Fang, Dr Yan, another botanist, Mr Ji (Tony), our interpreter, and a driver. The back of the truck was stuffed with bottles of beer, the idea being that if we had plenty of beer our party would not need to stop to boil water for drinking purposes. This was a good idea, as the beer, a type of lager, was really very nice.

Xiaguan is a modern, not very attractive town, but the hotel there is more comfortable than the one at Dali, the ancient walled town a few miles further along Erhai Lake. This hotel was our base for climbs on Cangshan and Ailao. Lake Erhai lies at about 6,000ft and it is possible to take a truck up Cangshan to about 9,000ft (providing there are no landslides), leaving only 4,000ft to be climbed on foot to reach the top at about 13,000ft.

There were quite a number of rhododendrons to be seen growing by the side of the track up Cangshan, mainly *R. microphyton*, *R. virgatum* and *R.*

pachypodum, and, after a short while, *R. decorum*. *Rhododendron microphyton* is not my favourite rhododendron, and round Cangshan it was always purple or puce pink. Some of the forms of *R. virgatum*, however, were attractive in a quiet sort of way. *Rhododendron pachypodum* is a common rhododendron, and some forms are very beautiful. About one in every hundred plants has a pink flushed corolla, and I would have liked to take cuttings, as I am fairly certain that these pink forms do not exist in England at the moment. Some of the best were to be found just above some hot springs at the foot of the south side of Cangshan. *Rhododendron decorum* started at about 7,000ft and continued up to about 10,000ft. We were surprised to see many plants only 6in. high with a single stem producing heads of flowers at ground level. The species seems very variable, and the ones we saw on Cangshan were never higher than 4ft, some with white or pink flowers, some with yellow and some with green centres.

As we continued up through thickets of bamboo mixed with *Lyonia, Pieris forrestii, Enkianthus, Berberis* sp., etc, other rhododendrons began to appear in vast quantities – *R. neriiflorum, R. yunnanense, R. trichocladum, R. racemosum, R. rubiginosum*, all flowering together side by side, in and through each other in an extraordinary galaxy of colour (Fig. 2). The flowers of *R. neriiflorum* were very variable, the calyx being sometimes only rudimentary and sometimes having lobes an inch long. The particular race of *yunnanense* present on Cangshan was most attractive, relatively large flowered and bushy, not exceeding 5ft in height and varying from pale to deep pink with a crimson blotch. We were most impressed with *R. trichocladum*. This was much more effective than I had expected. At about 10,000ft it was only just beginning to flower, the plants being about 2ft high, but as we climbed higher the stature increased to 5 or 6ft, with stems over 2in. thick. At this height the plants had not started to flower, but were mixed with *R. haematodes, R. heliolepis, R. selense* and *R. lacteum*, none of which were in flower either.

We had been climbing up a shoulder leading to the main ridge of Cangshan at 13,000 ft and, looking down, we could see a whole valley a thousand feet below us filled with *R. lacteum* in full flower. Narrow ravines still filled with snow snaked their way through this yellow sea, and a little higher and beyond, through binoculars, we could just make out huge bushes of rhododendrons with white flowers which must have been *R. fictolacteum*.

At this height, 11,500ft, *Abies delavayi* makes an indelible impression. Quite a small tree with its branches arranged in distinct layers, it has been the favourite subject of Chinese painters for hundreds of years. This foliage is very dark green, a wonderful background for *R. cyanocarpum* which now made its appearance in vast quantities, varying in colour from pale to deep pink. One form was so much better than anything I have ever seen in England – its opulent deep pink trusses over 9in. across, touching each other over the whole 10-foot-high plant – that I would have given anything to have been able to take some scions home. Facing us now across a ravine filled with *R. cyanocarpum*

was a vertical cliff, perhaps 150ft high, on which a few stunted *Abies delavayi* grew out at right angles for a foot or two before growing upwards. Every crevice on that cliff face was plastered with small dwarf yellow rhododendrons, either *R. sulfureum* or *R. xanthostephanum*, I'm not sure which, as one would have needed either climbing equipment or a helicopter to reach them. We never saw this plant growing in any other type of position.

At 12,000ft we came on quite deep snow and it became a very tiring climb, but we finally reached a huge area of *R. taliense* near the top of the ridge at about 13,000ft. The plants averaged about 3ft growing out in the open, but went up to about 6ft when protected by the *Abies delavayi*. They looked very cold, with their leaves half rolled up and their branches sticking up about 18in. above the snow. Perhaps it is worth mentioning that all the plants which we saw were the broad-leaved form, not the near lanceolate form often seen in British gardens. These were observed by Dr Chamberlain in 1981 in roughly the same area of Cangshan. *Rhododendron taliense* is only distributed as far as I know in the Dali area, and one wonders where the English forms came from.

One day we took the truck about 40 miles south of Cangshan to the Ailao range of mountains (10,000ft). We were warned by Mrs Fang that we would cause some interest at the nearest village, Tai-shi-ding, as no Europeans had ever visited it, and sure enough as soon as we disembarked from our truck the local children fled in all directions. Luckily, curiosity got the better of them and they all soon came creeping back, peeping at us from behind doors and pillars. The object of going to Mt Ailao was to find *R. sinogrande* which was supposed to grow near the top. First there was a long session over endless cups of green tea while our Kunming botanists asked permission to climb their mountain from the local headman. In the end all was arranged and quite a number of the local executives decided to take the afternoon off and come with us: we got under way at about one pm.

The rhododendrons on this particular trek were not too remarkable, but a local child came running up with quite the most beautiful *R. pachypodum* I have ever seen, pink with a deeper pink edge to the corolla. There were two distinct races of *R. yunnanense*, the first similar to the Cangshan plants growing to about 5ft, and the second type near the summit of Ailao, growing to at least 20ft with smaller, pure white flowers. There were also many plants of *R. delavayi* which, again near the summit, must have been about 12ft high. They had mostly finished flowering and only the occasional bright red truss was still visible. *Rhododendron decorum* was present in quite a different form to the Cangshan plants. It was much taller, growing to 8ft, its buds still tightly closed, and with rather an open habit. New growth averaged 9 to 12in., and I immediately thought of *R. serotinum*, but Mrs Fang and Dr Yan both thought it was *R. decorum*. We finally found a few plants of *R. sinogrande* near the top. They had finished flowering, but just two remaining flowers were a good yellow, well up to standard. Many of the large shrubs and trees near the top of

the mountain were covered in a white form of *Clematis montana*. This stretched away into the distance, producing quite an unusual cobwebby effect. Some of these plants must have been huge.

We started back to the village at about 6 pm and arrived about 9 pm, walking the last two miles in moonlight. Two shadowy figures watched us as we crossed the village square, and then we heard thwak-thwak-thwak as they continued flailing their wheat lying all around them on the ground. When daytime temperatures are around 70°F, the cool of the night is a good time for this work. Unknown to us, it had been arranged that, in honour of the Kunming professors and the first Europeans, we should be treated to a banquet on our return, and so, after being supplied with bowls of hot water, soap and towels, we all sat down to a meal that lasted well beyond midnight. Everyone on these occasions feels it necessary to make one speech, if not two. We were congratulated on having walked 40km (a gross exaggeration), everyone congratulated everyone else in a fine show of mutual backslapping, and a good time was had by all.

We now had to face the three-hour drive back to our hotel at Xiaguan, but we were too tired to worry about the precipices, first on one side of the road and then on the other, as the truck went down the mountain from one hairpin bend to the next. One hazard worth mentioning is that vehicles in Yunnan have no dipping system, so that on approaching another car you turn off your lights and the other vehicle does the same; then both switch them on and off again at intervals. Not a good idea if there is a precipice on one side! However, we arrived safely back at our hotel at 3 am as tired, I think, as we have ever been.

After ten days exploring Cangshan and its environs, we drove 200 miles north to Lijiang, which is overlooked by the beautiful Yulongshan mountain range, just east of the first Yangtze bend. The highest point is about 20,000ft, but there are many Dolomitic-type peaks clustered together which make a fine spectacle. Lijiang is divided into an old town and a modern section. This modern town manages to have its only high-rise building blocking the magnificent view of Yulongshan from the main street. The older part, inhabited exclusively by Naxi people, is, however, fascinating, and we spent an evening investigating its narrow streets and old wooden houses. I liked the hardware shop in the front of which was a bicycle providing the main source of power to an attached dentist's drill. The streets are paved with large stones of a sort of conglomerate, worn absolutely smooth over hundreds, if not thousands, of years use. All the wooden houses are at an angle, caused by a bad earthquake about twenty years ago. There is also the Black Dragon Pool park, a series of pagodas and lakes holding huge goldfish in which there is usually a fine reflection of Yulongshan. We found we could walk about quite freely without anyone paying attention to us.

We had three climbs on Yulongshan up to about the 12,000ft level. The

rhododendrons on the lower slopes were very similar to those on Cangshan, but we saw an exceptional ivory-coloured *decorum* amongst the pink and white ones. Quite a number of alpine plants were seen while ascending a dried-up watercourse, among hem *Stellera chamaejasme, Androsace rigida* and *A. spinulifolium*. One hillside was covered with the deep egg-yellow *Primula forrestii*, growing always in a position where it could get its roots under a large stone. At the side of the dried-up river bed was the yellow *Daphne aurantiaca* which could be smelled twenty yards away. Never more than a foot high, it could be three times more across. This plant was often mixed up with a powder-blue lapponicum-type rhododendron which Mrs Fang identified as *R. telmateium*, and this in turn was often growing closely with both *R. primuliflorum* and *R. cuneatum*. We also saw two large liver and purple slipper orchids which I feel must have been the *Cypripedium tibetica* which Kingdon Ward found when in this area. The flowers were fully 3in. across and most impressive. Our progress on this occasion was halted when we came to a large area of loose scree, very steep and most unstable. After several large stones had gone bumping down the mountain near Mrs Fang we turned back.

Our best day was undoubtedly when we visited an outpost of Yulongshan called the Black Snow Mountain. We motored north from Lijiang and after about ten miles turned towards a small village at the foot of Yulongshan where we left the truck and started climbing. After the usual belts of *R. decorum* and *R. yunnanense* we came on occasional trees of *R. vernicosum*, some with a few pink flowers: then, quite suddenly at about 12,000ft, a change to *R. traillianum* and *R. adenogynum*. The latter were almost over, but it was interesting that, although the indumentum on most of the plants was thick and felted, on some it was agglutinated. The traillianums looked magnificent; just a very few were pink, but all had the distinctive ruby-red blotch at the back of the corolla. One more change: at about 12,500ft the traillianums stopped abruptly and over a distance of about thirty yards we were into *R. beesianum*. These were magnificent – the finest rhododendrons we saw on the whole trip. They were large plants, mostly 10 to 15ft tall with huge trusses of rose or salmon pink flowers, the trusses quite 9in. across. A point I had not previously appreciated was that the sticky growth buds could be either green or blackish purple. This is exactly the same phenomenon as in *R. lacteum* and also Hooker's *R. wightii* in Sikkim.

This is only a sketchy account of our three weeks in Yunnan. We saw many other species that I have not mentioned, like *R. uvariifolium* in deep woods to the north-east of Yulongshan, and also a very distinct slatey-blue form of *R. yunnanense* on the Ailao mountains, as well as creamy yellow forms of *R. irroratum* on the south-east side of Cangshan. In all, we saw a total of 39 different rhododendron species.

Unfortunately, at the moment there is a complete ban on collecting plants and seeds in China. This has largely been brought about because Japanese

collectors have on occasions cleared entire areas of rare plants, and, quite understandably, the Chinese authorities take a dim view of this wholesale collecting. I think, if people behave reasonably, the situation will improve, but while we were in Kunming one nameless Dane had all the plants he had collected removed from him at the airport. Anyone can now go to Dali or Lijiang, but I am sure that without Mrs Fang oiling the wheels for us it would have been very difficult, if not impossible, to get up high in the mountains.

The districts round Dali and Lijiang, and further north nearer Tibet, are part of the area covered by semi-autonomous governments, and the people living there are mostly of Tibetan extraction; Bais, Naxis, Lisus and Yis, at least 20 different nationalities altogether, most of them with their own language and distinctive colourful dress. They are very jealous of their semi-autonomous status, and we noticed that Mrs Fang and Dr Yan were most punctilious in asking the local government officers if we could visit their mountains. I am sure this eased our progress very considerably.

I could not complete this article without mentioning the wonderful way in which all our Chinese hosts looked after us. Dr Yan kindly identified any plants which we did not recognize from a small Chinese-Latin crib which he always carried. Everyone took immense trouble and we could not have managed at all without 'Tony' Ji, our interpreter, who had to work hard most of the time. It was certainly the trip of a lifetime.

A spring visit to Bhutan

ANNE BOSCAWEN

A party of six, led by Keith Rushforth, visited the Kingdom of Bhutan from 14 April to 23 May 1987, aiming to cover as much of the botanically interesting parts of the country, and to penetrate as far to the east, as was possible within the time available.

We flew to Delhi and then directly on to Bagdogra in West Bengal. From there we travelled by minibus through endless teagardens to the frontier town of Phuntsholing, with its magnificent wooden painted gateway. *Cupressus cashmiriana* grew in the garden of the customs office, where we were introduced to Kinley, who was to be our Bhutanese guide for the next three weeks. The comfort of the hotel was by now more than welcome after our long journey, but the very next morning we drove on again, heading north up a steep winding road with breathtaking views of the mountains and river valleys. A bright flash of yellow amongst the lush vegetation at the roadside brought us abruptly to the first of many halts, and we all scrambled out to admire a fine yellow form of *R. dalhousiae* subsp. *dalhousiae*, growing epiphytically on the moss-covered trunk of a large *Carpinus viminea*. A quick search revealed many seedlings, including distinctive *R. grande* and *R. dalhousiae* with very hairy petioles. *Rhododendron edgeworthii* and *R. virgatum* were in flower and also *Agapetes serpens*. Trees that we saw included *Tsuga dumosa, Betula cylindrostachya, Abies densa, Alnus nepalensis* and a *Euodia* sp. Here we collected our first and, as it turned out, our only leech bite.

The journey continued on and up, round bend after bend and across bridges over swift rivers. There is virtually only one motor road in Bhutan and it goes from west to east across the country, twisting and turning over passes all the way. We followed a short side road leading northwards to Paro, where we spent two nights. Ludlow and Sherriff followed a different route. Long before the road was built, in June 1933, they came from Sikkim and crossed the passes from the Chumbi valley to the east and into the Ha valley, and so to Paro, using ponies and porters.

After a brief visit to the museum housed in the old circular watchtower we started a steep walk up to the top of the Jele La (La means pass: Chu means river), crossing a dry and treeless hillside. Stunted bushes of *Quercus semecarpifolia* had *Clematis montana* climbing through them. A white-stemmed *Rubus* and *Pieris forrestii* with red young leaves and masses of white flowers were striking. Primulas grew everywhere. At 8,850ft the path entered the forest (*Picea spinulosa*) and we looked back at the valley with its bright green rice fields and groups of prayer flags in the foreground. At 10,500ft we

were among giant *Tsuga dumosa* trees. This track is like some old Cornish garden, with clumps of red *R. arboreum* overhanging the sides of the path and many viburnums and primulas. We stopped at about 11,500ft, feeling the effects of jet lag and altitude combined, but others of the party went on to 13,120ft and found *R. campylocarpum* and several forms of *R. wallichii*.

Paro town has been entirely destroyed by fire, but the houses are being rebuilt in the traditional style. The next morning we bought bananas and peas in the bazaar and then started a long steep climb up a hot and degraded hillside towards the Taktsang monastery – known as the Tiger's Nest – high on the cliff. *Pinus wallichii* is regenerating well here and there were red and pale pink forms of *R. arboreum* in flower and *R. triflorum*. We lunched in a tea house at 10,000ft just below the monastery, and some of the party were shown *R. edgeworthii* growing in a shaded gully.

In the afternoon we visited the ruins of Drukyel Dzong, destroyed by fire in 1951 with all its books and treasures. We collected seed from some fine old *Cupressus corneyana* and from an interesting form of *Hedera nepalensis* with silvery leaves. Ludlow and Sherriff visited both Drukyel Dzong and the Tiger's Nest in 1933, but were kept so busy by their kind Bhutanese hosts that they had little time for collecting. They started their journey eastwards on 28 June, 1933. They did not apparently stop to collect much on the way as they had to complete the long days' marches and were usually riding. They would spend several weeks at one campsite, collecting in the neighbourhood. We stopped frequently, but never for long.

We drove to Thimpu, the present-day capital of Bhutan, and spent the next day on the Dochu La. At our first stop, on the eastern side of the pass a little below the summit, there were big trees of *Tetracentron sinense* and *Quercus oxyodon*, with *Ilex dipyrena, Acer campbellii, A. sterculiaceum* and *A. stachyophyllum*, also *Daphne bholua* in flower, and wonderful *Arisaema* spathes piercing the deep leafy litter under the trees. Here, too, was our first sight of a large-leaved pink-flowered rhododendron *(Fig. 3)*, later confirmed as a new species in the Grandia Subsection, and named *R. kesangiae* Long&Rushforth. *sp. nova* (after the Queen Mother of Bhutan).

The bus drove slowly on and in the deep ravines below the bends in the road we saw giant red-barked yellow-flowered *R. falconeri*, 65ft or so tall, with white-flowered *Magnolia campbellii*, giant *Tsuga dumosa*, one of them sprouting a huge bracket fungus, which in turn supported a clump of white-flowered *R. lindleyi*, and *R. arboreum, R. barbatum, R. triflorum* and *R. keysii*, all in flower. Walking by the roadside near the top of the pass, we found *Magnolia globosa* just coming into leaf, and, at the top, many more trees of *R. kesangiae*.

In June 1933 Ludlow and Sherriff took nine hours to struggle through mud and leeches over the Dochu La and down to the bridge at Wangdi Phodrang. They remarked on a very dark red form of *R. camelliiflorum*. This rhododendron is very difficult to identify when not in flower, and we did not

find it on the Dochu La, but we did see *Michelia doltsopa*, which they also mention. Just above Wangdi Phodrang the roadside was covered with *Rosa brunonii*, a few of the creamy flowers flushed a delicate pink and covered in butterflies. At 6,300ft we stopped to see young *Pinus bhutanica* and *P. roxburghii*.

At 8,700ft we stopped on the Pele La, among *Tsuga dumosa* and *Quercus oxyodon* with *R. lindleyi* growing out of the moss-covered trunks, and a particularly splendid tree of *R. falconeri* with very big trusses of clear yellow flowers and long trails of lichen (*Usnea* sp.) hanging over everything. The hills were sharply outlined in the distance with mist drifting round them.

Chendebi is a very holy place with a big white chorten, or shrine, and prayer wall set between two rivers and surrounded by flowers. We found *R. griffithianum* in flower, *Enkianthus, Populus ciliata*, long trails of *Holboellia* and *Clematis montana*, and much else. In early spring this is an enchanting place, but in July 1933 Ludlow and Sherriff found it leech-ridden, flooded and altogether dismal. They broke their five-day march along slippery mud paths from Wangdi Phodrang to Tongsa here. We covered the same distance in half a day, arriving to a candlelit welcome at Tongsa that night.

The dzong at Tongsa is both monastery and centre of local administration, with very splendid buildings. The next section of the road was only opened to traffic in 1979 and not surfaced with tar until 1985. We sighted many low altitude plants, *Daphniphyllum, Photinia nussia* in flower and big trees of *Quercus griffithii*. We stopped at 9,200ft on the Yutong La and scrambled up a steep hillside among moss-covered fallen tree trunks, full of interesting seedlings. Around us were *Osmanthus suavis, Ilex dipyrena, R. falconeri, Magnolia campbellii, R. edgeworthii* and a rhododendron of the Maddenia Subsection – probably *R. maddenii* subsp. *crassum*. At each step we found more treasures, including *R. arboreum* subsp. *delavayi* with a slightly spongy indumentum, growing with *R. argipeplum*.

It was by now raining hard and we lunched in the bus on the top of the pass. Rations were running low and the last tins of mackerel and mango juice were ripped open with penknives and consumed with the remaining (quite disgusting) sandwiches.

On the eastern side of the pass we drove down a wide valley in which there was a hydro-electric dam and the *Malus baccata* trees were in full flower and on to Jakar, at 9,250ft, the centre of the Bumthang district of East Bhutan. Here we spent the night in a comfortable tourist lodge where every room had its own woodburning stove and hot water was brought in large buckets.

The next morning, equipped with tents and ponies, we left the road. We hoped, if time permitted, to reach the top of the Rudo La at 13,500ft, but, due to problems at Thimpu, we were still more than a day behind schedule. We walked past potato and barley fields and apple orchards and a very big *Juniperus wallichiana* beside a temple (the monks protect trees which would

otherwise be cut for firewood or fodder). Higher up, *R. virgatum* was growing in the bank at the side of the path and we got a view of the snow-clad mountains ahead. The snowline at this time of the year is at about 13,136ft. Below us, the valley was filled with *Pinus wallichiana* and we were among *Picea spinulifera* and *R. triflorum*. After an easy day's walking we reached our first campsite at Damphe. A Bhutanese survey party, engaged on making new maps to replace those last modified by Ludlow and Sherriff in the 1930s, were already there and we shared a large camp fire.

The next day we followed the path which climbs steeply out of the cultivated valley and then walked through woodland glades with quantities of golden *Piptanthus nepalensis*. A small shepherd boy played a flute among grey boulders. We continued among tall, straight *Picea spinulifera* with thick undergrowth of *Enkianthus*, scented *Daphne bholua*, maples, bamboo and *Osmanthus suavis*. It was all very beautiful, in spite of intermittent rain. Higher still, the tall trees are *Tsuga dumosa*, with *Prunus cornuta, Viburnum erubescens, Betula utilis* shedding bark in papery sheets, and fine red *R. arboreum* subsp. *delavayi*. At 10,560ft we were among *Abies densa* and much *R. kesangiae*, covered in bright pink flowers.

Almost at the top of the pass, at 11,830ft, we came upon a stoloniferous patch of bright yellow *Daphne* and nearby a lovely deep pink *Viburnum grandiflorum*. It was by now pouring with rain and we crossed a glade occupied by a large herd of yaks and their herdsman. There were many dead trees here, and everything was draped in lichen and shrouded in mist. On the far side of the pass we found typical *R. hodgsonii* and took refuge from the rain for a few moments in a brilliantly painted stone shelter which just held us all. Then we hurried on to camp and the hospitality of the village headman, who loaned us his newly built house and most welcome hot stove. Everything not sealed into plastic bags was wet through, including all Kinley's own kit.

In the morning, above the village, we found *R. thomsonii* growing with bamboos, its roots literally under water in a peaty bog, obviously flourishing and covered in flowers. We continued on upwards, between banks of sticky yellow clay and splashed through mud and water. At 11,500ft there were patches of snow among the rhododendrons – *R. arboreum* subsp. *delavayi, R. thomsonii, R. succothii, R. campylocarpum and R. kesangiae*. For the last hour I got a lift on an ancient mule and at last we reached camp at 12,200 ft in the hanging valley of Phokphey, surrounded by *Abies densa* forest and with clear views of snow-clad peaks.

The following morning some of the party managed to reach the top of the Rudo-La at 13,500ft. The snow was over a metre deep there, but specimens were collected of *R. wightii, R. flinckii, R. nivale, R. bhutanense* Long & Bowes Lyon, and *R. campanulatum* subsp. *aeruginosum*. In the afternoon we all followed another path downhill, through much degraded forest and, lower down, across cultivated land to another beautiful campsite beside the river at

Miserthang. From here, on the next day, we walked back to the roadhead, and so by truck and bus to Jakar again.

After a good night's rest in the comparative luxury of the guesthouse, we set off again in the bus going eastwards on a very new road still under construction. At first the valleys were very dry with few trees, but there were many prosperous stone-built farm houses with traditional wooden windows. At 11,650ft we were amongst *Picea spinulosa* and rhododendrons, and we saw quantities of *R. kesangiae* in flower as well as *R. triflorum*. We stopped to explore at 11,800ft and found several beautiful orange and yellow forms of *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *xanthocodon*. Above the road there is a steep cliff overhanging a deep gully, and here we found many seedlings of *R. argipeplum*, *R. pendulum*, *R. flinckii*, *R. kesangiae* and *R. camelliiflorum*, the seed having fallen from parent plants growing along the top of the cliff. We were near the top of the Shating La and continued on down the road on the other side of the pass, through a very dry windswept valley to the village of Ura, where we set up camp in front of the village school, at 10,200ft. Our gallant cook had problems with the dinner because all the labels had soaked off the food tins!

Ura is a remote and primitive place, and the climate is bleak and very cold in winter. The people are subsistence farmers. The motor road which now links Ura to the rest of Bhutan is very new and the hydro-electric scheme does not yet work. The school, like all Bhutanese schools, teaches mainly in English, and there was a delightful English girl, a VSO teacher, in residence. Dzongsa, the official Bhutanese language, is also taught. The pupils are being prepared to cope with more contact with the outside world.

Next day the road took us eastwards over the Thrumseng La. At about 12,140ft we found snow and many rhododendrons. We recognized *R. hodgsonii*, *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *xanthocodon* and *R. argipeplum*, and there were also some very large trusses of flowers in white and pink, probably hybrids of *R. hodgsonii*. Hybrids seem often to occur in recently disturbed ground, beside new roads, etc. A steep peaty slope with water running through it was entirely covered with a purple-flowered primula of the Novalid section – a lovely sight. The top of the pass at 12,400ft was covered in snow and a dense growth of rhododendrons about 5 feet high. We found *R. wightii*, *R. hodgsonii*, *R. succothii*, *R. campylocarpum* and *R. flinckii* with *Sorbus insignis*, *S. rubro-pilosa* and *Rosa webbiana*. *Juniperus recurva* and *Rhododendron pumilum* were growing on a rocky outcrop below the road. On the sides of this ridge grew bamboos and big plants of *R. kesangiae*, and beside the waterfalls in the gully below were many small *R. keysii* and others which could have been *R. camelliiflorum* or *R. maddenii* subsp. *crassum*. Below the road on another ridge we found many lovely orange-flowered *R. cinnabarinum* and some seedlings of kesangiae with leaves 20in. × 10in. or more. Unfortunately we then had to turn back as time was running out. On reaching Jakar, we found that the guesthouse was full so we had to drive on in the dark to Tongsa.

As we left in the minibus next morning we had a splendid view of Tongsa and its seven watchtowers and the three converging valleys. In August 1949 Ludlow and Sherriff complained of the abundance of leeches in the tropical jungle around Tongsa and we were spared these. We set off down the Manade Chu valley past many waterfalls above the road, where *Conogynum molle* grew in the cliffs and forests of *Castanopsis* trees and *Quercus griffithii*. We stopped at 8,230ft and looked up at a splendid deep gorge with *R. griffithianum* in flower all over the cliffs and at our feet carpets of delicious wild strawberries, clumps of *Rubus* and *Hypericum hookeri*, as well as lots of *Rhododendron grande* seedlings. *Aristolochia griffithi*, with its strange "Dutchmans pipe" flowers, *Agapetes serpens*, jewel orchid and cymbidiums flourish in the rocky cliffs at the side of the road.

Back at Chendebi we had more time to explore. *Rhododendron maddenii*, *R. griffithianum* and the white-flowered *Coelogyne corymbosa* were all contributing to the 'flower garden' effect, but we did not see the red-flowered form of *R. neriiflorum* var. *phaedropum* found here by Ludlow and Sherriff in July 1937. We were also able to stop and enjoy the Pele La again and appreciate the glorious yellow-flowered *R. falconeri* and the last flowers on *Magnolia campbellii*. *Rhododendron lindleyi* could be seen flowering high up on the big oaks. At 9,475ft we were amongst specimens of *R. griffithianum* and the last-known stand of native *Cupressus corneyana*, and here there was also a very big *Tetracentron sinensis* tree. By now the pouring rain was causing many small landslides and rockfalls on the road, and the way to our intended campsite at Gante Gompa had become impassible, so we drove on down to Wangdi Phodrang and on to a campsite by the lovely Mo Chu, amongst bananas and opuntias at 4,785ft.

On the way up the western side of the Dochu La, *R. griffithianum* was in flower (Fig. 4) and a clump of lovely lavender mauve iris of the Evansia section. At 9,100ft we came to *R. falconeri* again and a very striking *Decaisnea insignis* with yellow flowers and black shoots, and we glimpsed a humming bird. We walked slowly down the dryer side of the pass, enjoying the sunshine and then drove back to our hotel at Thimpu, behind which was a small zoo with a herd of Takin, strange-looking animals who live near the tree line in Bhutan and west China.

On the road towards the frontier we stopped at Chapcha (8,500ft) and again lower down, finding everywhere rhododendrons of the Maddenia Subsection – infuriatingly not in flower and so impossible to identify. Anyone willing to face the monsoon and the leeches in June would find the forests full of scented flowers. We stopped for a big tree of *Ulmus wallichiana* covered in seed (8,180ft) and a lovely *Cornus capitata* in full bloom. From the bus we got marvellous views of interlocking, wooded spurs. The drier hillsides were clothed in birch and elsewhere juniper, abies and spruce. And so we came down again to Phuntsholing. Some hardier spirits spent the last day at the

Taktipeak and found *R. glaucophyllum* in flower, while the rest of us spent the time writing notes and recuperating before the long drive back to Bagdogra on the first stage of the journey home.

Rhododendron yakushimanum and its allies

WALTER MAGOR

Rhododendron yakushimanum was first described in 1920 by the Japanese botanist T. Nakai, and this is the basis of the description on p.581 of J. B. Stevenson's *The Species of Rhododendron* (1930). Dr A. F. Serbin contributed a detailed article on the species and its home, which he had visited, in the *Bulletin of the American Rhododendron Society*, which was reproduced in part in the *Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book, 1961*, pp.52-8. Mr Hideo Suzuki, Vice President of the Japanese Rhododendron Society, contributed another article to the Australian Rhododendron Society's journal, *The Rhododendron* (Vol.13, no.4) in December 1974, which was reprinted by the New Zealand Rhododendron Group in July 1979, and by the Pacific Rhododendron Society of the USA in its November 1987 newsletter. This has been brought to our notice by Mr Dan Mayers, who had contributed an article to *Rhododendrons with Magnolias and Camellias*, 1972, under the title 'Yaku Which?' (p.9).

Forms of *R. yakushimanum* in this country originate from two small plants sent to Mr Lionel de Rothschild at Exbury in 1934 by Mr K. Wada of Numazushi in Japan. These were two distinct clones, one of which, given to the RHS garden at Wisley, was awarded an FCC in 1947 under the clonal name 'Koichiro Wada'. There is an article by Mr Wada in the *Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book, 1966* (pp.100-2), dealing with rhododendrons of this alliance and their hybrids.

The Balfourian classification recognized four allied species: *degronianum; makinoi; yakushimanum*, with 5-lobed corollas; and *metternichii*, with a 7-lobed corolla, though otherwise similar to *degronianum*. *Rhododendron degronianum* is native to the eastern half of Honshu, the main island of Japan, and *R. metternichii* in various forms to the western half. *Rhododendron makinoi* has a restricted distribution in two areas near the centre of the island; while *R. yakushimanum* is confined to the mountainous island of Yaku Shima, 150km south of Kyushu, the southern main island. There it grows near the summit of three mountain peaks, Mt Kuju, Mt Yaedake and Mt Hanano-Ego. On the latter there are at least three different forms. Dr Serbin made the ascent of Mt Hanano-Ego and for convenience referred to the first as 'R. yakushimanum planum': from about 1500m elevation, flat-leaved like *R. degronianum*, growing to a height of 4 to 5 feet with a loose habit and leaves 3 to 4 inches in length. In exposed positions on the windless side of the summit is the second form, a true dwarf, not exceeding 2½ feet high, with leaves 1½ to 2½ inches in

length with rounded margins slightly convex; this Dr Serbin called 'yakushimanum parvum'. On the windy side of the peak, growing to a height of 3 feet is the third form which we know as the Exbury and FCC forms and which he calls *"yakushimanum convexum"*.

The Edinburgh revision of 1982 adopted the name *R. japonicum* (Blume) Schneider for the *metternichii – degronianum* complex, with var. *japonicum* with 7-lobed corollas, and var. *pentamerum* for the 5-lobed. The name *R. japonicum* (A. Gray) Suringar, applied to an azalea, was considered invalid, and this taxon became *R. glabrius* Nakai. *Rhododendron yakushimanum* was considered a separate species with two subspecies *yakushimanum* and *makinoi*.

In a recent paper*, however, Dr D. F. Chamberlain and Mr Frank Doleshy accept the further revision of the *R. degronianum* alliance published by Professor H. Hara in 1986, which regards *R. makinoi* as a separate species and the other forms as subspecies of *R. degronianum*: viz. subsp. *degronianum*, subsp. *heptamerum* (with 3 varieties) and subsp. *yakushimanum* with two varieties, *yakushimanum* and *intermedium*, the latter covering Serbin's 'planum' and 'parvum'. The International Committee for Botanical Nomenclature now agrees that the azalea *R. glabrius* may revert to the name of *R. japonicum* (A. Gray) Suringar, for so long familiar to azalea enthusiasts. The following table will show the relationship.

Stevenson et al 1947	*Chamberlain* 1982	*Hara* 1986
	R. japonicum	*R. degronianum*
R. degronianum	var. *pentamerum*	ssp. *degronianum*
		ssp. *heptamerum*
R. metternichii	var. *japonicum*	var. *heptamerum*
		var. *hondoense*
		var. *kyomaruense*
		f. *amagianum*
	R. yakushimanum	ssp. *yakushimanum*
R. yakushimanum	ssp. *yakushimanum*	var. *yakushimanum*
		var. *intermedium*
R. makinoi	ssp. *makinoi*	*R. makinoi*

Mr. Hideo Suzuki's article, brought to light by Mr Dan Mayers, records two other forms which sound well worth growing if they can be obtained. On

*D. F. Chamberlain & Frank Doleshy'. 'Japanese members of *Rhododendron* subsection Pontica. Distribution and classification'. *Journal of Japanese Botany*, vol. 62, no. 8, August 1987, p.225.

top of the mountain at high altitude is the smallest form of *yakushimanum*, called *Kozasa* by the islanders, with an extremely tiny glossy wax-green leaf, one-third to one-half the size of those of the FCC form, heavily indumented, with its margin conspicuously recurved. Also, from a mountain in northern Japan (by which he presumably means northern Honshu, as none of this alliance are recorded from Hokkaido), he records a form of *R. degronianum* with a heavy woolly indumentum and compact growth, rivalling the best forms of *yakushimanum*, but with a less campanulate flower, deep pink in colour and not fading to white when fully open.

Suddenly it's spring

JOHN GALLAGHER

After the mad rush of Christmas, a quick look around the garden quickly reveals that spring is almost upon us again. This year is especially important. A large layer of *Magnolia campbellii* purchased from the late Miss Mildred Veitch at the old Alphington nursery near Exeter in 1970 has produced its first seven flower buds. Just as the colour was showing, the frost came and knocked out each one after the other. Fortunately, we are not restricted to this plant alone! Its two neighbours *M.* × *veitchii* 'Isca', both from the same nursery, have the sense to keep their buds tight and usually flower perfectly each year. I have long ceased to worry about the huge branches which blow off them both when they are in full leaf and the summer rains make the leaves so heavy that the slightest breeze brings down the branches. They quickly recover again and are back to flowering the next season just the same. Some eighteen years ago I visited the nursery with my mother and the old foreman there gave me his knife to pick a bunch of the flowers for her. They were both very amused at my inability to cut the branches and I returned with a couple of very damaged flowers.

For the second year, a vigorous 7ft seedling from China of *M. cylindrica* has thrown a succession of highly scented blooms with the faintest tint of purple on the outside of the tepals. When fully opened, the flowers are large white saucers, pure white inside. A second seedling from the same batch of seed flowered this year and also is highly scented. Both flower significantly earlier than the FCC form which we also grow.

Another series of seedlings from open pollinated M. 'Leonard Messel' are also starting to flower and proving very interesting. No sign of the 'Leonard Messel' purple colour, but the pure white, quite large-flowered seedlings have very pronounced bullate leaves.

The broad-leaved form of *M. salicifolia* purchased from the Savill Gardens is surely one of the most desirable forms of this common species. For me the growth rate is rapid and in three years I have a nice 8ft tree and growing. *Magnolia salicifolia, M. kobus* and *M. kobus* var. *borealis* form the background at the top of the garden for what I call my firework display. In front a large M. 'Merrill' next to *M.* × *soulangeana* 'Rustica Rubra', *M.* × *soulangeana* 'Alba Superba' and my own *soulangeana* seedling, 'Just Jean' all flowering around the same time in good years make a somewhat spectacular sight!

The development of new magnolias has not stood still in recent years and trying some of the newer offerings has proved fun. The National Arboretum of Washington (D.C.) has been involved in a magnolia breeding programme

for a number of years now and they have produced a number of very interesting plants. 'Galaxy' was bred using the very hardy *M. sprengeri diva* and *M. quinquepeta (liliiflora) nigra*. Selected as a tree form, young plants should be trained with judicious pruning with this in mind. My own a 12ft tree is now flowering regularly and the pencil-like buds open into very respectable sized flowers, held erect on the branches. Definitely a specimen plant, its sister seedling, 'Spectrum' has a broader crown and is not so erect. Probably slightly better in colour, but nothing much to choose. I was fortunate in catching both plants in full flower at the Arboretum this spring. An astonishing sight.

Other offerings have not been so well received. The National Arboretum 'girls' are first class garden plants, a point that seems to have missed their critics! The whole object in developing these hybrids between *M. quinquepeta (liliiflora)* and *M. kobus* var. *stellata* was to produce plants which would extend the colour range and flower later, thus escaping the frosts. Pink to red-purple, in England, our cool climate tames the dark colours considerably and unfortunately we also lose the lovely bright silver bark you see on the plants in the USA. My plants came from Hillier over 15 years ago and have developed into multi-stemmed bushes kept in some sort of shape by casual pruning. Freely flowering every year they are sterile triploids and never set seed.

The late Dr Todd Gresham of California carried out a vast number of crosses using all sorts of magnolias. Unable even to give his seedlings away during his lifetime, his good friend Bill Dodd of Dodds Nurseries, Mobile, Alabama, transferred nearly 2,000 seedlings to their nursery at Mobile where they were planted out in rows and allowed to grow to maturity. More were planted at the Gloucester Arboretum nearby. Only in recent years have some of the plants become available, the reason for any delay being mainly that no nurseryman in his senses would flood an existing market with a couple of thousand hybrids! Of the first available 'Sayonara' is surely one of the loveliest. A huge pure white goblet-shaped flower of perfect form, the whole plant is covered from head to foot and lights up the whole garden. Initially, I was very impressed with another pear-shaped flower 'Manchu Fan' and, in our many exchanges, the late Sir Harold Hillier told me that he considered 'Sayonara' better. I have come round to his point of view, finding the constitution of 'Manchu Fan' to be unstable in the condition of my garden. It does have a most beautiful pear-shaped flower of great quality in spite of all that.

Of the early coloured introductions, 'Heaven Scent' always receives acclaim from visitors. The distinctive shape of the flowers and the dark raspberry colour are very effective. 'Royal Crown' has the advantage of flowering again in the autumn. In fact, here, it never seems to stop! At the Brookside Gardens in Washington D.C. it has reached some size and, in spite of being in full flower when I was there, they assured me that they would have lots of enquiries in the fall about the plant and its name.

A tall grower, my grafted plant of 'Peppermint Stick', again one of the original named clones, is well over 20ft already. I was hoping to comment on the latest Gresham additions, which started to flower last year. A late April frost wiped out all the flowers and so we will have to wait until another year.

Yellow magnolias are here to stay and three from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York are growing well and should soon be flowering freely. My own favourite is 'Elizabeth', a *M. acuminata* × *M. heptapeta* cross which is pale cream rather than really yellow. The flowers first show colour as quite a deep lemon yellow, only to fade to cream as they open. My own feeling is to forget the yellow and just regard this as a very attractive first class garden plant. 'Yellowbird', later flowering, really is yellow but not as showy in flower, part of the reason for this being the fact that the olive green leaves open at the same time and thus reduce the overall effect.

'Hattie Carthan' has a yellow flower with purple veins ascending from the base of the tepals. Flowering later than 'Elizabeth' and the *soulangeana* cultivars, it should be useful in avoiding late frosts. The parentage of these last two hybrids is complicated being based on *M. acuminata* × *M. quinquepeta* (*liliiflora*) crosses. Another approach to the same problem of cold-hardy, late-flowering yellow hybrids is under way at the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. under the direction of Dr Santamour. Crosses between *M. acuminata* and *M.* × *veitchii* have produced some very interesting seedlings now under valuation.

There is still plenty of room for amateur hybridists to enjoy themselves. Start soon – magnolias like time!

Great survivors

I. F. LA CROIX

Of all the natural disasters that can strike a garden, tenants must be among the worst. We moved to our house in Dorking in January 1969, bringing with us a considerable selection of plants from our previous garden in Dunbartonshire. Most of these settled down well in their new surroundings and over the next few years we added many more.

In 1978 we moved to Malawi and from then until our return at the end of November 1987, the house was let apart from 2- or 3-month spells in 1980, 1982 and 1984 when we were home on leave. On every leave we seemed to spend a large part of our time straightening out the garden, but on our final return it was in the worst state of all, with knee-high grass and a continuous cover of ground elder, bindweed, couch grass and creeping buttercup. Most of these, of course, were not visible in winter but made their presence known when any fork stuck into the ground became tangled in a solid mat of roots. Hedges had been allowed to grow unchecked, except for the one along the road which had apparently been cut just before our return and the branches all dumped on what had once been the vegetable garden, forming a pile the size of an average room. Needless to say, keeping the garden (⅓ acre) tidy was in the terms of the lease.

As the period of years in question (1978-87) included, we have been told, exceptionally cold winters and prolonged dry spells, not to mention the gale of October 1987, it would seem that any plants which survived must be of strong constitution. Discovering these survivors has been rather in the nature of archæology – both disentangling them from the weeds and trying to remember what they were. Virtually every label was indecipherable and the garden records were somewhat incomplete (a lesson to be remembered in our next garden). However, in spite of being so rusty that to start with I could hardly tell *Rhododendron augustinii* from *R. arboreum*, things have gradually started to fall into place.

Where plants have gone, it is not always possible to know whether frost, drought or strangulation has been the cause, but sometimes I have made a guess. It was probably to be expected that *R. ciliatum*, *R. williamsianum* and *R. griersonianum* should have succumbed, but 'Moorheim's Scarlet', bred in Germany, ought to have been very hardy. We suspect that drought finished it off and perhaps *R. ciliatum* too; both grew on top of a bank, near a hedge, and no tenant would ever go to the trouble of watering in a long dry spell.

Other casualties include *R. campylogynum* var. *myrtilloides*, *R. forrestii* var. *repens*, *R. camtschaticum* (probably smothered by ground elder), *R. falconeri*

(too close to some large cypresses and so probably drought-stricken), *R. neriiflorum*, *R. carolinianum* (drought again), *R. habrotrichum*, *R. sanguineum* subsp. *didymum*, *R. impeditum*, *R. russatum*, *R. keleticum* and *R. zaleucum*. *Rhododendron makinoi* has also gone, but it was never a good doer.

Now for the survivors. *Rhododendron augustinii* has not made a lot of growth but it is looking well and flowering. It was bought from Glendoick in 1966, when we lived near Helensburgh, and moved to Dorking in 1969. Near it is *R. moupinense*, which had its best ever display of flower this year, *R. pemakoense* and a clutch of what I think are *R. hanceanum* var. *nanum*, grown from Scottish Rock Garden Club seed sown in 1970. They are covered in buds, just starting to move, so soon all should be revealed.

Rhododendron luteiflorum, *R. glaucophyllum* and 'Praecox' are still with us; one of a group of *R. kiusianum* has survived, another has a few living branches but other specimens have died. A plant of *R. cinnabarinum* var. *roylei* 'Magnificum', also bought from Glendoick in 1966, has grown enormous but unfortunately has been pushed over so that part is now horizontal. Even more unfortunately, it has not layered itself and some layers that we tried to establish while on leave have not taken. It is a very fine plant but will be too large to move again. Beside it, 'Albatross' has grown well and also a group of plants which I think must be hybrid seedlings from *R. campylocarpum* and *R. wardii*. As I write, one plant is a mass of creamy yellow flowers opening from pink buds; another, with rounder, more *wardii*-like leaves, is at the pink bud stage, while others have no flower buds at all. *Rhododendron yakushimanum*, yet another of the 1966 purchases from Glendoick, looks well but is as reluctant to flower as it has always been – we had hoped that it might improve with age. Other healthy-looking survivors are *R. albrechtii*, *R. orbiculare*, *R. catawbiense*, *R. luteum* and a couple of hybrid deciduous azaleas, 'Palestrina' (another non-flowerer), *R. racemosum*, *R. schlippenbachii*, *R. viscosum*, *R. yunnanense*, something in the Pontica Subsection which I just cannot remember – possibly *R. brachycarpum* – 'Beauty of Littleworth' (about the only readable label or I wouldn't have known), 'Fabia', 'Cilpinense' and *R. aberconwayi*. We have not seen the last in flower and to our annoyance, although there are a few dead heads from last year, there are no flower buds for this year. Another plant of uncertain origin is a large-leaved one which was growing well under and amongst the *campylocarpum* seedlings. It is either a *sinogrande* seedling given by Edward Needham at Tregye in early 1978, not long before I left for Malawi, or a seedling of *R. hodgsonii*. I suspect the latter – the other is wishful thinking.

No magnolias have survived – there were not many, only *M. sieboldii* and young plants of *M.* × *loebneri* 'Merrill' and *M. sprengeri diva*. The camellias did, however – 'Donation', 'Anticipation' (discovered under a mass of ivy) and 'Lady de Saumarez'. 'Donation', bought from Knap Hill in 1969, is a marvellous plant. We took cuttings to Malawi and they grew and thrived there

in full tropical sun, although the flowers were always smaller than they are here. The parent plant, although somewhat misshapen, was covered in flower for a month.

Finally, it might be worth mentioning a few of the other plants which have, or have not, been able to fight their way through. *Eucryphia* × *nymansensis* has grown well and the tree peonies *P. lutea* var. *ludlowii* and *P. delavayi* are still with us. *Pieris formosa, Embothrium coccineum, Cytisus battandieri, Daphne odora, D. mezereum, D. blagayana*, all the *Cistus* and even *Choisya ternata* have gone – the last surely due to drought. A great sadness was the loss of *Syringa yunnanensis*, originally a seedling lifted personally and given to us by Captain Collingwood Ingram in his Kent garden. Of the herbaceous plants, the greatest loss, and I fear the most difficult to replace, is the Madeira orchid, *Dactylorhiza foliosa*, of which we had some magnificent clumps. They used to flower with and beside *R. griersonianum* and the purple and red were a startling combination. I suspect that ground elder rather than weather is to blame.

Of the surviving rhododendrons, not many are now of a portable size which is a pity as we are on the move again. This house is on the market – it is interesting that the garden, even in its depleted state, is considered an asset by the estate agent. By the time this appears in print we should (all going well) be established in north-west Scotland, not very far south of Inverewe, struggling not (I hope) with ground elder but with 8 acres of peat bog. It is a pity that those survivors have grown so well!

Naming seedlings of *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata*

NIGEL HOLMAN

Magnolia lovers must all have been impressed by the photograph and description of Philip Urlwin-Smith's seedling of *Magnolia mollicomata* 'Lanarth' in the 1987-8 *Year Book*. I was particularly interested in the poise of the flowers; these were not typical of 'Lanarth', tending towards *M. sargentiana robusta*. The colour of the flowers also appeared to be paler than the type, and it looks as if the tree is a hybrid between *robusta* and 'Lanarth'. I am not surprised that such a chance hybrid exists, as the nearest magnolia to the original tree at Lanarth is a *robusta*, and both trees were in full flower when I first saw 'Lanarth' in March 1962. This first viewing was a memorable occasion. Michael Williams had told me that he would ring when the tree was at its best, and that I must bring my mother and my wife, and that he would give us all a cup of tea. The day was perfect; in a grey misty light 'Lanarth' was unbelievable, unique; but what made the day so special were the smuggling stories that Michael Williams told us at tea. There is no doubt that in olden times Lanarth was more famous for its brandy than for its garden.

Michael gave my father two seedlings in March 1954. I have his covering letter in which he suggests that one of them could be a hybrid with *robusta*. However, neither show any signs of this, and I am confident that the first seedlings raised at Lanarth, *c.* 1951-2, were all self-pollinated and show all the characteristics of the type plant. I discovered from Philip Urlwin-Smith that his seedling was from a later raising. One of our seedlings has proved outstanding. I have a grafted 'Lanarth', but as this has yet to flower, I have been unable to make a direct comparison; all, however, who have seen the seedling here consider it to be superior to the original. Thanks to an exceptionally early season, I was able to show it in London at the end of February 1988. Driving up from Cornwall, I decided that I had better give it a clonal name and so, without telling her, I named it 'Elisabeth Holman' after my wife.

I consider it important that these outstanding clones should be named. I say 'these' advisedly, as I understand that one of the seedlings at Lanarth has darker flowers than the type, and there is another splendid one at Trewithen. They must not be called 'Lanarth'; this is a clonal name that should only be applied to plants vegetatively propagated from the original tree. Whether these, (in my view) superior seedlings should be recognized by being given an award similar to their FCC parent is a moot point. It makes me more

convinced than ever that the award system is an anachronism and should be replaced by computer printouts freely available, showing the best clones of every species at any given time; the selection of these 'first class' clones would be the responsibility of a specialist sub-committee.

I am also unhappy with the nomenclatural treatment of 'Lanarth' accepted in Neil Treseder's *Magnolias*. Here it is called *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* Lanarth Group. I believe this usage of 'Group' to be incorrect. I am of the opinion that the original 'Lanarth' and its vegetatively reproduced offspring should be treated as a clone. Unfortunately, seedlings of 'Lanarth' have been distributed under this same name, which presumably led Neil Treseder to group them together, in view of the confusion over the application of the original clonal name. This is nomenclaturally acceptable, but as the clone 'Lanarth' is identifiable, the related selected seedlings, if grouped at all, should be given another name.

In *Asiatic Magnolias in Cultivation*, George Johnstone, with the botanical advice of J. E. Dandy, used the name *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* convar. *williamsiana* 'Lanarth'. I am advised that the term 'convarietas' is seldom used nowadays, and is not recognized under the Botanical or Horticultural Codes. Whilst strict nomenclatural priority is not absolutely essential under the Horticultural Code, I would have thought it desirable that Johnstone's name should be used for any Group required, i.e. Williamsiana Group, rather than Lanarth Group.

Treseder originally used Lanarth Group on the advice of the RHS, to cover all the seedlings of 'Lanarth' being incorrectly sold under this clonal name, as it was not thought that clonally propagated plants of 'Lanarth' were available. The usage of Lanarth Group is perfectly valid but, as 'Lanarth' as a clone is now available from vegetatively propagated material from the original plant that I first saw in 1962, it would avoid confusion if the seedlings could be reclassified as Williamsiana Group to which 'Lanarth' and 'Elisabeth Holman' would belong, as, of course, would Philip Urlwin-Smith's tree.

I am told that Michael Snellgrove has planted out at Trewidden 60 seedlings raised from 'Lanarth'. One can expect that many of these will prove worthy of naming, joining the 'Lanarth' progeny that have shown such outstanding characteristics already, and which justify their separation from the other members of what I choose to call the Campbellii Group (*M. campbellii, campbellii alba, mollicomata,* etc.).

A unique collection of rare and tender camellia and rhododendron species

E. W. M. MAGOR

Those of us who attend the Royal Horticultural Society's flower shows are privileged from time to time to see an exhibit of rare or unusual plants from Mr Maurice Mason of Talbot Manor in Norfolk. Maurice Mason, VMH, a Vice-President of the Society, former Chairman of the Orchid Committee and a member of Floral 'B' Committee, and recipient in 1968 of the Veitch Memorial Gold Medal for his contribution to the knowledge of greenhouse plants, has also been president of the International Cactus Society. He farms a very large acreage in Norfolk and over the years has built up an almost unrivalled collection of trees and shrubs at Talbot Manor, Fincham, near King's Lynn, and more recently, also a few miles away at Larchwood, Swaffham, where he and Mrs Mason now live.

A year or two ago, he heard me talking about the collection of Vireya rhododendrons which Miss Carlyon was making at Tregrehan in Cornwall, and, most generously sent her a selection of plants for it. In April 1986 I had the great good fortune to be invited to spend a couple of nights at Larchwood to see his collection, an unforgettable experience. In the arboretum at Talbot Manor is such a collection of trees and shrubs as I have never seen before: practically every taxon mentioned in *Hillier's Manual*, plus a fair number which Sir Harold let him have which were not included in the *Manual*.

At Larchwood is a younger generation of treasures, including a nice collection of rhododendrons about which Mr Mason is very modest. Surpassing everything, however, are the glasshouses at Talbot Manor, where one could happily have spent several interesting days. There are houses full of cacti and other succulents, of orchids, and of ferns, among other groups of plants; but of most interest to readers of this yearbook are the camellia and rhododendron houses. There I saw camellia species which I did not know were in cultivation in this country, and a fine collection of Vireya species, as well as a good many of the Maddenia subsection. The camellia and Vireya species are listed below:

Camellia and Vireya rhododendron species under glass, April, 1986

Camellia

caudata
chekiangoleosa
chrysantha
cuspidata
drupifera
fraterna
granthamiana
hongkongensis
hozanensis
irrawadiensis
kissii
lutchuensis
maliflora
microphylla
miyagii
oleifera
pitardii
rosaeflora
salicifolia
sinensis
taliensis
tsaii
yuhsiensis
yunnanensis

plus, untraced: 'Beni-Bana-Cha', *purpurea*

Vireya rhododendrons

Subsect. Pseudovireya
kawakamii
quadrasianum (as *rosmarinifolium*)
retusum

Subsect. Siphonovireya
herzogii

Subsection Phaeovireya
beyerinckianum
dielsianum
hellwigii
hyacinthosmum
konorii
leptanthum
phaeochitum
rarum
rubellum
solitarium
superbum

Subsect. Euvireya
series Linnaeoidea
anagalliflorum
gracilentum
series Stenophylla
stenophyllum
series Buxifolia
bagobonum Q
buttii
inconspicuum
pauciflorum
planecostatum Q
sheilae Q
wrightianum var. *cyclopense*
series Javanica
aurigeranum
brookeanum
christianae
christii
crassifolium
intranervatum
javanicum
laetum
lochiae
longiflorum
luraluense
macgregoriae
maxwellii
multicolor
nervulosum
polyanthemum Q
praetervisum Q
rarilepidotum Q
rugosum
scabridibracteatum
sessilifolium
zoelleri

Subsect. Malayovireya
fallacinum
himantodes Q
micromalayanum

Subsect. Solenovireya
carringtoniae
cruttwellii
goodenoughii Q
jasminiflorum 'Taylori'
'Punctatum'
pneumonanthum Q
suaveolens 'Painted Snipe'
stapfianum

Q = Thought not to be in cultivation

Hand pollination of rhododendrons for seed

DAVID CLULOW

Most rhododendron lovers know that if you want seed from the British rhododendron collections then you can only obtain it from the American Rhododendron Society Seed Exchange. At last the Rhododendron Group has decided to set up its own seed distribution scheme (see p.95). This means that we need contributors and I hope these notes will get you started.

If you have never hybridized rhododendrons then you are missing out on a most exciting hobby. Many people say they have not the patience to wait until their babies flower, but smaller growing rhododendrons and those containing high percentages of *R. griersonianum* or *R. decorum* can start to flower from only three to four years from seed and if you hybridize every year then some new plants will flower for the first time each year, with the prospect of an FCC quality plant always at the back of your mind.

If you select the parents with intelligence then you will obtain a very high percentage of very fine plants from each cross. There are a number of guidelines which may be helpful to the tyro hybridizer:

1. Only use the very best parents (species and/or hybrids).
2. Do not waste your time trying to cross lepidote with elepidote, the cross will not take.
3. It is safest to cross like with like, i.e. red crossed red will almost always give all red progeny; a check of the parentage in *Salley and Greer* is useful for line breeding.
4. Indumentum and beautiful new growths tend to be recessive and if you want this particular characteristic then both parents must possess it.
5. Avoid parents with much *R. ponticum* or *R. catawbiense* in their background and flowers of lilac, lavender, purple and bluish red as these tend to produce progeny with 'off colour' flowers.
6. It is probably better when using two flowers of dissimilar size to use the smaller flower as the female parent. I have always done this where possible but would not be put off from trying to put a small flower on to a large one. Lionel de Rothschild believed that it was almost useless to put the pollen from a short-styled rhododendron on to a long-styled one, as the pollen tube will not grow far enough down it, to reach the ovary. David Leach does not agree but I have found it best to stick to Lionel de Rothschild's view.

In order to make hybridizing simple and efficient the following pieces of

equipment will be found helpful:

1. A pair of student dental tweezers with bent ends.
2. Some tie-on labels.
3. Blick self-adhesive labels number 1038 or 1350.
4. A clip board with stout paper, pencils and rubber.
5. A desiccator with silica gel and a supply of small wide necked bottles such as 10cc injection vials or soft contact lens bottles (without tops).

If you are presbyopic with good distance vision get your optician to prescribe a good quality pair of half-eye reading spectacles. If you need spectacles for distance then ask your optician for a pair of bifocals with wide segments and 'no jump' (multi-coated Executive bifocals are ideal).

We can now make our first cross. Select which parents to use and collect an almost open flower from the male parent (if you collect a fully open flower, the pollen has often been shed). At the female parent select one or two flowers just about to open, force a flower open with tweezers and emasculate it by grabbing the stamens with the tweezers, pull them out and throw them away. Some people advocate discarding the whole of the corolla, so that the flower is no longer attractive to bees. I do not normally do this and have not had a problem with cross fertilization. Now force open the male flower and pull out one stamen and dab the stigma with the anther until the stigma is fully and heavily coated with pollen (it may take two or even three stamens). Occasionally the stigma may be dry and not accept pollen, a good way around this is to find another stigma (off a different plant) which is sticky, pull this off with the tweezers and dab it on the dry stigma, which will now accept pollen in the usual way.

Take a Blick self-adhesive label number 1038 or 1350; these have a small narrow waist in the middle which is not adhesive, ideal for placing around the pedicel of the flower to identify which flower in the truss has been pollinated. I usually also write the cross number on this little label. *Immediately* after this it is important to record the cross number and parents on the clip board at the time of pollinating, do not rely on memory even for an hour or two. Even if you are dead heading your plants yourself it is very sensible to affix a tie-on label to the truss to help you avoid accidental removal of your pollinated flower and also to aid in finding the seed pod when harvest time arrives.

Pollen does not have to be absolutely fresh. Pollen sent through the post or collected from a friend's garden is usually perfectly viable. If you want to keep it for a longer time, the easiest way is to pull the pollen filaments and anthers out of the flower, put them into a labelled little glass open topped bottle and keep it in a desiccator in a cool place. Kept this way pollen will certainly last two months or more.

Around late October and November check the seed pods and pick any which are turning brown, but before they open. Put the pod and label into a glass bottle in the desiccator in a shady spot in a warmish room. After a few

days the pod will split and the seeds can be shaken out onto a sheet of clean white paper. If you do not have a desiccator, then keep each cross in a separate paper envelope until the seeds have dehisced. To separate any chaff from the seed is fiddley, the easiest way is to tap the seeds from one piece of paper to another leaving the chaff behind. Some people advocate the use of sieves, I personally do not find them of much use as seeds tend to lodge in the sieve and could easily get in the wrong packet. If at this stage the seed is for the Rhododendron Group Seed Distribution and you do not want to bother cleaning the seed further, then send it to us and we will finish the cleaning. But do remember, that if chaff is sown with seed it usually goes mouldy, and this is not to be recommended as it may cause damping off of the seedlings.

After many years experimenting, I have found the best medium for sowing rhododendron seeds is half commercial ericaceous compost and half very coarse silver sand (Devon grit). This mixture is placed on a deep seed pan, flattened and watered. The seeds are then sprinkled very finely on the surface and not covered by any compost. Two labels are inserted so that if one is lost another is to hand. A plastic dome is placed over the tray. (The propagator trays and domes manufactured by Stewart Plastics are ideal.) My seeds are sown as soon as ready and placed under lights in a growing room with 18 hours light. If you do not have a growing room but do have a heated greenhouse then January sowing is probably best and if no heat is available then sow in March or April. I do not prick out the seedlings until they have reached about an inch high when they are transferred to the same compost and foliar fed at half strength once a week and at the end of the season they are big enough to be transferred to frames for the winter.

If you are interested in making your own hybrids you should read the 'Notes on Rhododendron Hybrids' by Lionel de Rothschild published in each Year Book of the Rhododendron Association from 1933 to 1939, and the chapter on breeding rhododendrons by David Leach in his *Rhododendrons of the World*.

The gardens at Clyne Castle

IVOR T. STOKES
(Parks Division, Swansea City Council)

Midway round the curve of Swansea Bay a wooded valley marks the eastern edge of the old Clyne Estate, a home of the Vivian family from 1860 until the death of Admiral Algernon Walker-Heneage-Vivian in 1952, when the gardens were acquired by Swansea City Council.

The proximity of the gardens to the sea, the good cover of native oak, abundant moisture and a deep acid loam made this an ideal site for growing rhododendrons; a fact that was recognized early by the Admiral. In 1921, on inheriting the gardens that surround the castle, he noted that there were 12 'good' species and 28 hybrid rhododendrons growing at Clyne, although sadly he neglected to indicate which. Within seven years the species figure had increased more than tenfold, with plants and seed having been received from all the major collecting expeditions around that period. The high rainfall and mildness of the South Wales climate meant that the plantings thrived. There are specimens of *R. falconeri* more than 30 feet in height and *R. arboreum* subsp. *roseum* to over 40 feet. The more tender subsections – Parishia, Maddenia and Grandia also grow well with no other protection than the tree canopy above them. (Figs. 5-7)

The Admiral's interest is also shown in the number of hybrids that were raised at Clyne. Perhaps the most famous of those that were named is *R.* Grierdal (*griersonianum* × *dalhousiae*), the first cross made between a lepidote and elepidote species.* Many of the hybrids flowering now in the gardens were probably never seen by the Admiral, and bear labels with only details of the cross. Most of them are fine plants and deserve registering; particularly the 'big-leaves', a range of crosses involving *R. niveum* with several species from the Falconera and Grandia subsections, all producing flowers in some shade of purple with striking foliage, especially when young.

After initial work to reopen pathways and clear brambles the gardens were opened to the public in 1953 on a daily basis instead of the two weekends a year that access was allowed under the Admiral. The collections at Clyne were well known in the horticultural circles during the decades between the wars; but, despite holding the best collection of rhododendrons in South Wales, the gardens lapsed into relative obscurity, being enjoyed mainly by local residents and a few tourists seeking a distraction from the sandy beaches of Gower.

*J. M. Cowan, (1946) 'The Significance of R. Grierdal'. *The Rhododendron Year Book 1946*, p.48.

In spring 1979 it was decided to catalogue the collection. The task proved as interesting as it was challenging; many of the original labels were either lost or rendered illegible by the action of rainwater on the zinc and copper fastening wire (these when found were made readable by treatment in an acid bath). Two or three old *Year Books* that had once belonged to the Admiral were given to us and these became invaluable, containing as they did, pencilled notes in the margins and ticks against a great many collectors' numbers. We therefore had some idea of what had been and possibly was still growing in the gardens.

Many of the procedures laid down by John Clarke, Alan Hardy and C. G. Nice when doing Nymans were followed (*Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book 1970*, (1969) p.81; *idem*, 1971, (1970) p.39). All the labels were either of zinc or lead so, by using a metal detector, we were spared much of the painful 'hands and knees' approach that they suffered. Not having a sophisticated model able to differentiate between metals, the buzzes that registered on the machine yielded a whole list of buried items, ranging from horseshoes, steel combs, the ubiquitous ring-pulls, the odd coin and, occasionally, the sought-after label. A morning's work often provided six or seven labels and whilst it was tempting to keep searching, these proved sufficient for one day, if we were to keep abreast of the paperwork involved and continue with the efficient running of the gardens. Initial searches were carried out on plants in flower as identification was obviously easier then. When we found a label bearing a collector's number, the plant was tagged and a truss sent off to Edinburgh for verification, the tag being replaced by a more permanent label when the identity was confirmed or otherwise. Several interesting species came to light as a result of our searches. Amongst them *R. facetum*, *R. kyawi* and *R. elliottii* were all found with numbers. None of these species is supposed to be fully hardy, but all survived the prolonged freeze of winter 1986-87 with no ill effects and have made good specimens around 10 feet in height, flowering freely most years. Notable also amongst the wild collected plants were two bearing Kingdon Ward's numbers 8044 and 9236; both are slightly tender with us, the flowers and new growth frequently get frosted. They bloom in March and bear flowers of an amethyst colour that match the description in KW's field notes. However, neither of them match *R. tanastylum* as stated in the species handbook and their correct status is yet to be determined. Most of the larger growing subsections are well represented at Clyne, with about a quarter of the species grown under known collector's numbers. Despite their age, a lot of original plantings survive; these have been extended in recent years so that there are now well over two hundred species growing here.

Following a visit by Dr D. F. Chamberlain, we were encouraged to start showing some of the more unusual species within the collection, and we have enjoyed some success at the rhododendron competitions held at Vincent Square over the last two years. Normally our *R. elliottii* KW7725 is still in tight bud when the main show is held. This year though, the quirky spring

weather had brought it into flower to coincide with the show. The full, blood red trusses of this plant, which was awarded an FCC in 1937 when last exhibited by the Admiral, won two first prizes in its own right and also contributed to our winning the Lionel de Rothschild Cup. Pollen from it was distributed at the show and hopefully we can look forward to some interesting new hybrids.

Besides the rhododendrons there are many other plants, herbaceous and shrubby, that enjoy the woodland conditions of Clyne. Amongst them, good specimens of *Enkianthus* and *Pieris* are to be found throughout the gardens. A *Pieris formosa* var. *forrestii* having reached 25 feet in height complements, in April, the *Prunus cerasoides* now over 40 feet which grows above it. Nearby, a *Magnolia campbellii* var. *alba*, having broken through the canopy of oak, measures more than 82 feet. The flowers, also borne in April, on bare branches suggest that a flock of white doves has alighted on the tree. An extensive bog garden, fed by the numerous springs that line the valley sides, houses our main primula collection. Flowering, as they do, from early spring until after the bulk of the rhododendrons have finished, they give visitors a display of colour well into the summer months. The display is continued with hydrangeas, abelias and eucryphias; the autumn tints of acers and the many berried trees and shrubs ensure that there is always something for the casual visitor as well as the seasoned plant enthusiast.

The literature of hybrid rhododendrons

WALTER MAGOR

In 1917, J. G. Millais, in the first volume of his *Rhododendrons and their Various Hybrids*, published a list of hardy hybrid rhododendrons. Seven years later, in his second volume, he listed the new crosses made by various hybridists then current. The Rhododendron Society, during its short existence (1916-30), produced lists of rhododendron species in series, but never a list of hybrids. It was not until 1929 that the Rhododendron Association, in its first Year Book, published the names of 610 hybrid rhododendrons, compiled from the catalogues of the principal nurserymen, and this list, expanding every year, appeared in subsequent Year Books for the next ten years. In 1935 the two tables of the Rhododendron Studbook were introduced. Table I listed all primary crosses between two species and any cross of which one parent was a species, as well as all hybrid rhododendrons which had received Awards of Merit or First Class Certificates from the RHS since 1923, showing the parentage and raiser or exhibitor. Table II listed, alphabetically, the parent species or hybrids, thus providing a quick way of tracing the name of a hybrid from any particular cross.

In September 1945, the Rhododendron Association became the Rhododendron Group of the Royal Horticultural Society, with responsibility for the Society's rhododendron publications. In 1947, a new and completely revised edition of *The Rhododendron Handbook* was published, based on material in the 1939 Rhododendron Association Year Book. This consisted of a separate Part One for Species, and a Part Two for Hybrids, with the declared intention of publishing a revised edition every five years. The last edition of Part One appeared in 1980, and of Part Two in 1969. This last Part Two followed the form of earlier editions, but with the difference that, in view of the publication of the *International Rhododendron Register* in 1958, and to save space, only hybrids which had received awards or were of exceptional interest were added to Tables I and II. Both the introductions to *The International Rhododendron Register 1958* and to the Rhododendron Stud Book in Part Two of the *Rhododendron Handbook 1969* made the point that many seedlings were not as good as rhododendrons of the same or similar parentage and that such second-rate plants were not worth naming; seedlings having no outstanding merit should therefore remain nameless; this still tends to be forgotten.

In 1955, the International Horticultural Congress invited the RHS to become the International Registration Authority for Rhododendrons, and Dr

H. R. Fletcher, then Director of the RHS Garden at Wisley, was appointed Registrar. Dr Fletcher (by then Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh) published the *International Rhododendron Register* in 1958, listing in alphabetical order some 8,500 rhododendron names, with brief details of what was known of their parentage, raiser and of any awards. The present Registrar is a member of the staff of the RHS gardens at Wisley, and publishes every year a list of additions to the Register which is circulated with the Rhododendron Year Book.

So far, however, it has not been found possible to bring out a second edition of the entire Register, for which there is a considerable demand worldwide, but which will require a great deal of work. This has led to the appearance of a number of books which aim to fill the gap. In 1961, Dr David G. Leach in his *Rhododendrons of the World* included a list of some 3,800 hybrids believed to be in cultivation, and during the present decade several more books have been published. By far the most comprehensive and useful of these is Homer Salley and Harold Greer's *Rhododendron Hybrids: a guide to their origins*, published in 1986 and reviewed at pp. 37-9 of *Rhododendrons, 1986-7, with Magnolias and Camellias*. This gave the pedigree of 4,800 rhododendron hybrids and included colour plates of 600, mostly provided by Harold Greer.

In 1980, the American Rhododendron Society published Meldon Kraxberger's *American Rhododendron Hybrids*, which listed 1,265 hybrids registered in America, some of which are also in the International Register. These are accompanied by brief descriptions of size and colour, parentage and raiser, though all too often 'parentage unknown' is recorded. There is also a list of some 800 unregistered American hybrids. There are 23 colour plates.

In 1986, Ted Van Veen brought out a revised version of the second edition of his *Rhododendrons in America*, first published in 1969, with a foreword by David Leach and colour photos of 10 species and 104 hybrids and ten groups of hybrids, listing with brief descriptions 111 hybrids worth growing, to which another 98 have been added in the 1986 edition.

Also in 1986, with the help of Meldon Kraxberger, Ted Van Veen and the Valley Community Presbyterian Church computer, Lansing W. Bulgin produced *Rhododendron Hybrids – a compendium by parents*. This is a useful supplement to, but does not replace, the invaluable Table II of the Rhododendron Stud Book, which unfortunately has been discontinued. It gives in alphabetical order the hybrids not listed in the 1958 International Register, as well as hybrids registered since 1968. Well known hybrids registered previously, such as 'Penjerrick', 'Tallyho' and 'Azor' are not included, except as parents of more recent crosses.

In 1982, Harold Greer, currently the President of the American Rhododendron Society, who collaborated with Homer Salley and provided most of the illustrations for their valuable *Rhododendron Hybrids : a guide to their origins*, had published *Greer's Guidebook to available rhododendron species*

and hybrids, with 107 colour plates, and descriptions of 539 species and some 1,300 hybrids, as well as much valuable cultural information, useful particularly to rhododendron growers in the USA. Now, in 1988 he has produced a revised edition: *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons - Species & Hybrids* by Harold E. Greer, Offshoot Publications, 1280 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon, 186 pp., 190 colour plates (42 spp, 148 hybrids). US$ 14.00 (Available from the American Rhododendron Society). Drawings of eight leaf- and ten flower-shapes, which appeared in Salley & Greer's *Rhododendron Hybrids* are reproduced. The sections on the ecological and cultural requirements of rhododendrons, pests and diseases are considerably expanded and attractively illustrated. There are descriptions of 539 species showing the reason for the name of each; the Balfourean classification series and subseries; height after ten years; hardiness; flowering season; quality rating and place of origin. There is one table showing frequently-used synonyms for some of the specific names, and another table showing the subgenus, section and subsection under the revised classification. The hybrid part is now considerably enlarged and contains short descriptions of nearly 1,700 crosses, many originating and available in this country. The Distinctive Features Chart for Hybrids is retained, showing for some 619 hybrids their hardiness, height, fragrance, etc. At the end, a page on various methods of propagation has been added.

In addition, Batsford's have, this year, published an *Encyclopædia of Rhododendron Hybrids*, by Peter A. and Kenneth N. E. Cox, 1988, hard cover, 318 pp., with 203 colour photographs, at £30.

This is the latest in the sequence of books on rhododendrons by the Cox family of Glendoick in Perthshire. The first of these was *Rhododendrons for Amateurs* by E. H. M. Cox in 1924. As a young man, Euan Cox had accompanied Reginald Farrer on part of his second expedition in Upper Burma in 1919 and thereafter, though living in London, he was able to arrange for rhododendron seed from the Chinese expeditions of the 1920s to be grown on at the family home at Glendoick. At this time, he was editor of *The New Flora and Sylva*, as well as gardening editor of *Country Life*. In 1944, after his father's death, he moved into Glendoick and in 1945 he published *Plant Hunting in China*, a history of botanical exploration in China and the Tibetan Marches, of which a new edition was brought out in 1986. His son Peter joined him at Glendoick after leaving college, and they started a small rhododendron nursery together and collaborated on three gardening books, of which one was *Modern Rhododendrons* (1956). In 1973, Peter Cox published *Dwarf Rhododendrons*, and in 1979 *The Larger Species of Rhododendron*. He is also the author of the Wisley Handbook on *Rhododendrons*. In 1984, he brought out *The Smaller Rhododendrons*, replacing *Dwarf Rhododendrons*, and now with his son Kenneth this *Encyclopædia of Rhododendron Hybrids*.

The 1450 or so hybrids described in the *Encyclopædia* each receive 10 to 25

lines, 4 to 6 to a page, half column, giving parentage where known, raiser, any awards received, hardiness and height, followed by a brief description, availability in the UK, USA and New Zealand. Azalea and Vireya hybrids are not included. There is a glossary, a bibliography, and a list of Rhododendron Societies. A list of the main hybridizers would have been useful, as the references to them in the text are too brief to make identity certain. 'J. Williams' is an insufficient identification of the famous Mr J. C. Williams of Caerhays; there is another unrelated John Williams who until recently had a fine rhododendron garden in Cornwall. Similarly 'E. Harrison' is inadequate for the late Major-General Eric Harrison, one of the chief hybridists in this country since the war: I have just been reading some book reviews by another E. Harrison.

One is inclined to expect an encyclopædia to be all-embracing, but in this publication one is constantly noticing the omissions; also, one cannot avoid the feeling that other peoples' hybrids tend to be belittled. On the dustcover the publishers describe Kenneth Cox as having worked in rhododendron nurseries in the USA and Holland, and to be a leading rhododendron authority in his own right. Hitherto, he had only come to the notice of the rhododendron fraternity in this country through his article in the November 1987 issue of *The Garden* on 'New American Hybrid Rhododendrons', where he made the assertion that since 1945 or so hybridizing in the UK had slowly died out. He was evidently unaware of the good hybrids made at Windsor, and by General and Mrs Harrison, the Hydon Nurseries, Bodnant and Exbury since the war; there is, however, an allusion to his father's dwarf hybrids at Glendoick.

I am indebted to Major Dick Reynolds for bringing some of these books, published in the USA, to my notice.

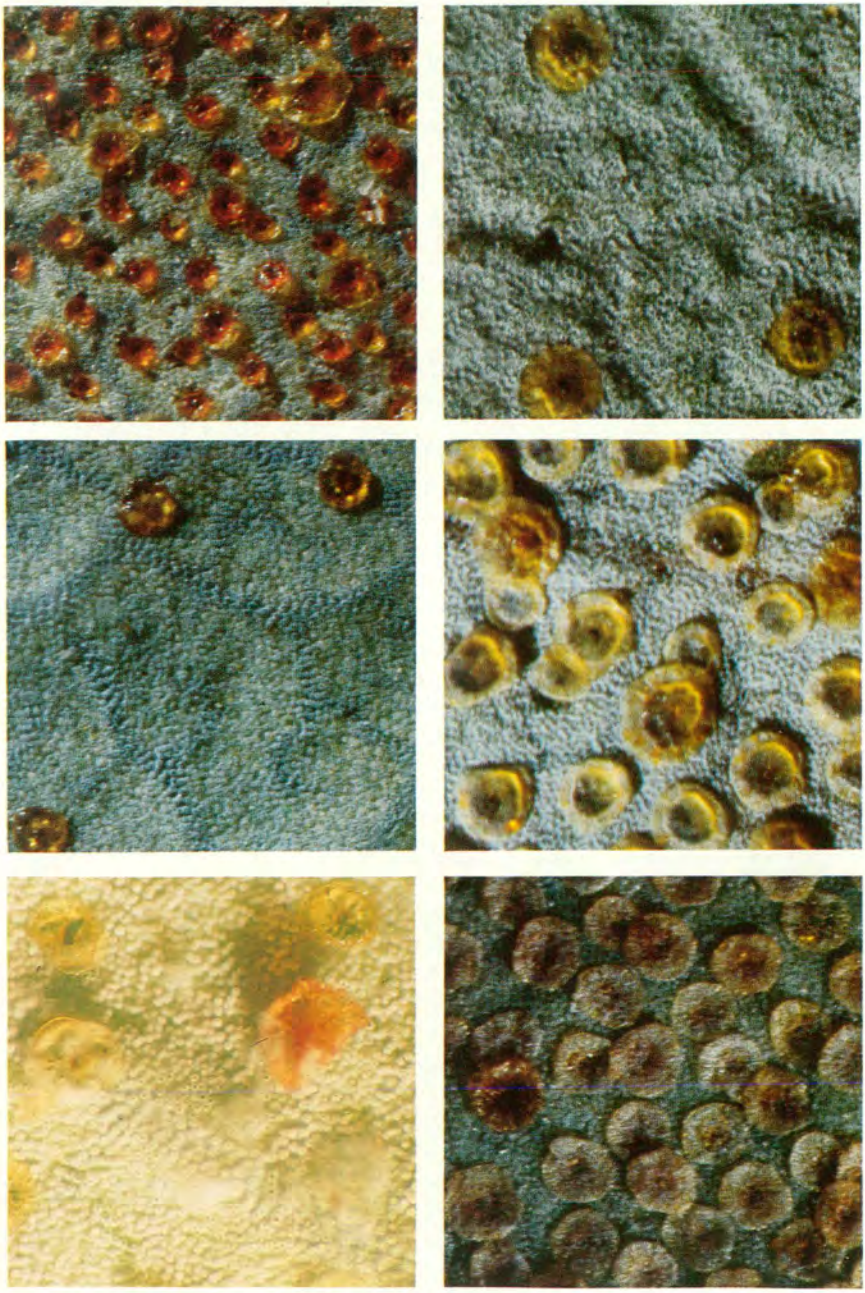

Fig. 1 *Scales on rhododendron leaves (pp. 8-12)*
top l. to r. A. R. tephropeplum, B. R. zaleucum
centre l. to r. C. R. fastigiatum, D. R. searsiae
below l. to r. E. R. campylogynum, F. R. glaucophyllum

Fig. 2 *Rhododendrons on the Cangshan mountains in western Yunnan: showing R. decorum, R. yunnanense and R. neriiflorum* *(see p. 15)*

Fig. 3 A new species, Rhododendron kesangiae, on Shatang La (see p. 24)

Fig. 4 Rhododendron griffithianum at Chendebi (p. 25)

Fig. 5 Azaleas flourishing in the garden at Clyne Castle (pp. 46-8)

Fig. 6 *(above) Rhododendron cerasinum KW 6923 at Clyne Castle, Kingdon Ward's "Cherry Brandy"*

Fig. 7 *(below) Rhododendron griersonianum F. 24116 at Clyne Castle, collected on Forrest's 1924-25 expedition*

Fig. 8 *(above) Rhododendron glischrum rude in the Rutherford's garden (p. 68)*

Fig. 9 *(below) Rhododendron 'Leo' with Dicksonia antarctica on Gigha (p. 72)*

Fig. 10 *(above) Rhododendron thayerianum at Baravalla (p. 69)*

Fig. 11 *Rhododendron prattii at Borde Hill: the winning entry in the photographic competition (see p. 73)*

Fig. 12 *(above) Magnolia 'Jersey Belle', probably a hybrid between M. sinensis and M. wilsoni* *(see p. 61)*

Fig. 13 *(below) Magnolia 'Kew's Surprise' at Caerhays in spring 1988* *(see p. 74)*

Leaves from the Great Storm

Much has been written of the devastation caused by the Great Hurricane of 16 October, 1987 to the well- and not-so-well-known gardens of south-east England from Hampshire through Surrey and Sussex to Kent. The Honorary Editor has received two accounts from members of the Group, poignant in their detail, describing events on that night in widely different locations – Jersey and East Anglia – in the path of the storm as it raged north-eastwards from the Bay of Biscay until it blew away into the North Sea.

Mrs Violet Lort Phillips from Jersey quotes from a newspaper report: 'In the early hours of the morning hurricane force winds blew in a southerly direction funnelling up the valleys: destruction and devastation was spread on every hand.' This disaster took place on 30 October, 1887, just a hundred years before the night when, from her bed, she 'watched, in the lightning, the old Scots pine, pittosporum and camellias lashed almost horizontally; the wind changed to south west and they seemed to be coming straight into the house. Discretion seemed the better part, so I shut the window and drew the curtains, getting under the bedclothes'. So much for the ferocity of the elements. What of the results? Trees covered in a thick salt rime, defoliated and blackened in the immediate aftermath. But, she says, camellias, including reticulatas, have flowered abundantly, 'as if to make up for their frightening experience'; magnolias denuded on the windward side have flowered on the leeward side; seedling rhododendrons have been discovered unharmed beneath fallen trees. In other gardens tragedies also occurred, with remarkable resilience being shown by some individuals. At Rozel where the woods were mangled and unrecognizable, some magnolias in sheltered places survived, but a magnificent *M. campbellii* lies prone, split in half but 'covered with hundreds of rose pink tulip flowers'. Its owner reverently covered the roots with barrow loads of compost, hoping it would recover. At La Rive, the vagaries of the vortices struck hard, doing much damage, and rhododendrons suffered defoliation; however, looking distinctly odd, they have since flowered. At Samares Manor many trees on the southern boundary were devastated, and camellias and rhododendrons suffered badly, but are being replanted. At the Jersey Wild Life Preservation Trust, miraculously, only two animals were lost from the crashing trees. The main losses in Jersey seem to have been to mature trees, but the structure and form of many gardens, particularly those on the coast, have gone forever.

In East Anglia storm force winds gusted to 86 mph, barometric pressure plummeted and the storm was at its worst between 4 and 6 am. Hundreds of thousands of trees blew down and the ancient Rendlesham Forest in East Suffolk was decimated. Trees all over the region were not only uprooted but

snapped off like matchsticks. Mr Colin Grainger's account covers eight gardens in three counties; at Hockley and Chelmsford in Essex, Stowmarket, East Bergholt and the Ipswich area in Suffolk and three more in Norfolk. The greatest loss, of course, was of mature trees of native and ornamental species, which buried everything as they fell. In the aftermath of clearance, which so many gardeners have had to do by their own efforts, the chainsaw operator would get 'clamped into a tree' or would suddenly 'soar upwards' as a tree was released. One casualty broke his shoulder when he was catapulted in this way by a willow. Of our three genera, magnolias, though brittle, seem to have survived reasonably well, rhododendrons and camellias suffered mostly from falling trees and were crushed or split asunder. Some were 'shredded to matchwood'. However, when fallen trees were removed the flexibility of rhododendrons and camellias enabled many to spring back. But, as in Jersey, there was extensive leaf loss due to the disappearance of long-established windbreaks. The leaves of *R. calophytum*, for instance, were stripped after 'whirling around like propellors'. Six months after the storm many rhododendrons and camellias have lost their symmetry, trees are still supported by guy ropes and the landscape has changed dramatically.

C.P.

Rhododendron, camellia and magnolia notes

Rhododendron lapponicum

At the Early Spring Show held by the Alpine Garden Society on 14 March, 1987 the Farrer Medal for the best plant went to a lovely *R. lapponicum*, usually reckoned to be difficult in cultivation. It was shown by S. D. Taylor of Warwick. I had grown the plant from Alpine G.S. seed collected in the Trout River Valley, Canada, by Dr U. Paim of Newfoundland in 1977. Stan Taylor's plant was grown in a sheltered peat bed until it was dug up, placed in a pan and taken to the Show.

The seed germinated freely and I must have given away 20 or 30 plants or sold them at AGS plant sales tables. It has not thrived in my own garden as well as the Medal plant, which may be either because it is a colder garden, or else because my plants are not growing in pure peat. One particular plant was even slower-growing than the others and had minute leaves. I tried to cosset it last winter by putting it in a frame, but it did not like it and died.

Rhododendron lapponicum was first introduced from Canada by a Mr Blair in 1825 and was first flowered by a Mr Cunningham in Edinburgh in July, 1830. Bob Woodward and Jamie MacPhail say that it needs lime and in some places grows on calcareous limestone. Bodil Leamy, in another article on the same subject, says: 'the whole ridge was carpeted in *Rhododendron lapponicum* which was in seed. It grew thickly embedded in mosses and lichens or directly on the rocks'.

MICHAEL J. EVANS

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Fragrant rhododendrons and azaleas

The genus *Rhododendron* includes a range of flowering shrubs from procumbent dwarfs to 80 foot trees, mostly evergreen, but some deciduous, with flowers of every shade and colour; some have scented blooms, others have aromatic foliage.

The Loderi hybrids are perhaps the best known group of rhododendrons which can be grown out of doors and have fragrant blooms. This hybrid,

which first flowered in 1907, was made at Leonardslee in Sussex, crossing *R. fortunei* with pollen from a plant of *R. griffithianum* growing under glass across the road at South Lodge. Another *fortunei* hybrid, Naomi (*fortunei* × 'Aurora'), made at Exbury, has many named clones which are slightly fragrant.

The hybrids 'Albatross' (*discolor* × 'Loderi'), 'Angelo' (*discolor* × *griffithianum*), 'Avocet' (*discolor* × *fortunei*) and the late-flowering 'Polar Bear' (*auriculatum* × *diaprepes*) are also somewhat fragrant.

With the exception of *auriculatum*, all the species involved in the parentage of these elepidote (Subgenus Hymenanthes) hybrids belong to Subsection Fortunea, and are themselves slightly scented. *Rhododendron griffithianum*, the only Himalayan species among them, was introduced by Joseph Hooker in 1849. *Rhododendron fortunei* was introduced by Robert Fortune from eastern China in 1859. *Rhododendron discolor, R. decorum, R. diaprepes, R. serotinum* and *R. auriculatum* are all Chinese species, usually white-flowered and scented, but pink forms exist.

Fragrance is more marked in the flowers of some of the species of Subsection Maddenia of Subgenus Rhododendron (the lepidote species), but for the most part these are not hardy and do best under glass. Of those that do well out of doors in sheltered gardens, the largest is *R. maddenii* from the Sikkim Himalaya, and its subspecies *crassum* from Yunnan. Less robust, but also capable of being grown out of doors, are a number of species of what used to be called the Ciliicalyx Subseries, several of which are scented, notably *ciliicalyx* itself, *cubittii*, and *formosum* var. *inaequale*. A number of the more tender Megacalyx Subseries are scented, notably *dalhousiae, lindleyi, nuttallii* and *taggianum*. The wellknown scented *edgeworthii* belongs to the related Subsection Edgeworthia and can be grown out of doors. Hybrids of these tender species that can be grown out of doors include 'Princess Alice', (*ciliatum* × *edgeworthii*), 'Lady Alice Fitzwilliam', 'The Countess of Haddington' (*ciliatum* × *dalhousiae*), and 'Fragrantissimum' (*edgeworthii* × *formosum*.

Of the Azalea species, the common *R. luteum* from eastern Europe and several North American species are scented. Of these, *R. occidentale* is the species most used to give scent to hybrid azaleas. Notable among the Occidentalis hybrids are 'Delicatissima', 'Exquisita', 'Graciosa' and 'Superba'. The Ghent azaleas are double-flowered and scented, notably 'Corneille', 'Milton' and 'Narcissiflora'. A number of the Knaphill azaleas are scented, including 'Calico', 'Eva Goude', 'Lady Derby', 'Marionette' and 'Mrs Anthony Waterer'.

G. T. WITHERWICK

Hon. Editor's Note: To my great surprise, I have found the flowers of *R. macrosepalum* 'Linearifolium' to be slightly fragrant, perhaps because they belong to the azalea series.

Rhododendrons for cold climates

What is a cold climate? Nowhere in England is it ever very cold compared with where I live, near Toledo in north-west Ohio about 75 miles south-west of Detroit. Last winter (1987-8) was considered to be less cold than 'normal'. Our lowest official record was −9°F. Nearly all of my rhododendrons that are mature enough to flower will do so this year in mid- to late May. A 'severe' winter is considered to be when the lows are in the mid-twenties below 0°. Although we cannot count on snow cover for protection here, our place is protected from the wind by dense woods. This year 'Scintillation' will show colour and so will *keiskei*, my only yellow rhododendron.

At the end of March I counted 47 named hybrids, eight species and seven unnamed seedlings with healthy flower buds. There are over one hundred plants that will flower because I have several plants of quite a few: one long line of all red 'Nova Zemblas' and a group of several bright pink English Roseums mixed with purplish pink 'Roseum Elegans'. Most of those in groups of unnamed seedlings may be destroyed after trial and few will ever be named and registered. Cold hardiness is an important factor but not the only one, of course.

Note that several of my hybrids originated abroad from hybridizers such as Waterer who frequently used *catawbiense* as a parent, not to create more hardiness but in order to have plants that would flower later in the season. In its native habitat *catawbiense* must flower late in order to reproduce. My wife and I set our wedding date on June 12 and planned a trip to the top of Roan Mountain, elevation nearly 6,000ft. It was a nice trip, but no rhododendrons had started to bloom. Too early!

HOMER SALLEY

Honorary Editor's Note: Mr Salley has sent a list of the rhododendrons with flower buds growing in his garden this season. The hybrids include 14 originating in Europe, mostly from Waterer's, some of which are still popular in English gardens. The others from wellknown American hybridists who have doubtless taken the climatic conditions into account when choosing the parents. Mr Salley lists eight unnamed seedlings of his own, including *yakushimanum* crosses. He also grows the following species: *carolinianum, catawbiense, keskei, maximum, minus, mucronulatum, smirnowii, yakushimanum*, four of which are native to North America, three to Japan and one to Eurasia.

Rhododendrons in Cheshire

Dorfold was built in 1616, and there has always been a garden here although it has changed according to the fortunes and fashions of the time. Its greatest period was at the end of the last century and the beginning of this. William Nesfield, the nineteenth century garden architect, did much work at Dorfold,

and early in this century 14 gardeners were employed. After the First World War the garden declined; but it is within this framework that we now garden – but with the help of only one gardener!

Lawns and shrubs have replaced the formal layout and the rock and water garden. Clearing of this area started in 1980; and in that year, and in 1981, a large number of rhododendrons were purchased, including many classified H2 and H3 for hardiness. On the night of 11 December 1981, 43 degrees of frost destroyed perhaps 60 per cent of what we had planted. A more cautious policy for replacements was adopted there and then – and still continues, as we are particularly susceptible to late spring frosts. But now, after eight years, we have established pretty well what 'does' and what 'does not'.

The year starts with various of the *ciliatum* hybrids, although in most years the flowers suffer some frost damage. Thousands of daffodils coincide with the magnolias – 'Merrill' does particularly well with us – and some of Mr Pickard's *soulangeana* hybrids, the *williamsii* hybrid camellias, and the flowering of the bulk of our dwarf rhododendrons planted in the rock garden. The *williamsianum* hybrids seem to be entirely hardy with us, and we have quite a number, as well as the dwarf blue hybrids of *augustinii* and *impeditum*. Other favourites are 'Dora Amateis', 'Curlew', 'Princess Anne' and that wonderful foliage plant *pseudochrysanthum*. I am also particularly fond of the various larger hybrids of *wardii* and *campylocarpum*, 'Rottenburg' (perhaps the best rhododendron in the garden), 'Idealist', 'Ightham Yellow' and 'Diane' being particular favourites, although they are, of course, still small. We cannot grow evergreen azaleas, Loderi rhododendrons (more is the pity – but I am still trying), or any rhododendron with *griersonianum* as a parent.

Our next really good time is when the bluebells coincide with candelabra primulas in the watergarden; and we have planted banks of deciduous azaleas in the same area. It is all almost obscenely colourful! These are joined further up the garden by the hardy hybrid rhododendrons; whose flowers seem, later in the year, to last only a fraction as long as those of the earlier rhododendrons.

We have learnt a lot by our mistakes, but we still have problem areas and are learning how to cope with them. It is my good fortune to garden within the mature framework of an earlier garden and to have the joy of watching what I have planted increase rapidly in size each year, flower for the first time, and gradually merge with the older framework, to become a garden I am beginning to become rather proud of. Now we even have visitors who come to look at the garden rather than the house!

R. C. ROUNDELL

Camellias in Cheshire

When we came nearly 40 years ago to this garden about 500 feet up on a Pennine sandstone escarpment facing west across to Wales, there were plenty of hardy hybrid rhododendrons, one large *Magnolia* × *soulangeana*, but no

camellias at all. Since then we have steadily experimented with all three genera, within the limits of 2½ acres and a hillside climate averaging about 35in. rainfall, some 2°F cooler than the Cheshire plain, but escaping the worst frosts.

Fortunately I was able to build a trough under a dampish rock wall facing west, which looked promising for camellias, and so it has proved. Here we have a variety of types giving an array of colour from March to May. Normally, the earliest is 'Trewithen Red', with *williamsii*-type leaves but twisted spreading growth; the flowers are like 'Saint Ewe' but deeper red. Next comes 'Bow Bells', typical *williamsii* in upright habit, like 'Saint Ewe' but lighter rose. Then two indistinguishable in growth and flower, the ubiquitous 'Donation' and 'Glenn's Orbit' (easily dated!). They are side by side, but 'Glenn's Orbit' is two to three weeks earlier, and indeed this year (1988) has been quite precociously in full flower by mid-February, at least a month before any other. 'Francis Hanger', also *williamsii* type but more bushy, adds its contrasting display of single white flowers which, as always, soon suffer in frost. 'Golden Spangles' is a recent addition for its golden variegated foliage.

Among japonicas the most successful have been 'Guilio Nuccio', with its splendid large double carmine flowers; not so freely borne, but making a fine show most years. The real belle, however, is 'Julia Hamiter', with perfect peony-flowered shell pink blossoms of great delicacy and distinction. Others, like 'Coquetti', 'Tomorrow', 'Tricolor' and 'Drama Girl', seem shyer in bloom.

Elsewhere in the garden, without wall shelter, we have a large specimen of 'Saint Ewe' so floriferous that it was getting a bit exhausted until I rejuvenated it with severe pruning. This sometimes stays in flower from March to May. Other successes, apart, of course, from 'J. C. Williams', include among the Williamsiis 'Brigadoon' and 'Leonard Messel' (the latter with a dash of *reticulata* and known to do well in the north), and among Japonicas 'Jupiter' and 'Adolphe Audusson'. All these in the open or under high tree cover are sheltered by the slope from early sun and the worst of the east winds; they suffer, however, from bud fall due to frost or bullfinches.

Camellias don't grow here with the luxuriance of Cornwall or Sussex, but, given some shelter, many thrive happily to add their special delight to spring.

RAYMOND BALDWIN

Augusto L'Gouveia Pinto's Camellia (back cover)

I first saw *Camellia* 'Augusto Pinto' at a Cornwall Garden Society's Spring Show, where among the rows of camellia flowers on the white-papered show table it looked almost blue in colour. Apparently it is a sport of *C. japonica* 'Mathotiana' and was found in his own Portuguese garden, Alta Beira, by

Augusto Leal Gouveia Pinto. He gave it to Moreira da Silva to propagate, asking for it to be named after himself. It was introduced in 1890. It is beautifully illustrated (showing the blueish tinge) in Beryl Urquhart's book *The Camellia*, I (1956) and is referred to in James Smart's article in the *Rhododendron and Camellia Yearbook 1970* (1969) on p.64, and is illustrated in pl.9. He notes that 'Mathotiana' grows magnificently in Portugal.

The name was noted at that time, but there was some confusion over what was the correct name. One old catalogue gave the name, 'Archduchessa Augusta', purplish crimson, striped white, sometimes with a blue cast, which sounded right, whereas Hillier's description of 'Augusto Pinto', light lavender pink to carmine, each petal bordered white, large, semi-double, could have been the 'Augusto Pinto' shown on the table. It appears that under glass the colour is less purplish and more pink.

I searched for a plant of the camellia seen at the show, but it seemed that no local nursery had it for sale: neither 'Augusta' or 'Augusto' was available, and it was only much later, at a plant sale at Killiow near Truro that a small plant of 'Augusto Pinto' was acquired. Alas, it never reached flowering size as I did not know then that it needed protection during the winter. I saw again what I knew as 'Augusto Pinto' in full flowering glory with its pinkish-purply-blue, white-striped flower in a large conservatory, during a visit to Tregrehan, Miss Gillian Carlyon's garden, and a couple of years later another plant – again small – was bought from Killiow; evidently it is not the easiest of camellias to propagate. Kept safely under glass it grew steadily and finally produced some of its uniquely coloured flowers. By the following New Year 'Augusto Pinto' was a shapely plant with several flower buds to come, but the worst winter that Cornwall had had for many years particularly hit the south coast and on 11 January a south-easterly blizzard blew up unimpeded from the sea. Power lines came down and the heating in the greenhouse was off for a day and a night, and we could not get inside to light the emergency paraffin heater as the snow blown by the blizzard had frozen solid against the greenhouse door. Only after three days, when the ice began to melt, were we able to open the greenhouse door to be greeted by the smell of frosted vegetation. Along with many other plants 'Augusto Pinto' died after that disastrous two days and nights of 16°F. They say third time lucky, and I would so like to try 'Augusto Pinto' again: but for the moment there seem to be no plants available!

Y. S. MATTHEWS

(It is now generally accepted that the 'Mathotiana' commonly in cultivation, of which 'Augusto L'Gouveia Pinto', 'Mathotiana Variegated' and 'Mathotiana Supreme' are sports, is in fact 'Grand Sultan'. 'Shepherdess' is a rose coral sport of 'Augusto L'Gouveia Pinto', registered in the U.S. in 1956 by Jack McCaskill. Hon. Ed.)

Magnolias at Lanhydrock

Although we have no record, the *M. grandiflora* plants, from south east United States, that clothe the wall of the north wing, must be well into their second century. On the opposite side of the courtyard there are more of the same species, planted in 1968. The first records of plantings are the three *M. campbellii* subsp.*mollicomata* and two majestic *M.* × *veitchii* – these five my predecessor, Mr George Potter, remembered well planting during his first year here in 1933. During his time as Head Gardener (1933-66), he planted several *M.* × *soulangeana* and between 1948 and 1950 he also planted *kobus, mollicomata, sinensis, stellata* and *acuminata*.

Since Lord Robartes, the 7th Viscount, died and Mr Potter retired in 1966, much more planting has been carried out and a complete record kept, noting dates of planting; source of supply; whether graft or seed raised; and as many relevant factors as possible.

There are many varieties, such as *soulangeana* 'Burgundy' and 'Sundew', some of the *kobus* × *loebneri* crosses, 'Snowdrift', 'Willow Wood', 'Neil McEachern' and 'Merrill', to name but a few. Then there are the Gresham Hybrids with gorgeous names like 'Heaven Scent', 'Rouged Alabaster' and 'Royal Crown'. Within the selection are the outstanding Pickard varieties, 'Ruby', 'Opal' and 'Garnet'. There is also the almost overpowering fragrance of *M. watsonii*, flowering in June and July with upward facing creamy white flowers with prominent rosy crimson anthers.

Within the garden there are almost 90 different species, hybrids or cultivars, and among them are some excellent seedlings, some raised here from our own collected seeds which will hopefully be named one day. There are also some vigorous *kobus* seedlings – seed from the Baltic Sea area of Sweden. We must not forget, of course, the pride and most treasured magnolia of Lanhydrock, 'Albatross' (*cylindrica* × *veitchii*), a chance seedling raised at Trewithen and grown on here to become a most spectacular pure white, profusely flowering tree. We have had some very rewarding results from seed raising, although a little tricky perhaps, but always worth a try.

Here at Lanhydrock magnolias (*mollicomata*) often start to flower during a mild winter, even as early as March. I have even seen the odd bloom on *grandiflora* as late as early December – just two months without a magnolia in flower – what could we hope for that is more rewarding?

Long live the magnolia.

M. P. BORLASE

Magnolia 'Jersey Belle'

Magnolia 'Jersey Belle' (see fig. 12) was a chance seedling grown from one of three packets of seed given me by the late Comtesse d'Orglandes of the Château de Lonné, France, in the autumn of 1969 from her collection. Fortunately Mrs Phyllis Kerr, now one of the leading designers and garden

experts in South Africa, was spending a sabbatical year with me. She took the seeds, stratified and planted them in 1970. The first two lots, *M. kobus* and *M. salicifolia*, came true to type. The third, from the packet marked *M. sinensis*, first flowered after 11 years in 1981. At this time I had a visit from one of the late Sir Harold Hillier's propagators, not trusting my own judgement on magnolias. I was delighted when he pronounced it not only different from *M. sinensis* but larger flowered and very pretty.

Again chance took a hand. A few days later I sat next to Mr Karl Flinck at the International Dendrology Society's dinner. Knowing he was 'Mr Magnolia', I told him about my tree. He was off to visit Dr S. A. Spongberg at the Arnold Arboretum and he asked me to send photographs and botanical specimens. Their conclusions, published in the *International Dendrology Society Journal* (1984), p.118, can be summarized by the layman as that the magnolia was very probably the first hybrid between *M. sinensis* and *M. wilsonii* that had been observed. 'Jersey Belle' has the following points of justification:

1. It has some crinkly hairs on the underside of the leaf.
2. The leaf shape is close to *M. wilsonii*.
3. The habit is influenced by *M. wilsonii*.
4. The seed parent is known to be *M. sinensis*.

VIOLET LORT-PHILLIPS

Magnolia sargentiana var. *robusta* Rehder

Magnolia sargentiana, named after Dr C. S. Sargent, then Director of the Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts, was discovered in 1903 by E. H. ('Chinese') Wilson, when working for Messrs Veitch, on Wa Shan, an isolated outcrop of hard limestone 11,500ft on the Tungo Ho River some 30 miles south of Mount Omei (Emei Shan) and west of Kiatung Fu in West Sichuan. On his third visit to China in 1908, by then employed by the Arnold Arboretum, Wilson collected seed of this magnolia, which he never saw in flower, under his number 914, from woodland at an altitude of about 6,000ft some 30 miles west of Wa Shan at Tsai-erh-ti, where it is typically a tall rather spindly tree, up to 80ft in height with a girth of 10ft. He also collected seed under his number 923 on Wa Shan itself and, under 923a, took seed from a tall multi-stemmed shrubby bush up to 40ft in height, which was named var. *robusta* by Dr Alfred Rehder in *Plantae Wilsonianae*, 1913. *Magnolia sargentiana* has since been collected from Mt Omei and in North Yunnan, but var. *robusta* is only known from that one collection on Wa Shan under W.923a.

Wilson's magnolia material from this area of south west Sichuan, including *M. dawsoniana*, *M. sinensis* and *M. wilsonii*, was sent to the Arnold Arboretum, where specimens were described and named from dried foliar and fruiting specimens by Dr Alfred Rehder, and published in *Plantae*

Wilsonianae. Seedlings were raised, and were sent in 1913 to Chenault's nursery at Orleans in France, where the propagator was skilled in grafting magnolias. From there, grafted plants were sent in 1919 back to the Arnold Arboretum and to a number of gardens in the milder parts of the British Isles.

Describing them from cultivated plants in Cornish gardens, G. H. Johnstone, the author of *Asiatic Magnolias in Cultivation* (1955), felt strongly that var. *robusta* should be accorded specific rank. Apart from the very different habit, it had leaves longer and narrower than the type of *M. sargentiana*; flower buds were produced prolifically down to ground level, where in *M. sargentiana* they are only sparsely produced high up. Var. *robusta* has much larger flowers with broader tepals with no tendency to curl, much larger fruit cones, with scarlet seeds, compared with the bright orange ones of *sargentiana* type. Moreover, young trees flower at 11 to 15 years, compared with some 25 years for the type.

Mr J. E. Dandy of the Botanical Department of the British Museum, at that time the leading expert on the taxonomy of *Magnolia*, was consulted by the RHS, who published Major Johnstone's book, but found himself unable to agree that they were separate species, and indeed considered that *M. sargentiana*, *M. sargentiana* var. *robusta* and *M. dawsoniana* from Tatsien-lu, 70 miles further up the Tung Ho river, form one complex growing in the same area, and noted that descriptions of the three were all based on only one or two trees in each case. There the matter has rested until a further range of specimens from their native habitat could be examined.

On one of Wilson's later visits to the Wa Shan area, he found that the 80ft tree of *M. sargentiana*, which he had seen, had been cut down. Chinese botanists searching Wa Shan have been unable to trace the single multi-stemmed arborescent shrub from which *robusta* was described, which has probably also been cut down, and have now asked for propagating material from this country.

WALTER MAGOR

The Rhododendron and Camellia Group's Spring Tour

Dunbarton and Argyll, 7-14 May 1988

PATRICK HAWORTH

Figuratively, the blue and white saltire of Scotland rippled and waved cheerily for us for the length of the tour, which was a very good tour indeed. We received a sousing at the Glasgow Garden Festival on the first morning, and a heavy shower on Gigha, but the rain did not persist and it was taken in good part. It was fine and dry for the rest of the time, when the only fault was the haze which flattened and removed the detail from views of the farther coasts and hills.

Forty-two members, a good attendance, entered the dining room of the Commodore Hotel, Helensburgh, on the evening of 7 May, including seven members of the International Dendrology Society, and some who had earlier visited some Scottish gardens under the auspices of the Northern Horticultural Society. As dusk fell, the lights of Rosneath winked from the opposite shore of Gare Loch, and, more distantly, those of Greenock across the Firth of Clyde. Rhododendrons were to form easily the largest component in each garden of the tour, and they held our attention for most of the time.

Our coach was, as we had hoped, driven by Mr Tom Kane as on the previous Scottish tour, and he took us on Sunday morning to the Glasgow Garden Festival, where we were greeted by Mr Mervyn Kessell of the Scottish Rhododendron Society. He made some prefatory remarks and led our party to the indoor shows pavilion where his Society's show was held. Here the chromatic gamut of *Rhododendron* was displayed in a breathtaking expanse of exhibits seen in the soft, diffuse light of the marquee. The winners will have been chronicled elsewhere, but at a first glance, all the exhibits were winners! One of the most interesting was a flowering spray of *R. viscidifolium* from the plant we were to see at Glenarn. The warm, light orange, crimson-spotted corollas and coppery-red petals of the tubular-campanulate flowers are individually lovely: the charm of the plant is undeniable but elusive for the flowers only occur singly or in pairs in sparse distribution. A few steps away, a good solid *R. neriiflorum* had won a second for Hamish Gunn, and a radiant yellow and orange-pink 'Waxwing' (deciduous), a first prize for Edmund Wright, Arduaine.

It was interesting to observe the natural grouping by colour made by exhibits of several species from the same Subsections.

Our dispersal from the pavilion was slowed by a reluctance to step out into

the rain, and the realization that here was the main focus of interest at the Festival and that there was far more than could reasonably be seen in the other parts in the time. We, the Haworths, thought that the 'green zone' named 'Landscape and Scenery' was most germane to the theme of the Festival. Here we found that a selection had been made of some of the characteristics of the Scottish landscape, a pool, a burn with cascades, a lochan with rock outcrops near the shore, birches, rowans, pines and heather, which had grown familiar and well-loved during the previous week spent in Aberdeenshire. These characteristics had been agreeably disposed in serene and simple compositions so that we were stepping on red grouse and surprising blue hares in Gleann an-t Slugain once more. All this had been magically reclaimed from industrial desuetude, a measure of the quality of the Glasgow Garden Festival.

The coach was waiting to ease us back into 'this world' via Glen Eden, Captain Moir's garden at Cove in the Rosneath peninsula, 56°N 5'W. There was a flat calm in Cove Bay and the full-sized red ensign hung from the short flagstaff before the house, its lower corner almost reaching the lawn. A large clump of *Phormium tenax* provided another maritime accentuation close by. Glen Eden is a listed 'Greco-Roman' house of 1856. A feature of this style is a group of three closely-spaced windows with stilted arches, incidentally echoing detail of the walls in the Antonine villa-garden reassembled for the Festival. The house and garden have a southerly orientation with views west to the Cowal Hills in Argyll and south to the Renfrew Heights. The captain has provided some absorbing details in an attachment to his rhododendron list of 45 species and 13 hybrids. This is near to the normal ratio for gardens in this part of Scotland. The climate is 'modified maritime' with a rainfall of 1750mm (69in.), temperatures range between the infrequent extremes of −8°C to 30°C (17°F to 86°F). The lower, level part of the garden is frost-prone and has poor insulation. There is a burn with a waterfall. The garden rises sharply behind the house in low cliffs of 'Dunoon phyllites and green and black slates with schistose grits'. The hybrid rhododendrons include 'Barclayi Robert Fox', 'Bodnant Yellow' and Fabia. There are eight large-leaved plants among the species, if we include *R. wightii*. The captain lists *manipurense* (now *maddenii* subsp. *crassum*) and prefers to distinguish *bureavii* and *bureavioides*, both present, as are *yakushimanum* and its subsp. *makinoi*. He has an Exbury selection of *augustinii*, a Ludlow and Sherriff *wardii, cerasinum, clementinae, insigne, rubiginosum*, and three bristly characters in *barbatum, glischrum* subsp. *rude* and *strigillosum*: *rude* was present in three later gardens, its recurrence one of the pleasures of the tour. The anomalous member of Aceraceae, pinnate-leaved, thicket-forming *Dipteronia sinensis* was leafing out, with the American aspen, *Populus tremuloides* nearby. The stately loquat, *Eriobotrya japonica*, does not need wall protection at Glen Eden, where *Leycesteria formosa* is one of the best incidentals.

Robbie Jack thanked Captain and Mrs Moir for an afternoon's diversion,

and presented them with *Liriodendron chinense* and *Tetracentron sinense*. The owners then, unusually, photographed us, with the house as a background!

In past issues of this yearbook the racy iconoclasm of the Gibson brothers' 'Rhododendron Notes' has ensured that the contents and idiosyncrasies of Glenarn are known to most rhododendron devotees. A collective sigh of relief went up when it was realized that their successors, the Thornleys, were aware of the garden's status and, affected by the excitement which it creates, have taken it in hand with the same vigorous enthusiasm. Mr and Mrs Thornley each took a party over the garden on the Monday morning, and such is its topography that neither saw the other again until we were re-united above the house and came down for lunch. The morning passed with disconcerting speed.

Rhododendron orbiculare and *R. thomsonii* soon asserted themselves and briefly filled our horizon. One of Glenarn's own, 'John Holms' (*arboreum* × *barbatum*) was an early sighting. One needs to select a single unusual species, *smithii* Argipeplum Group, to represent the many others and hint at the quality of the collection, and the *argipeplums*' flowering was over, leaving the new shoots to draw our attention. There are several big *Stranvaesia davidiana* with large leaves, an *Embothrium coccineum* with short oval leaves and others with the lanceolate leaves more often seen. Mr and Mrs Thornley, with the vision of architects, have brought about some most effective and striking changes to the house: almost an entire side has been glazed to the height of the eaves. Lunch was served in this airy sun-trap, now incorporated in the main house by a superb external staircase. When the captive *R. formosum* var. *inaequale* C. & H.301 had been saluted and scent-sampled, we took our dishes out into the garden and eyed the *dichroanthum* and *haematodes* edging the lawn. Afterwards, David Farnes expressed the joy we had felt in Glenarn, presenting Sue Thornley with a *Clematis armandii* and a *Sorbus sargentiana*.

A belt of woodland, mainly oak, extends from Kilcreggan in the south of the Rosneath peninsula to the brow above Rosneath, which faces Rhu across Gare Loch. The woodland is clearly seen from Rhu, and our destination that afternoon, Kilarden, stands at its lower edge. We alighted from the coach at the picturesque post office in Rosneath, and the way to the garden led past a fine old graveyard, alongside a burn and up a steep, wooded slope. A level lawn bordered by a trim yew hedge made a foil for a single *griffithianum* acclaimed by the members. An *augustinii* also near the house had flowers the colour of a cold clear sky, becoming white towards the base of the corollas: this outstanding plant looked chill and winsome at the same time. A tall wooden gate above the house gives entry to the woodland where most of the rhododendrons have been assembled; opening this gate made us feel like children on Christmas Day, feeling the strange shapes in the stockings in the dark.

Mrs Rutherford proudly pointed out 'the largest *bureavii* in western Scotland', then coming into flower. It was tall enough to ease the irresistible

photographs of the leaves' rufous indumentum with a background of sky. We soon came upon a tall if slightly tattered *hemsleyanum*, swaying beneath the oaks. One of the pleasures of seeing this species is that it is one of the most easily recognized! We passed a red-flowered species, noted at the time as *sperabile* var. *weihsiense*, then some *cinnabarinum* at their best. *Rhododendron cinnabarinum* subsp. *xanthocodon* Purpurellum Group has markedly more open flowers than its allies. Most excitement was provided by *glischrum* subsp. *rude* (Fig. 8), identified positively by Hugh Dingle after fervid reference to the remains of his copy of *Revision of Rhododendron II; subgenus Hymenanthes*. Closing the magic gate behind us, we went down to the house for an unusually good sherry served by Neil Rutherford. Many of us carried our glasses into the lounge with its welcome tang of wood smoke, and here a presentation of *Lapageria rosea* was made to Mr and Mrs Rutherford by the chairman.

On Tuesday 10 May we transferred to peninsular Argyll, namely Knapdale and Kintyre, for the second part of the tour, visiting two gardens on the way. The late morning was spent at Upper Sonachan, Portsonachan, Sir Charles and Lady McGrigors' attractive four-and-a-half acre garden, now 20 years old. More than 60 rhododendron species and at least 77 hybrids form the largest component of the planting. *Rhododendron barbatum* and *R. smithii* are available for comparison, *R. yakushimanum* and its subsp. *makinoi* similarly and a leaven of deciduous species: *albrechtii, occidentale, schlippenbachii* and *vaseyi*. The hybrids are notable for their representation by many lovely, cream, yellow and orange-flowered plants. The McGrigors have collected them assiduously and gardeners with a similar scheme in mind might also include 'Bodnant Yellow', 'Butterfly', 'China', 'Cowslip', 'Crest', 'Damaris Logan', 'Golden Orfe', 'Goldfort', 'Dairymaid' and 'Peace' as they have done. The more effulgent reds here are 'Bandoola', 'Grenadier', 'Grosclaude' and 'Romany Chal'. The diverse trees are clearly those which do well in this highland garden, and there is an instructive assembly of no fewer than eleven members of the Aucuparia Section of *Sorbus* which should be recorded: *aucuparia, cashmiriana, discolor, esserteauana*, 'Gigha Hybrid', *hupehensis* and *S. h.* var. *obtusa*, 'Joseph Rock', *rufoferruginea, sargentiana* and *vilmorinii*. Brian Wright made a presentation of *Betula platyphylla* var. *japonica* to the McGrigors, and our party moved on, inspirited by glimpses of snow-streaked Stob Diamh, Beinn a' Bhuiridh and the gentle Pass of Brander, to lunch at the Polfearn Hotel, Taynuilt.

Mr and Mrs Douglas Baber and Mr James Petley have an astounding amount to show for their operose two years at Glenfeochan House, Kilmore, not far down the road from Oban to Campbeltown. The imposing house of 1875 confronts new arrivals at the end of the drive's leftward swing, and it is already clear that the gardens are well loved. All the plants are labelled and, if they are hybrids, the parentage is given too! Most of the shrubs and trees are in the lawns on the Oban side of the house, with a wooded slope on one hand and

level pastures on the other with the head of Loch Feochan sparkling through a belt of trees. In the garden, *Malus floribunda* was the most decorative of the trees. The buds of the open-crowned *Carya ovata*, shagbark hickory, had begun to expand. It is cause for regret that the late leafing-out of hickories is one of the reasons why they are less often planted. This tree had lost some branches when struck by lightning at 0230 one morning three years ago. Mr Baber ruefully remarked that a ball of flame from this strike had blown out every pane on the nearer side of the house. The Glenfeochan rhododendrons are introduced by 'Gladys' and *R. concinnum*, less often seen than its var. *pseudoyanthinum*; then, gaining in density but still well spaced, come *campylocarpum*, an interesting unnamed *campylocarpum* × *lacteum*, a delicate pink *vernicosum*, a Ludlow and Sherriff *wardii*, and two broad-headed little trees of *calophytum* and *sutchuenense*, each grown on a clean leg. Perhaps growers of the larger species might supervise their development more closely so that they do not always fork at the base? A step outwards in the margin of the wood provided the foil for the gleaming, beckoning white dome of *griffithianum* × *vernicosum*, another unnamed primary cross. The only red-flowered rhododendron in view was a sumptuous 'Golden Horn' (*dichroanthum* × *elliottii*), heavy with signal-red blossom, and elected there and then to the elite of plants noted on the tour. We felt drowsy in the strong sun and the tang of newly-cut grass and we could have stayed until evening, but already it was time to go on to the shore of Loch Fyne and the minarets and towers of Stonefield Castle, the next hotel.

Our appetite for Baravalla, first of Wednesday's gardens, had been whetted on the previous evening when Sir Peter Hutchison's cheery new leaflet on 'Baravalla Gardens' had been disseminated to members. We were privileged to be the first party to visit this garden. Mr Peter Cox has referred in his writings to this garden, described by his colleague as 'a slightly unusual enterprise', and, again, best described by him. 'Some twenty acres on the shores of West Loch Tarbert were fenced against rabbits and deer and the first serious planting began in 1969. Natural oak and hazel surround the old crofting fields, which are gradually becoming rhododendron glades and there are a few fine old beeches and silver firs.' The garden is effectively an informal trial ground. There is no regimentation or linearity and 19 years' development and additions have produced a series of carefully planted groups of protective trees and more or less open space for shrubs grown here for review. The indigenous lichens, mosses, bracken and woodrush impart a natural appearance. The granitic outcrops provide niches for the smaller members of Ericaceae. Baravalla has no associated house but is home to *Cleyera japonica* and other shrubs which might resent the relatively dry keen Carse of Gowrie where Mr Cox also gardens. We saw many collections from the Sino-British Expedition to China 1981, including *Gaultheria griffithiana* and *Viburnum chingii*.

The garden offers handy comparisons between closely related rhododendron species, and forms of species. The Trifloras and Cinnabarinas deserved the disproportionate amount of time we spent in their midst. We examined the white *augustinii* subsp. *hardyi*, light- and darker-flowered *oreotrephes*, *rigidum*, *triflorum* and *yunnanense*; farther along came *cinnabarinum* subsp. *cinnabarinum* Roylei Group, and subsp. *xanthocodon* Concatenans and Purpurellum Groups. There are many rarer species than these at Baravalla (Fig. 10), but they were at their best at the time. We compared *falconeri* subsp. *eximium* and *falconeri* C. & H. 584 in flower as we left the garden, and enthused over the three large *hemsleyanum* with little *sulfureum* in flower, glow-worms in the shade below. David Farnes presented *Betula jacquemontii* and a eucryphia to the two Peters after lunch at Stonefield. We were also pleased to sign Mrs Lorne Mackie Campbell's visitors' book as the first party to visit Baravalla. The book had been used at Stonefield when her family owned that estate.

The kindly Dr Severne Mackenna's Dun Alasdair was indeed a 'garden of a golden afternoon'. It could easily form the subject of a book entitled 'The Scholarly Man's Garden'. It lies above East Loch Tarbert, really part of Loch Fyne, on the eastern side of the isthmus linking Knapdale and North Kintyre. Broadly, the garden lies on a rock-strewn acclivity above the house, and is composed of several sunny enclaves in the ponticum, linked by tenuous paths and forming well-furnished garden 'rooms'. Dr Mackenna labels all his plants and gives their source – Benmore, Inverewe, Largie. He is exceptional now in still maintaining a meticulous log, 'Dun Alasdair, Tarbert – Rhododendrons', with hand written entries and annotations for each accession. The Balfourian classification prevails here, and many of the species are more conveniently referred to by their old names. Dr Mackenna is clearly fond of *Rhododendron neriiflorum*: its subspecies *euchaites* to the right of the entrance is a good introduction to the garden. The rare subsp. *phoenicodum* is here, too. It has a compact egg-shaped crown and the last remaining inflorescence displayed attractively dark flowers, smaller than in subsp. *neriiflorum*. Two striking hybrids at Dun Alasdair are *neriiflorum* subsp. *phaedropum* × *griersonianum* with light salmon-pink to orange flowers, and the vivid, waxy vermilion of 'Aries' (*neriiflorum* × *thomsonii*) × *sanguineum*. *Rhododendron campylocarpum* from Inverewe compensated for plants which attracted our attention but were not in flower, namely *crinigerum*, *glischrum*, *habrotrichum*, *bathyphyllum* and *sphaeroblastum*. What a haul! The *bathyphyllum* was identified by Robbie Jack, kindly ending the uncertainty which had been in Dr Mackenna's mind. *Rhododendron brachysiphon*, *R. lindleyi* and 'Countess of Sefton' grow unabashed in the open here and even more interesting was that compelling anomaly, *genestierianum*, which we had been lucky to see in flower at the Garden Festival.

We eventually came down to the front lawn after an instructive garden tour to David Farnes' presentation to Dr Mackenna and Mr Gordon Bignall of

Rhododendron auriculatum and *R. pentaphyllum*.

The appeal of all the western isles, perhaps led by Skye, to visit, explore, and search for more beyond has been felt since the time of St Columba, and we were able to indulge this compulsion on Thursday, our last full day, when we crossed the Sound of Gigha to Ardminish, Gigha, and the gardens of Achamore House. The garden now belongs to the National Trust for Scotland and is managed by Mr George Hall, but it will always be associated with the name of Lt. Col. Sir James Horlick whose planting made the most of the benign maritime situation.

Before reference to any of Achamore's plants, it is now opportune to describe the phenomenal climatic and vegetational contrast that I noticed between the Forest of Mar in Aberdeenshire before the tour, and in insular Argyll towards its end. We had stayed close to the boundary of Morrone Birkwood National Nature Reserve in the Braes o' Mar, where, in those parts fenced against red deer, leading sinuously-branched scrub birch is associated with an understorey of juniper and heath and a floor of lichen and moss. The snow had receded from this boreal woodland, typically found in the vicinity of Trömso in arctic Norway, only a week before, and on 3 May the first cuckoo had called on the slopes of Morrone. The other extreme was expressed in the Entrance Glade at Achamore by a leafy *Cordyline indivisa* with two main stems, a columnar *Drimys winteri*, by *Cordyline australis*, here a much-branched tree, not a gawky pole, and by a stand of *Gevuina avellana* growing like mahonias at the edge of the wood.

We edged past the low-crowned, glaucous and tactile *Pinus montezumae* in the South Walled Garden, and came upon the outstanding *Rhododendron sinonuttallii* × *lindleyi* in the corner. A characterful plant with slightly shaggy shoots and stout, bullate leaves, the long tubular-campanulate flowers are a rich cream with a greenish tinge, yellow at the base of the corolla, and fragrant.

Some of us wound our way up Spring Bank for the view of the western shore and the Sound of Jura. When we came down, it was already time to resort to the Civic Trust award-winning Gigha Hotel for lunch. We had resolved to spend the afternoon in the arc of woodland and named glades lying from the west to the south of the house.

A heavy shower had by now eased to drizzle. In the Malcolm Allen Garden we came upon a champion *Cladrastis sinensis* which at first sight recalled *Robinia pseudoacacia* in new leaf. Scents mingled to form the heady tang of damp vegetation. A tall Tasmanian waratah, *Telopea truncata*, displayed its sombre red flowers in the higher parts of the crown: nearby stood the rich rhododendron 'Bibiani' (*arboreum* × 'Moser's Maroon') whose flowers recall those of *Paeonia officinalis* 'Rubra Plena', a ruby red unusual in rhododendrons. The growth of the large-leaved rhododendrons, especially *falconeri* and *macabeanum*, was well advanced. The spectacle of healthy tree ferns, *Dicksonia antarctica*, with a background of R. 'Leo' produced keen

satisfaction in the Old Garden (Fig. 9). A lovely rhododendron with clear pink flowers was 'Margaret Findlay' (*griersonianum* × *wardii*), raised by Sir James himself in 1942.

Small groups sheltered beneath the ample *Senecio reinoldii* at the main gate, waiting to be taken by mini-coach to the slipway and the waiting ferry. The wind buffeted us in the Sound of Gigha and at the same time seemed to strengthen our resolve to return to the island for a longer visit to Achamore.

Mrs Valerie Archibold had also arranged an optional visit to Mr Archie Kenneth's woodland at Stronachullin Farm, Ardrishaig. Six eager members went on there for an hour or so before dinner that evening. In view of Mr Kenneth's indisposition, permission to call at Stronachullin was very kindly given. He has not been able to tend the woodland for some years, but we found that the rhododendrons had nurtured themselves and rose from a deep carpet of moss and spent leaves. We eventually found a transverse path which had been built on a low causeway, and noted particularly *exasperatum*, *monosematum*, a generous *griffithianum* in flower, *sanguineum* subsp. *didymum* at the side of the drive, and an interesting *yakushimanum* with wide-open pink flowers and broad leaves.

We left Stonefield Castle on the morning of Friday 13 May, the last day, and called at Dr Angus Mackay's home, Tigh-an-Rudha, Ardrishaig, on our way along the shore of Loch Fyne to Lochgilphead. Dr Mackay was absent in London, but our party was again met and addressed by Mr Mervyn Kessell who has access to this important garden, and, realizing their value, has been propagating many of its plants. The collection had originally been made by Mrs Kenneth, mother of the tenant of Stronachullin. Some plants were suppressed when the garden was untended, but the survivors are splendid. One is an unregistered rhododendron, 'Glenakeil Hybrid', a dainty plant with light orange-pink corollas, dark red at the margins of the petals, and recalling *neriiflorum* subsp. *phaedropum*. Its provenance is a local one, the variously-spelt Glenakil House standing near the head of West Loch Tarbert. The uneven ground in the garden makes it seem larger than its eight acres. A ride at the top is bordered by about twenty selections of *decorum*, mostly sweetly scented and showing interesting variation in detail. We found a superior *bureavii* in flower, and an *orbiculare* with smaller, more numerous flowers per truss. It was educative to compare *glischrum* subsp. *glischroides* and subsp. *rude* with the rarer *vesiculiferum*. A good *cerasinum* with rather coyly displayed flowers looked down the lawn to the front door of the house. An effulgent vermilion 'Grosclaude' (*facetum* × *haematodes*) rivalled Glenfeochan's 'Golden Horn' in exuberant eruption, and its memory is the best with which to end this review of some silvan coastal gardens of Dumbarton and Argyll.

We assembled for lunch at the end of the tour in the elegant grey and pink upper saloon of the Stag Hotel, Lochgilphead, where Robbie Jack, in his speech of thanks to tour secretary Valerie, pointed out that our smooth

progression between gardens and hotels was the outcome of assiduous planning and nothing had been left to chance. An air of deep satisfaction prevailed, and our pleasure in Scotland and its gardens was manifest.

The photographic competition

That there are many expert photographers among the members of the Group is confirmed by the entries to the competition. The judges found it hard to choose between them and debated long before deciding to award the prize to what seemed to them a photograph which would most grace the pages of the Yearbook. Finally their choice fell on a representation of *R. prattii* 'Perry Wood' as it seemed to epitomize a rhododendron in full flower: clearly showing the stamens, stigma and crimson blotch, admirably set off against its own glossy dark green leaves backed by the characteristic indumentum. Several entries showed individual trusses of favourite species or hybrids and it is clear that photographers take great pains to capture permanently the intimate details of these fleeting beauties in order to savour them during the long months before they flower again. Other entries showed whole shrubs or parts of wellknown gardens – all reflected the visual pleasure these gardens provide, but in the estimation of the judges they do not wholly do justice to the genus *Rhododendron*.

Rhododendron prattii (after A. E. Pratt who first found it near Tatsien-lu in Sichuan) belongs now to Subsection Taliensia and should be called, according to the Edinburgh revision, *R. faberi* subsp. *prattii*. The plant in the photograph – fig. 11 – growing at Borde Hill) is a clone called 'Perry Wood' and was awarded an AM in 1967. The photographer is Dr M. L. A. Robinson of Hindleap Lodge, Priory Road, Forest Row in Sussex, and the judges have much pleasure in awarding him the prize of £10.

The Magnolia Society tour of Cornish gardens, 1987

Forty-one members of the Magnolia Society of the USA toured Cornwall in April, 1987: 26 members came from the USA, 7 from the UK, 2 each from Korea and Switzerland, and one each from Belgium, Germany, the Republic of Ireland and Italy. The tour, ably organized by John Gallagher, visited ten gardens: Trewidden, Trengwainton, Tresco Abbey, Tregothnan, Caerhays Castle, Trewithen, Chyverton, Lanhydrock House, Hewton Trees and Shrubs, and Antony House. The following is a much compressed account of the tour written for *The Magnolia* (Vol. XXII No. 1) 1987, by Larry Langford, editor of the Magnolia Society's Journal, and reprinted with his permission.

We gathered on April 2 in St Ives to be welcomed by the Cornish Tourist Board after what had proved to be a festive rail journey from London. During the next few days we worked our way from the western and southern tip of the peninsula eastwards, ending up near Plymouth. All the gardens were, by today's standards, large and it would have taken many more days to have seen everything in them. No two gardens were alike except that they all contained many forms of the magnolia family. There was the woodland garden at Caerhays, where great trees, such as *M. campbellii* in its various forms, *M. sprengeri diva*, *M. sargentiana* var. *robusta* and the still tightly budded *M.* × *veitchii*, flourish in as near to their native habitat as most of us will ever experience. Unfortunately, 'Caerhays Belle' had been frosted, but our attention was taken instead by 'Kew's Surprise' (see fig. 13) with a pleasing colour and form. Several gardens were far from the woodland style. Notable 'tamed' landscapes were Trengwainton (with some gems of magnolia and related tribes in the old walled garden), Tregothnan and Trewithen. Tresco and Lanhydrock were more formal still, and Antony House had part wild, part formal gardens, the best of both worlds. Chyverton, in many ways unique, seemed to encapsulate all we had seen. Some of the outstanding plants observed were the immense *M. sargentiana* var. *robusta* at Trengwainton, the *M. campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* and *M. sprengeri diva* at Trewithen, the specimens of *M. grandiflora* at Tregothnan, and the espaliered examples of the same at Antony. At Lanhydrock the putative hybrid between *M. cylindrica* and *M.* × *veitchii*, the pure white 'Albatross', created a stir. At Chyverton we saw many named cultivars: 'Chyverton', 'Buzzard', 'Hawk', 'Treve Holman', as well as the small gem, *M. nitida*. Members of the Group expressed their gratitude to the owners and gardeners who had made the visits such a pleasure,

and especially to John Gallagher, who joins the great pantheon of tour organizers. In addition the Magnolia Society took the opportunity to present three individuals in the UK who have done so much for magnolias with D. Todd Gresham Awards. They are Elizabeth Johnstone, Julian Williams and Neil Treseder.

Obituaries

Major General E. G. W. W. Harrison, CB, CBE, MC, 1893-1987

Eric Harrison, an Honorary Life Member of the RHS Rhododendron & Camellia Group, died at Amesbury Abbey Nursing Home on the 20 December 1987, aged 94; his funeral at Salisbury Crematorium ten days later was well attended by his gardening, army and Cornish friends.

General Harrison was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1914, and had a distinguished military career, culminating in command of the artillery for the allied invasion of North Africa under General Eisenhower. He managed to combine this with a wide range of sporting and other outdoor interests at all of which he came to excel. Returning to England after the First World War, he caught ten salmon of a total weight of 95lb in one day on the River Torridge in what is still known as 'Harrison's Pool'. Playing for an Army XV against Oxford University he scored 7 tries, and in 1924 he represented England in the 120-yards hurdles in the Olympic Games. During his Army service, he was Master of four different packs of hounds, and on his retirement he took over the North Cornwall Hounds. He shot tiger, ibex and bison in India, and lion, buffalo, rhino and elephant in Tanganyika.

On leave pending retirement in 1939, he bought Tremeer in North Cornwall, a beautiful old house, but not then noted for its garden, and he had started to plant rhododendrons there when he was recalled to duty on the outbreak of war. On his return after the war, he was offered further military appointments, but he preferred to retire to his garden and hounds, and over the next thirty years he created an outstandingly beautiful garden of trees and shrubs. He remained a very skilful fisherman, was a very good shot, as well as an expert at training and handling gundogs. He also painted in oils, and had had pictures accepted by the Royal Academy and hung in the Paris Salon.

He took an active part in the public life of Cornwall, was Chairman of the Bench in Bodmin, High Sheriff and a Deputy Lieutenant, as well as being President of the Cornwall Garden Society. He served on the RHS Rhododendron & Camellia Committee, and there he met his wife Roza, widow of J. B. Stevenson of Tower Court, who had created the fine rhododendron species collection now in Windsor Great Park. They were married in 1961, and she brought some of the best of the Tower Court rhododendrons with her to Tremeer, including the collection of Kurume azaleas obtained from Wada in Japan and said to be better than the 'Wilson Fifty'. Sadly, she died six years later, but Eric stayed on at Tremeer for another ten years before he found the garden becoming too much for him. He retired to Swallowfield Park near Reading in 1977, taking with him a gundog,

General Eric Harrison

some of his big game trophies and a few of his best rhododendrons. There, he lived happily for another ten years, still fishing on the River Test and visiting Cornwall from time to time for shoots or to judge at the Cornwall Spring Flower Show. On one of these visits he expressed his appreciation of the excellent way in which the Haslam-Hopwood family were maintaining the garden that he had created at Tremeer, with the help of his old gardener, John Stone.

During his time at Tremeer, he and his wife received four First Class Certificates for their rhododendron hybrids after trial at Wisley, nine Awards of Merit and three Certificates of Preliminary Commendation. Most notable perhaps were the cultivars of the Blue Tit grex (*augustinii* × *impeditum*) originating at Caerhays, which he grew from cuttings at nearby Lamellen. From these, he produced the clones 'Saint Breward' and 'Saint Tudy', to obtain FCCs, and crossed these back with their parents, with *augustinii* to produce 'Saint Kew' (PC 1970), and with *impeditum* to produce 'Saint Merryn' (FCC 1986), as well as with *russatum* to give 'Saint Minver' (FCC 1986 after trial at Wisley).

WALTER MAGOR

Robert Stephenson Clarke, 1925-87

Robert Stephenson Clarke who died in October after the Great Storm, will always be remembered for his enthusiasm for and his knowledge of rhododendrons. As a member of the Rhododendron and Camellia Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society and his participation in the Society's shows he has greatly increased the general interest in the famous rhododendron species collection at his home at Borde Hill.

His successes at the shows include winning the McLaren Cup, the Lionel de Rothschild Cup and the Roza Stevenson Cup, the last five times. In 1986 the Society awarded him the Loder Rhododendron Cup for his work with rhododendrons. Among the 23 awards for rhododendrons shown to the Society one must mention his *japonicum* var. *japonicum*, his *haemaleum* and *fulvum*, all of which have First Class Certificates.

We will miss his encyclopaedic knowledge, but it is pleasing to know that the garden at Borde Hill will continue in the hands of the charitable trust.

EDWARD BOSCAWEN

An Appreciation

We had exchanged letters in 1982 when I was writing a book on rhododendron hybrids including selected forms of species with clonal names as well as published registrations. Mr Stephenson Clarke himself registered mainly named species forms that had won awards and he had made a careful inventory of the species at Borde Hill, copies of which were available on request. My copy came by air, post free, and later when I thanked him, he thanked *me* for what he called my 'correction of some howlers'. Later, when the Rhododendron Group visited Borde Hill in May 1987, he told me my book was on his desk and much used: those are the kindest words an author can hear. Then I wondered about the 'howlers' he had perhaps seen in my book, but been too polite to mention!

He had already told me in 1982 that he was busy on part two of his book which was to be on hybrids, saying 'there are certainly more hybrids here than have ever been identified – I am still trying to find an expert'. During the 1987 tour he would ask us for the name of one of these 'unknowns' and appealed to Bruce Archibold and me in vain. It became necessary to take more slides. However, I knew one fact about Borde Hill hybrids: the one named 'Borde Hill' did not originate there.

When I expressed our gratitude for giving us a full day of his time and being a most gracious host, he replied, 'I don't see enough real rhododendron people'. I later sent him a photograph of the two of us (opposite above). In his acknowledgement he said, 'It is in my photo album on my desk.'

Robert Stephenson Clarke (right) with Homer Salley at Borde Hill

Hopefully, Borde Hill will be open when we visit Sussex again. I will look at the hybrids without labels and wonder who has the proof copy of his hybrids book. If I could see it I would look for any 'howlers' as I feel he might want them corrected!

HOMER SALLEY

Book Reviews

Rhododendrons, by John Street in the new Classic Garden Plants series, edited by Vicent Page, 1987, Century Hutchinson Ltd, hard cover, 144 pp. with 108 colour plates. £12.95, net in the UK.

In his foreword (not as he wrote it), Donald Waterer recalls how, after World War II, he and the author (trading as Frederick Street) rebuilt their families' nurseries near Woking in Surrey, where their fathers had been neighbours and friends, and how the author had soon afterwards taken up horticultural journalism, writing under the pen-name 'Woodsman'.

Apart from 80 pages of mostly very good coloured plates (17 species and 91 hybrids) each with a short description, which is the main feature of the book, there are chapters at the beginning and end. One of these is a very good history of rhododendron introductions up to the end of the last century, with a brief mention of *R. griersonianum* and *R. yakushimanum*. There are chapters on cultivation, pests and diseases, propagation, and the naming of hybrids, and a selection of 48 commonly grown species, as well as a table showing species and hybrids of various heights, suitable for different seasons.

In the same vein as earlier books which Woodsman published under the name of Frederick Street, this is an attractive book for a beginner, suggesting that little has changed in the last fifty years.

Compendium of rhododendron and azalea diseases, by Duane L. Coyier and Martha R. Roane. The American Phytopathological Society, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St Paul, Minnesota, 55121, USA. 65 pp., 80 colour plates, limp cover. US$14.

There are sections describing diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, virus, nematodes, algae and other higher plants such as dodder, as well as insect pests and disorders resulting from non-infectious causes such as heat and cold, air pollution and nutrient deficiencies.

Though rhododendrons in this country may suffer from some of these disorders, we seem to be more fortunate in this respect than our transatlantic friends, and this seems essentially a publication for the North American rhododendroholic.

Sichuan Rhododendrons of China, edited by the late Professor Fang Wenpei, and published (in English) by the Science Press, Beijing, China in 1986, 9¼ × 11½ in., hardback, with coloured illustrations throughout the 109 taxa. 345 pp. Price to members of the American Rhododendron Society US $98, from Mrs Judy Young, 2821 29th Ave W. Seattle, WA 98199.

This book was reviewed in the American Rhododendron Society, Fall 87 number (vol. 41, no. 4). Major Dick Reynolds was quickly off the mark to order a copy, and then generously lent it to me, with the suggestion that I might review it for the Yearbook.

Professor Fang Wenpei, the chief editor of this book, was Director of the Department of Biology, Sichuan University, Chengtu, and died in 1983 at the age of 84; he was a Ph.D. of Edinburgh University where he studied from 1934-7. The book follows the Edinburgh Revision of Rhododendron.

An article on the rhododendrons of Mount Omei (now Emei Shan), by Dr Fang Wenpei was reproduced in the *Rhododendron Yearbook 1947*, recording 23 species, of which some are treated in the Edinburgh Revision as synonyms of other species.

In the present book, Dr Fang limits the account to the rhododendrons of Sichuan Province, better known to some of us as Szechuan; it is the province in western China immediately north of Yunnan, bordering Tibet (now Xizang), to the east of the Yangtze River. Sichuan was less well known to western collectors than Yunnan, Sikkim and Bhutan, Tibet or northern Burma. The French missionaries, notably Père David from 1869, and later Pères Farges and Soulié, collected herbarium specimens in Sichuan which were sent to Paris, and from 1881 Augustine Henry was stationed for 15 years as a doctor in the Chinese Customs Service at Ichang, the port on the Yangtze River in western Hupeh, which was then the limit for steam navigation; he sent to Kew specimens of many of the rhododendron species which Père David had sent to Paris. Later Père Delavay, collecting in Yunnan, sent many of the same species to Paris, where they were described and named by Franchet.

It remained for E. H. Wilson, sent out in 1903 to collect for Veitch, to be the first western collector to explore and actually collect seed in Sichuan. He travelled up the Yangtze to Ichang and from there trekked 400 miles across country to Chengtu, and then went south to Kiating from where he explored Mount Omei (Emei Shan) and Wa Shan, with their rich flora. Subsequently, collecting for the Arnold Arboretum, Wilson worked in Sichuan again from 1906-09, and 1910-11. Later collectors, Farrer, Forrest, Kingdon Ward and Rock, seem to have come into the area from the south west, concentrating on Sikkim and Bhutan, Tibet, Assam and northern Burma, particularly the area of the confluence of the great rivers, the Tsangpo (Brahmaputra), Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong and Yangtze, which seems to be the area of the greatest concentration of rhododendron species in the world. Forrest did cover the Yunnan/Sichuan/Tibet frontiers on his 1917-19 expedition and again in 1930-1, as did Kingdon Ward in 1921 and 1922, but these expeditions were concentrating mainly on Yunnan and Tibet.

It is therefore understandable that this book includes a number of taxa (11 species and 3 varieties), endemic to Sichuan, which have never reached this

country. Most, but not all, have been included in *Rhododendrons of China*, published in 1980 by the American Rhododendron Society, translated by Mrs Judy Young and Dr Lu-sheng Chong from the *Iconographia Cormophytorum Sinicorum*, published in 1974 by the Beijing Botanical Research Institute of Academia Sinica (reviewed by Dr Alan Leslie in *Rhododendrons 1981-2, with Magnolias and Camellias*, p.69).

Four of the species named by Dr Fang are included in the Edinburgh Revision: *huianum* (subsect. Fortunea), *sikangense* (subsect. Irrorata), *chienianum* (subsect. Argyrophylla) and *radendum* (sect. Pogonanthum). The other five species and three varieties were presumably named too recently to have been included in *Rhododendrons of China*.

The book represents the work of a team of researchers who conducted a wide range of investigation and exploration over a number of years. There are over 500 excellent colour photographs, each taxon being represented by one or more pictures of the plant growing in the wild, a close-up of a truss, and usually one of a flower with the corolla removed, to show the calyx, stamens and ovary; there is also for each an outline map of Sichuan, to show where the plant has been found.

It is a superb book, well worth the price. It is interesting to see that *R. augustinii* is not the lavender blue that we cherish in this country, but almost white. It was the same in the beautiful *Rhododendrons of Yunnan*, edited by Dr Feng Kuomei (in Japanese), reviewed at p.68 of *Rhododendrons 1981-2*. Evidently, Wilson chose well in collecting seed of W.4238 in Sichuan, as this is probably the origin of the beautiful blue forms of *R. augustinii* grown in this country, and hence also the Blue Tit hybrids and their derivatives.

WALTER MAGOR

Enquire within

Audrey Brooks is the Plant Pathologist at the RHS Wisley. She has kindly supplied some of the most frequent questions she receives in her postbag, and also what explanations and advice she gives the enquirers.

Q. What causes these purple and brown spots on my rhododendron leaves and is there any cure?

A. The spots on the rhododendron leaves sent have been due to leaf spot disease caused by the fungus *Glomerella cingulata* (syn. *Gloeosporium rhododendri*). The spots caused by this fungus (and occasionally by others) are round and, as you have noticed, are at first purple but later become brown and more irregular in shape and they may develop at any time of the year. Leaf spotting fungi are more likely to affect a shrub lacking in vigour due to some other far more fundamental trouble.

If only a few leaves are showing this disease, then you could simply remove and burn them together with any leaves showing brown patches. However, if the problem appears to be severe then you could try spraying the rhododendron three times at fortnightly intervals with mancozeb or a systemic fungicide such as benomyl, carbendazim or thiophanate-methyl.

Further applications should be given if leaf spots start to develop later in the season on young foliage. Any spraying must of course only be carried out while shrubs are *not* actually in flower. As this problem is only troublesome on a shrub which is lacking in vigour, you should try to improve the vigour of the plant by good cultural treatment including the use of a foliar feed.

Q. What is causing these whitish yellow blotches on the enclosed camellia leaves?

A. The discoloration of the leaves sent was typical of the disease known as camellia yellow mottle. This is a virus-like disease and the symptoms produced can take a number of very different forms and sometimes the leaves are only irregularly blotched or speckled with yellow or white, while in other cases whole branches may bear completely white leaves. These symptoms usually vary from branch to branch on an affected bush and some branches may bear normal, dark green leaves. The symptoms also vary from year to year so that in some seasons a bush may bear many discoloured leaves whereas in another year it may be difficult to find any discoloured leaves on the bush.

Although considered unsightly by some, this disease of camellias is not considered to be very serious and it does not appear to affect the flowering or the vigour of an affected plant. Although it has been known for many years

that the trouble is due to a virus-like disease because it can be transmitted by grafting, the natural means of spread of the causal organism is not known. Certainly the disease does not seem to spread to other camellias nearby or at least only very slowly. The virus-like organism which has affected your camellia is now present in all parts of the shrub whether the leaves are showing symptoms or not. You should not therefore, propagate from this plant.

Q. Can you please tell me what causes these large black patches, delimited by the veins, on the leaves of my *Magnolia* × *soulangeana*? I first noticed the symptoms in May but have been unable to send you any specimens until now. Although it is late in the season, can you tell me how to cure the trouble?

A. I have examined the magnolia leaves sent and found that they had been affected by the disease known as bacterial leaf blotch which is probably caused by *Pseudomonas syringae*. This is a comparatively new disease of magnolias and is usually most troublesome in wet conditions. It has probably been encouraged by excessive rain. Most instances of the disease, however, have been on plants raised under cover where overhead irrigation has been used.

The only treatment I can recommend late in the season is to remove and burn all infected leaves. When the shrub comes into growth next spring you should spray it with a copper fungicide such as liquid copper or Bordeaux Mixture repeating once or twice at fortnightly intervals and again if the symptoms develop later in the season.

Q. Some of the shoots on my magnolia are dead and I have found pinkish growths on them. Can you tell me what they are and what to do about them?

A. Your magnolia shoots have been affected by the coral spot fungus, *Nectria cinnabarina* which is very common and is often seen growing as a saprophyte on dead twigs and branches of many kinds of ornamental and fruit trees and shrubs. It is also commonly found on woody debris. The fungus is most conspicuous in damp weather when it shows on the bark as numerous scattered small pinkish or red cushion-like bodies or pustules. These are normally only produced on dead tissue and may not appear on a branch until it is completely dead. These cushion-like bodies produce all the year round vast numbers of spores of the fungus which spread the infection. In mass they are slimy in nature and as they form a hard crust in dry weather, water is considered to be more important than wind in the dispersal of spores.

Although the fungus is thought to be only able to enter living branches through wounds and not directly, once it has gained an entry it can become parasitic and very destructive. Magnolias and some other types of ornamental

trees, e.g. *Elaeagnus* and *Acer* species, are very susceptible to infection and may be killed completely if the fungus enters the main trunk or branches of the plant.

All infected shoots and branches should be cut off at a point well below the dead and apparently diseased wood and be burned. Large wounds and pruning cuts may be covered with a protective sealant containing thiophanate-methyl or artificial resin dispersion emulsion. It should be pointed out, however, that use of wound paints is no longer regarded as being beneficial except where coral spot (or silver leaf) has been a problem in a garden.

The magnolia shoots may have been susceptible to infection because they were injured by a severe frost earlier in the season. Removing all dead shoots at the first signs of trouble may prevent the disease. As diseased woody debris is a reservoir of infection, dead wood and sticks should not be allowed to accumulate in your garden.

If the disease continues to be troublesome you should consider whether the plant is in vigorous health, judged from such factors as size and vigour of current shoot growth, etc. It may be necessary to improve the drainage and general soil conditions so as to encourage healthy root action. It may also be worthwhile to spray the shrub with a foliar feed.

The Camellia Shows – 1988

GEORGE AYLWARD

1988 will be remembered as the different year. Not only did we have pleasant weather as opposed to the usual Icelandic conditions prior to the event, but also when we arrived at the Hall we found changes there. Gone was the wooden furniture reminiscent of old office desks and the little holes with metal water containers which often leaked, garlanded with moss for the single bloom classes, and in their place were flat tables covered with white plastic with drinking cups, also plastic, for the water. All this caused much comment and considerable criticism, particularly the cups which could be easily knocked over (but this only happened once, and I did that). Personally, I thought the change was good. The merits are considerable. The appearance is much better than the sheets of more or less moribund moss with, too often, too few blooms. Now, if you have too few blooms, you just move them up together; if too many in a class, the room allotted to a less popular class can be used. As for the containers, I understand a different type with a broader base is being sought.

THE EARLY CAMELLIA SHOW: 22 MARCH

The competitions relied heavily on entries from Chatsworth and Stonehurst, the latter for the spray classes in particular, though there were entries from several exhibitors with a London address, as well as some welcome entries from Cornwall from Mr Nigel Holman, who does not often show in London. Leonardslee and the Devon doctors are still greatly missed. The results of the competive classes, very kindly collated by Major Walter Magor, were as follows:

DIVISION I: SPRAYS

Class 1: Japonica, any three cultivars, one spray of each, attracted only two entries, both from D. & R. Strauss of Stonehurst, Ardingly in Sussex. First were three splendid sprays of 'Bob Hope', 'Drama Girl' and 'Shiro Chan'. Second 'Ballet Dancer', 'Cardinal Var' and 'Mrs D. W. Davis'.

Class 2: Japonica, any semi-double cultivar, one spray, had five entries, and was won by Lady Wood from Holland Park, with 'Adolphe Audusson'. Second was Mrs Assinder from Putney with 'Nigra', an old cultivar no longer included in *Camellia Nomenclature*. The three other entries were all from Stonehurst, 'Mrs D. W. Davis' which was third, 'Coral Queen' and 'Drama Girl'.

Class 3: for a spray of any anemone- or peony-formed cultivar of japonica, had three entries. Stonehurst were first and second with 'Shiro Chan' and 'Ballet Dancer' respectively; Lady Wood was third with 'Duchesse de Caze'.

Class 4: for a spray of any rose-formed or formal double cultivar of japonica had three entries, all from Stonehurst. First was 'Twilight', second 'Cardinal Var' and third 'Pagoda'.

Class 7: for one spray of reticulata or its hybrids, attracted one entry, 'Nuccio's Ruby' from Stonehurst, which was given first prize.

Class 8: for a spray of saluenensis was won by Borde Hill, with the only entry.

Class 13: for a semi-double × williamsii had one entry, an almost pendulous spray of 'Donation' from Borde Hill, which was given third prize.

Class 14: for a peony- or rose-formed or formal double cultivar of × williamsii, was won by 'Debbie' from Stonehurst, the only entry.

DIVISION II: BLOOMS

SECTION A.

Cultivars of Camellia japonica, single cultivars

Class 16: for any three single-flowered cultivars attracted entries only from Stonehurst and Chatsworth. Stonehurst were first with 'Clarissa', 'Mattie Cole' and 'Rogetsu' and Chatsworth second with 'Charlotte de Rothschild', 'Jupiter' and 'Sieboldii'.

Class 17: for any single-flowered white cultivar attracted five entries. Chatsworth were first and second with a cultivar whose name was not known, and with 'Rogetsu'. Lady Wood was third with 'White Swan'.

Class 18: for any self-coloured cultivar had four entries. Chatsworth once again were first and second with 'Jupiter' and 'Sylva' (wrongly labelled 'Sylvia', which is variegated). Stonehurst were third with 'Evelyn'.

Class 19: for a variegated single cultivar had two entries. Chatsworth were first with 'Sieboldii' and Stonehurst second with 'Clarissa'.

Camellia japonica, semi-double cultivars

For the purposes of the Competition, 'semi-double' is defined as a flower with two or more rows of petals; stamens conspicuous. Camellias grown under glass or in warm climates tend to produce fuller flowers than when grown in the open in England, so cultivars normally regarded as 'semi-double' in the open may not conform with the definition if raised under glass. The judges found a number of entries in this subsection to be untypical of a semi-double cultivar.

Class 20: for any three semi-double cultivars had three entries. Stonehurst were first with 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Hana-Fuki' and 'Mrs D. W. Davis'. Chatsworth received third prize for 'Drama Girl', 'Lady Clare' and 'Mrs D. W. Davis'; their other entry was considered Not According to Schedule, though very beautiful.

Class 21: for any semi-double white cultivar had two entries from Chatsworth, neither according to Schedule.

Class 22: for any semi-double self-coloured cultivar had five entries. Chatsworth were first with 'Mrs D. W. Davis' and Stonehurst second with 'Drama Girl'.

Class 23: for any semi-double variegated cultivar had four entries. Stonehurst were first with 'Geisha Girl'; Chatsworth received second and fourth prizes for 'Drama Girl' and 'Tricolor'; no third prize was awarded.

Camellia japonica, anemone- and peony-formed cultivars

Class 24: for any three had only one entry, from Stonehurst, who showed 'Ballet Dancer', 'Kramer's Supreme' and 'Shiro Chan', for which they were awarded second prize.

Class 25: for a white cultivar had two entries. 'Silver Anniversary' from Chatsworth was first, and 'Shiro Chan' from Stonehurst second.

Class 26: for a self-coloured cultivar had five entries. Chatsworth won with 'Carnation', an old French cultivar also known as 'Rose Emery'. Mrs Assinder was second with 'Scentsation', but unfortunately the fragrance was not perceptible in the New Hall; she also showed 'Brushfield Yellow'. Stonehurst were third with 'Kramer's Supreme', and a fourth prize was given to Dr & Mrs Dayton from West Humble, near Dorking in Surrey, for 'Debbie'.

Class 27: for a variegated cultivar had two entries. Lady Wood was first with an unnamed cultivar, and Chatsworth received third prize for 'Margaret Guillon'.

Camellia japonica, rose-formed or formal double cultivars

Class 28: for any three had two entries. Stonehurst won with 'Mathotiana', 'Nuccio's Gem' and 'Tomorrow Park Hill'; Chatsworth were second with 'Alba Plena', 'Mathotiana' and an unknown.

Class 29: for a white cultivar had three entries. Chatsworth won with 'Alba Plena' and Stonehurst were second with 'Nuccio's Gem'.

Class 30: for any self-coloured cultivar had four entries, and was won by Mr de Freitas from Rylett Crescent, W.12, with 'Rubescens Major'. Second was Chatsworth with 'Mathotiana' and third Stonehurst with 'Pink Pagoda'.

Class 31: for any variegated cultivar had four entries. Stonehurst won with 'Cardinal Var'. Mrs Assinder was second with 'Daikagura' and Chatsworth third with an unnamed cultivar.

Mixed Types of Camellia japonica

Class 32: for any six cultivars had four entries. Stonehurst were first with 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Faith', 'Mathotiana Supreme', 'Mrs D. W. Davis', 'Tomorrow Park Hill' and 'Wildfire'. Chatsworth were second with 'Bob Hope', 'Grand Prix', 'Lady Clare', 'Lady Vansittart', 'Mrs D. W. Davis' and a white 'Guilio Nuccio'.

Class 33: for any three cultivars had two entries. Stonehurst were first with 'Coral Pink', 'Dr Burnside' and 'Nuccio's Gem'. Mrs Assinder was second with 'Adelina Patti', 'Scentsation' and an unnamed cultivar.

SECTION B

Class 35: for any three hybrids, one bloom of each had six entries. Stonehurst were first with 'Debbie', 'E. G. Waterhouse' and 'Julia Hamiter'. Mr Holman from Chyverton in Cornwall was second with 'Grand Jury', 'Mildred Veitch' and 'Salutation'; Chatsworth were third with 'Debbie', 'Francie L' and 'Saint Ewe'. There were also entries from Mrs Assinder, Dr & Mrs Dayton and another from Chatsworth.

Class 36: for any three reticulatas had three entries. Stonehurst were first with 'Milo Rowell', 'Red Emperor' and 'Valentine Day' a particularly good entry. Chatsworth were second with 'Captain Rawes', 'Leonard Messel' and 'Francie L'. Mr R. S. Hood from Lymington was third with 'Lion Head', 'Loloma' and 'White Retic'.

Class 38: for a hybrid of reticulata and × *williamsii or salueneis* had three entries. Mrs Waterlow from Paulton Square, SW3, won with 'Francie L', (*saluenensis* 'Apple Blossom' × *reticulata* 'Buddha'). Mr Holman was second with 'Leonard Messel' (*reticulata* 'Wild Form' × *williamsii* 'Mary Christian'). A much better 'Francie L' from Chatsworth received no award.

Class 39: for a bloom of a single-flowered reticulata had three entries. Chatsworth won with 'Wild Fire'; Mr Holman was second with forma *simplex*. A slightly weathered 'Mouchang' seedling from Mr Hood received no award.

Class 40: for any semi-double reticulata had four entries. Mr Holman was first with a very good 'Arch of Triumph'. Stonehurst were second with 'Milo Rowell', and Chatsworth third with 'Captain Rawes'.

Class 42: for any three × *williamsii* had three entries. Stonehurst were first with 'Debbie', 'E. G. Waterhouse' and 'Julia Hamiter'. Mr Holman was second with 'Anticipation', 'Julia Hamiter' and 'Mona Jury', and Chatsworth third with 'Debbie', 'Donation' and 'Saint Ewe'.

Class 43: for a bloom of any semi-double × *williamsii* had three entries. Chatsworth were first with 'Donation'; Stonehurst second with 'George Blandford'; and Paulton Square Residents Association third with another 'Donation'.

Class 44: for a bloom of any peony- or anemone-formed × *williamsii* had three entries, and was won by Stonehurst with 'Debbie'; Mrs Waterlow was second with 'Elegant Beauty', and Chatsworth third also with 'Debbie'.

SECTION C

Class 46: for any yellow species or hybrid, was won by Mrs Waterlow with 'Jury's Yellow', the only entry.

THE MAIN CAMELLIA SHOW: 12 APRIL

If the weather was kind-hearted for the Early Show, it certainly was not before this one. Perhaps the authorities on high felt that blooms from under glass were a bit out of their reach, but from outdoors they took their revenge. For days before the Show we had frost, sleet, freezing wind and, in short, everything that can be guaranteed to spoil camellia blooms. The result of all this was that there were many withdrawals from the competitions and fewer blooms than anticipated, but with some good entries in the 'under glass' sections, and, with the new positioning, the effect was quite good. It was noticeable how many entries were from gardens in central London. It seems that nowadays this area is no longer the foggy metropolis, but tantamount to a cold greenhouse. The entries that did arrive from the countryside showed how much our plant appreciates a sheltered spot and tree cover. It was nice to see that in both this and the earlier Show there were some new entrants and that nearly all of these came away with prizes. At this Show Mr Tooby and his helpers put up an effective stand for the International Camellia Society, and camellias were featured on the specialist and general shrub stands. The Leonardslee Bowl for twelve blooms from the open was won by Mrs Hooton, Loxwood, Surrey.

The Magnolia Competition: 22 March 1988

This attracted 7 entries for the three classes.

Class 1: for a vase of any magnolia in bloom restricted to the species *salicifolia, kobus, stellata,* or their hybrids, attracted two entries, and Mr Holman from Chyverton received third prize for 'Leonard Messel'.

Class 2: for a vase of a magnolia in bloom, other than those eligible for Class 1, had three entries. Mr Holman won with a very good 'Charles Raffill'. Soulangeana hybrids were second and third.

Class 3: for three distinct magnolias had two entries from Mr Holman. First were *campbellii alba,* 'Charles Raffill' and *dawsoniana* 'Chyverton'. Second were *sprengeri, denudata* and *sargentiana robusta*.

Once again, Mr John Basford brought down an outstanding exhibit from the National Trust for Scotland's fabulous garden at Brodick. This included the following rhododendrons in bloom: a pink *arizelum, barbatum,* 'Chrysomanicum', *hemidartum, hookeri, irroratum, luteiflorum, lutescens, macabeanum, magnificum, meddianum atrokermesinum, montroseanum, pocophorum, praestans, scopulorum, spinuliferum, sulfureum* and 'R. W. Rye', together with foliage of *lanatum, makinoi, mallotum* and *yakushimanum*.

Also in the exhibit were vases of *Anopterus glandulosa*, the Tasmanian laurel: *Camellia reticulata, Dacrydium franklinii, Drimys aromatica*; both forms of the variegated *Griselinia littoralis, Myrtus luma* 'Variegata'; a seedling of *Magnolia sargentiana robusta; Pieris formosa*; forms of *Pittosporum, Pseudowintera colorata*, and a vase of fruiting *Stranvaesia davidii*.

The Cornwall Garden Society's Show 1988

Rhododendrons, Camellias and Magnolias

BRUCE ARCHIBOLD

This year's Show, the 76th, was held at the Cornwall Coliseum at Carlyon Bay near St Austell on Saturday and Sunday 9 and 10 April. The main theme of the show was magnolias and there was a splendid display of blossom from these superb plants, not merely in the competitive classes but also as an educational display. In view of the early flowering of some magnolias this year it was something of a feat to have so much in such good condition for the Show. This was mainly due to the efforts of Neil Treseder who used a system of storing sizeable sprays in cold store with each individual bud wrapped in polystyrene foam. Seeing that these sprays had been cut as early as February they came out in very fine condition. It is hoped that the exact method used will be the subject of a paper by Neil for which a bid for the Yearbook has already been entered.

The camellias this year were very fine, the mild winter having to a large extent obviated that bogey of all exhibitors, an untimely frost: much the same remarks applied to the rhododendrons.

In the competitive classes the George Johnstone Memorial Trophy awarded to the winner of the most points in the Magnolia Section was won by David Trehane, whilst the Treve Holman Memorial Trophy for the best exhibit went to Nigel Holman.

In the Camellia Section the Camellia Cup, awarded to the winner of most points, was won by Lt. Col. W. G. Petherick, whilst the Lady Boyd Cup for the best exhibit of six different camellias was won by Lady Falmouth. The Colville Bowl for the best exhibit of twelve different camellias went to Nigel Holman.

In the Rhododendron Section the Haslam Hopwood family pulled off a notable double for Tremeer by winning both the E. J. P. Magor Memorial Cup and the Mrs Charles Williams Trophy. The former, awarded for the best vase, was won by a superb truss of 'Lionel's Triumph', and the latter was awarded for gaining the most points in the rhododendron classes.

In addition to the competitive and educational sections there was the usual fine turnout of trade stands and also a fascinating display of pictures of magnolias with a 3D effect made by building up layer on layer of cut-outs from first class illustrations.

A good deal of interest was shown in a display put on by Maurice Foster who

propagates magnolias in his garden near Sevenoaks in Kent. This showed the steps in propagation and was accompanied by a very useful leaflet.

The Royal Horticultural Society was represented by two stands, the one providing general information and literature and the other, set up by the Rhododendron and Camellia Group, showed live material generously contributed from a large number of Cornish gardens. This stand was ably organised by Richard Gilbert.

Following the 75th Anniversary Show at Trelissick last year, this year's show served to confirm, if any confirmation were needed, that the Cornwall Garden Society's shows are amongst the foremost in the country.

Additions to the International Rhododendron Register

A. C. LESLIE
Registration Officer

Until last year the list of new cultivar names registered by the RHS as the International Registration Authority for Rhododendron had been included within the *Rhododendron Year Book*. This year, as last, it is produced separately and it is intended that this change will be a permanent one. It has the advantage of relieving space in the *Year Book* itself (the 1986-7 additions would have taken up almost another 30 per cent of its volume) and at the same time enables the list of new registrations to be made available separately to those who may require one without the other.

It is appreciated that members of the Rhododendron Group have expressed a keen interest in continuing to receive copies of the new lists (now styled *Supplements* to bring them into line with the Society's other Registers) and every member will continue to receive them as part of the Year Book mailing.

From 1 June, 1988 the procedure for registering new cultivar names will be as follows: The Society will no longer require a fee for registering a new name in the genus Rhododendron. However, as from the same date, the formal registration Certificate will not be issued automatically for each new name accepted on to the International Register. Registrants will in future be required to indicate that they wish to receive a Certificate, for which there will be a charge of £1. This charge must be paid in sterling (or as a sterling cheque) and should accompany the registration form. No other currency can be accepted. Registrants not requiring a Certificate will, of course, receive due acknowledgement that the registration has been effected. Registration forms can be obtained from the Registration Officer at Wisley.

Corrigenda: First Class Rhododendrons

The following amendments should be made to the list of rhododendrons which have been awarded FCCs, at pp.13-20 of *Rhododendrons 1987-8, with Magnolias and Camellias*.

p.13, *insert diaprepes* 'Gargantua' Crown Estate 1974

p.14, *insert parryae* Gorer 1973

p.15, *for* 'Altaclarense', *substitute* 'Altaclerense'
against 'Blue Peter', and 'Dopey', *for* 'S. & C. Waterer', *substitute* 'Waterer, Sons & Crisp'
against 'Diadem', *insert V in the left hand margin*

p.16, *against* 'Duchess of Connaught', 'Duchess of Edinburgh', 'Empress', 'Favourite', and 'Flame', *insert V in the left hand margin*
'Duchess of Teck', *for the existing entry, substitute* V 'Duchess of Teck' 'Princess Royal' × *brookeanum* J. Veitch & Sons 1879
'Furnivall's Daughter', *for* 'seedling from selfed . . .' *substitute* 'probably seedling from same cross as . . .'

p.17, *insert* 'Lionel's Triumph' Rothschild 1974
'Marianne Hardy' Rothschild 1982
against 'Mars', *for* 'S. & C. Waterer', *substitute* 'Waterer, Sons & Crisp'
against 'Pearl', *for existing parentage, substitute* 'seed parent 'Princess Royal', pollen parent believed to be *griffithianum*'

p.18, *insert* 'Queen Elizabeth II' Crown Estate 1974
insert 'Sigismund Rücker', magenta with black centre. A. Waterer 1872
against 'Sir John Ramsden', *for* 'S. & C. Waterer', *substitute* 'Waterer, Sons & Crisp'

p.19, *against* 'White Swan', for 'S. & C. Waterer', substitute 'Waterer, Sons & Crisp'

p.20, *delete entry* 'Sigismund Rucker'
against 'Silver Slipper' *and* 'Sun Chariot', *delete* 'Knap Hill'
'Souvenir de S. Rucker', *for existing entry, substitute* 'Souvenir de S. Rücker (syn. 'Sigismond Rücker'), sport of 'Rachel von Varenhagen' L. van Houtte 1872

The Rhododendron Group seed exchange

The idea of a British Rhododendron Seed Distribution Scheme has always been an exciting one because of our unique and superb gene pool, and the number of dedicated members who might be prepared to make sure that the quality of seed was unimpeachable. Up to now, however, there has been a simple physical problem of validating the large number of possible contributions. Now, thanks to Mr David Clulow, a computer system capable of carrying out at least some reasonable control has been commissioned and it is believed that this is superior to anything else available. For this reason the Committee of the Rhododendron Group of the RHS has decided the time is ripe to set up the machinery to operate a seed exchange on a trial basis. In order not to bring the Rhododendron Group into disrepute it is essential that all seeds offered for sale should be absolutely true to name. Open pollinated garden seed of either species or hybrids will not therefore be acceptable. To ensure maximum purity the following guidelines have been drawn up to assist those wishing to take part.

1. Seed must be either from species collected in the wild, preferably with collector's number, area and altitude or from hand-pollinated selfings or siblings of species (preferably very fine forms).
2. Seed from hand-pollinated hybrid crosses of rhododendrons, deciduous and evergreen azaleas will also be accepted.
3. Cleaned seeds should be sent in paper envelopes, clearly labelled with full details, to David Clulow, Tilgates, Little Common Lane, Bletchingly, Surrey, RH1 4QF.
4. The last day for receiving cleaned seeds is Wednesday, 21 December, 1988.

It is proposed that contributors to the Scheme will have preferential choice from the Seed Distribution List. The list of available seed will only be sent to those specially requesting it, and information about the list when it has been compiled, and where to obtain it, will be published in due course in the *Bulletin* of the Group.

Awards in London 1988

CAMELLIAS

Camellia japonica 'Miss Charleston' A.M. 4 May 1988, as a hardy flowering plant. Flowers large, semi-double, deep red (Red Group 46D) up to 10cm across. Raised by W. I. McGill (USA), exhibited by Ann Hooton, Paddock Farm, Plaistow Road, Loxwood, Sussex.

Camellia × williamsii 'Wynne Rayner' A.M. 22 March, 1988, as a hardy flowering plant. Flowers anemone-form, up to 9 cm across, Red-Purple Group 61D. Raised by B. J. Rayner (New Zealand) and exhibited by Dr J. A. Smart, Marwood Hill, Barnstaple, North Devon.

RHODODENDRONS

'Award' ('Anna' × 'Margaret Dunn') **A.M.** 23 May 1988, as a hardy flowering plant. Trusses full, 13-14 flowered, fragrant, up to 22 cm across. Corolla 7-8 lobed, funnel-shaped, up to 5 cm long and 10 cm across, pink in bud (Greyed-purple Group 186D) opening to white, with lobes faintly flushed greyed-purple and throat flushed and spotted with yellow. Stamens 14-16, held within, filaments yellow-green, (close to Yellow Group 8A) anthers greyed-orange. Style of equal length. Calyx green, rudimentary, to 4 mm. Leaves elliptic, up to 16.5 cm long and 5.3 cm across, dark matt green above, paler below, free of indumentum. Crossed and raised by D. James (U.S.A.); exhibited by Crown Estate Commissioners, Crown Estate Office, The Great Park, Windsor, Berks.

'Bach Choir' (*fortunei* × 'Jalisco') **A.M.** 23 May 1988 as a hardy flowering plant. Trusses 12-13 flowered up to 20 cm across. Corolla 7-lobed, funnel shaped, up to 8 cm long and 11.5 cm across, Greyed-yellow Group 162C, deep in throat, paling to 162D with lobes strongly flushed Greyed-Purple Group D and C. Stamens 14, held free. Filaments Greyed-Yellow, anthers yellow-brown. Style held within. Calyx 7 joined lobes, irregular, up to 17 mm long. Leaves, oblong elliptic – up to 20 cm long and 7.3 cm across, dull medium green above, reverse paler, free from indumentum. Crossed raised and exhibited by Edmund de Rothschild, Exbury Gardens, Southampton, Hants.

bureavii 'Ardishaig' A.M. 4 May 1988 as a hardy flowering plant. Trusses 10-11-flowered up to 17 cm across. Corolla 5 lobed, campanulate, up to 5.5 cm long and 8 cm across, White Group 155D, upper throat densely spotted, sometimes flushed, Red-Purple 64A. Stamens 10, irregular, held within. Filaments white, anthers brown. Style yellowish white, held within. Calyx 5 deeply divided lobes, yellow-green. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, up to 10.5 cm long and 4.5 cm across, dark glossy green above, reverse densely covered with rusty brown indumentum. Collector not recorded. Exhibited by P. A. Cox, Glendoick Gardens Ltd, Perth.

'Eudora' ('Vanessa' × *facetum*) **A.M.** 21 June 1988, as a hardy flowering plant. Trusses 11-12 flowered, firm, rounded. Corolla 5 lobed, campanulate, up to 6 cm long and 7.5 cm across, Red-Purple Group 57D, with light spotting in throat. Stamens 10, held within, filaments white flushed dark pink, base glandular, anthers mid-brown, style held within. Calyx rudimentary, red-green, scaley. Leaves ovate, up to 21 cm

long and 8.5 cm across, dark matt green above; paler, free of indumentum, reverse. Crossed and raised by the 2nd Lord Aberconway, exhibited by Lord Aberconway and the National Trust, Bodnant, Tal-y-Cafn, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, N. Wales.

'Hesperides' ('Ayah' × *griersonianum*) **A.M.** 23 May 1988, as a hardy flowering plant. Trusses 15-16 flowered, up to 20 cm across. Corolla 5 lobed, funnel-shaped, up to 6.5 cm long and 8.5 cm across, Red Group 53C with darker blotch and spotting in throat, with some glandular hairs at base of corolla. Stamens 10, held within, filaments red, anthers dark brown. Style of equal length. Calyx reddish, rudimentary, glandular-hairy. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, up to 18 cm long and 5 cm across, dark matt green above, paler green and with traces of fawn indumentum below. Crossed and raised by Lionel de Rothschild, exhibited by Edmund de Rothschild.

kaempferi 'Mikado' A.M. 21 June 1988, as a hardy flowering plant. A deciduous shrub (Series Azalea). Trusses 2-4 flowered. Corolla 5-lobed, broadly funnel-shaped up to 3 cm long and 3.8 cm across, Red Group 39B, with slight flush Red Group 51A, and some darker spotting, in throat. Stamens 5, held within, filaments reddish, anthers mid-brown, style held within. Calyx green, 5 deeply divided lobes to 4 mm, fringed and covered with long silky hairs. Leaves lanceolate to obovate. Collector not recorded. Exhibited by Crown Estate Commissioners, Windsor.

'Pink Halcyone' (*souliei*× 'Lady Bessborough') **A.M.** 21 June 1988 as a hardy flowering plant. Trusses 6-7 flowered, up to 17 cm across. Corolla 6-lobed up to 4.5 cm long and 10 cm across, in bud Red-Purple Group 68B-C, opening to white but retaining a variable degree of flushing of Red-Purple Group 68D and with a blotch of Greyed-Purple Group 186B in upper throat. Stamens 12 held within, filaments white, anthers light-brown, style held within. Calyx rudimentary, green, fringed red glandular hairs. Leaves elliptic, up to 12 cm long and 5.6 cm across, dark matt green above; reverse pale green, free from indumentum. Crossed and raised by Major A. E. Hardy, exhibited by G. A. Hardy, Sandling Park, Hythe, Kent.

Rhododendron formosum 'Khasia' Cox and Hutchison 320 **A.M.** 4 May, 1988, as a flowering plant for the cool greenhouse. Trusses 3-4 flowered. Corolla 5-lobed, broadly funnel-shaped up to 6 cm long and 9.5 cm across. White Group 155D, with slight flush of greyed yellow in throat. Strongly fragrant. Stamens 10 held within, filaments white, anthers light brown; style held free. Calyx rudimentary, green scaley. Leaves oblanceolate, up to 8.5 cm long and 2.8 cm across, medium green, glossy above, reverse paler, scaley. Collected by P. A. Cox and P. Hutchison. Exhibited by P. A. Cox, Glendoick Gardens Ltd.

'Ruby Hart' ((Carmen g. × Elizabeth g.) × *elliottii*) **A.M.** 4 May 1988, as a hardy flowering plant. Trusses loose, 5-6 flowered. Corolla 5 lobed, campanulate, up to 4.5 cm long and 5.5 cm across, Red Group 46A. Stamens 10 held within, filaments red, anthers black, style red, held within. Calyx 5 joined lobes, to 8 mm; red. Leaves elliptic, up to 7 cm long and 2.8 cm across, dark glossy green above, reverse lightly covered light brown indumentum. Crossed and raised by W. E. Whitney. Exhibited by P. A. Cox.

'Too Bee' (*campylogynum* 'Patricia' × *keiskii* 'Yaku Fairy') **A.M.** 4 May 1988, as a hardy flowering plant. Flowers borne in short axillary and terminal 3-4 flowered racemes. Corolla 5 lobed, tubular-campanulate to campanulate, up to 3 cm long and 3.4 cm across, reverse Red Group 54A, lobes variably flushed shades Red Group 54

to white; inner corolla with variable flushing but paler, to white; reverse corolla scaley. Stamens 10, held within or equal length, filaments white, anthers brown: style held free. Calyx red-brown, 5 deeply divided scaley lobes, to 8 mm. Leaves lanceolate – elliptic, up to 4 cm long and 1-7 cm across, dark green above, reverse paler, sparingly scaley. Crossed and raised by Warren Berg (USA); exhibited by P. A. Cox.

Awards after trial at Wisley

RHODODENDRONS

On the recommendation of the Rhododendron and Camellia Committee, Council has made the following awards to rhododendrons, after trial at Wisley. The number in brackets after the description of the plant is that under which it was grown in the trial.

Hardy Hybrid Rhododendrons

'Pink Cherub' (*yakushimanum* × 'Doncaster') **F.C.C.** 20 May, 1988. Introduced by the Waterer Group; raised and sent by John Waterer, Sons and Crisp Ltd., The Nurseries, Bagshot, Surrey. Plant 126 cm high, 310 cm spread, vigorous, slightly spreading habit; very free flowering; leaves 9 cm long, 2.8 cm wide, dark dull green. Flower truss 17 cm diameter, 12 cm deep, globular dome shaped, compact, eighteen flowers per truss; corolla 4.8 cm diameter, 4 cm long, tubular funnel shaped, margins waved, Red-Purple Group 65D flushed with Red-Purple Group 68D becoming heavily flushed with Red-Purple Group 68B towards margins, throat speckled with Yellow-Green Group 152D. Little scent. Flowering from 16 May, 1988. (A.M. 1968) (284)

'Southern Cross' ('White Discolor' × 'Lodauric Iceberg') **A.M.** 20 May, 1988. Raised by A. F. George; introduced and sent by Hydon Nurseries Ltd, Hydon Heath, Godalming, Surrey. Plant 152 cm high, 188 cm spread, vigorous, upright habit; free flowering; leaves 18 cm long, 5.2 cm wide, fairly dark dull green. Flower truss 25 cm diameter, 21 cm deep, dome shaped, compact, eleven flowers per truss; corolla 9 cm diameter, 8.5 cm long, open funnel campanulate shaped, margins frilled, paler than Red-Purple Group 65D flushed with Red-Purple Group 68D, midribs and throat nearest to Red Group 51C heavily flushed with nearest to Red Group 46B, throat speckled with Red Group 46B. Little scent. Flowering from 17 May, 1988. (H.C. 1969) (230)

'Tolkien' ((*eriogynum* × Fabia) × (*yakushimanum* × 'Britannia') **A.M.** 20 May, 1988. Raised by P. Wiseman; introduced by J. Slocock and sent by D. E. Mayers, Loth Lorien Arboretum, Wadhurst, Sussex. Plant 94 cm high, 107 cm spread, vigorous, upright habit; free flowering; leaves 15 cm long, 5.9 cm wide, dark dull green. Flower truss 20 cm diameter, 13 cm deep, globular dome shaped, compact, eighteen flowers per truss; corolla 6 cm diameter, 5 cm long, tubular funnel shaped, margins waved, brighter but nearest to Red Group 53D, throat nearest to but deeper than Red Group 53C. Little scent. Flowering from 10 May, 1988. (250)

Evergreen Azaleas

'Vuyk's Rosy Red' (vuykiana hybrid) **F.C.C.** 20 May, 1988. Raised by Messrs Vuyk van Nes; introduced and sent by Slocock Nurseries, Barrs Lane, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey. Plant 45 cm high, 178 cm spread, vigorous, spreading habit; free flowering; leaves 2.5 cm long, 1.3 cm wide, dark glossy green. Flower truss fairly compact, 2 flowers per truss; corolla 6 cm diameter, 4 cm long, openly campanulate shaped, margins waved, brighter but nearest to Red-Purple Group 57D, throat speckled with Red Group 45A. No scent. Flowering from 6 May, 1988. (8)

'Johanna' ('Florida' × unnamed seedling) **A.M.** 20 May, 1988. Raised, introduced and sent by Messrs Vuyk van Nes, Zijde, 17, Boskoop, Holland. Plant 45 cm high, 111 cm spread, vigorous slightly spreading habit; free flowering; leaves 1.5 cm long, 9 mm wide, dark glossy green. Flower truss compact, 2 flowers per truss; corolla 4 cm diameter, 3.2 cm long, openly campaulate shaped, margins smooth, brighter but nearest to Red Group 53C. No scent. Flowering from 16 May, 1988. (102)

'Lemur' (*nakaharae* 'Mariko' × 'Vuyk's Scarlet') **H.C.** 20 May, 1988. Raised, introduced and sent by P. A. Cox, Glendoick Gardens Ltd, Perth, PH2 7NS. Plant 41 cm high, 92 cm spread, vigorous, fairly spreading habit; very free flowering; leaves 2.2 cm long, 1.6 cm wide, fairly light glossy green. Flower truss compact, 2 flowers per truss; corolla 4.5 cm diameter, 4 cm long, openly campanulate shaped, margins waved, Red-Purple Group 61D flushed with nearest to Red Group 52A, throat speckled with Red Group 45A. No scent. Flowering from 17 May, 1988. (18)

RHS RHODODENDRON AND CAMELLIA COMMITTEE 1988

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BOND, J. D., VMH, Verderer's, Wick Road, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0HL

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LODER, SIR GILES, Bt, VMH, Ockenden House, Haywards Heath, Cuckfield, Sussex RH17 5LD
SLOCOCK, M. O., VMH, c/o Slocock Nurseries, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 1PG

ABERCONWAY, LADY, Bodnant, Tal-y-Cafn, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, N. Wales
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BOSCAWEN, THE HON. EDWARD, The High Beeches, Handcross, Sussex RH17 6HQ
GALLAGHER, J. T., Oldfield, Moorlands Road, Verwood, Dorset BH21 6PD
GEORGE, A. F., Hydon Nurseries Ltd, Hydon Heath, Godalming, Surrey GU9 4AZ
HARDY, G. A., Hillhurst Farm, Hythe, Kent CT21 4HU
HILLIER, J. G., Crookhill Farm, Braishfield, nr Romsey, Hants. SO5 0QB
MASTERS, D., The Gardens, Nymans, Handcross, Sussex RH17 6EB
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PINCKNEY, G. H., Woodside Cottage, Chapel Lane, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5DE
POTTS, H., Chillingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 5NJ
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SECRETARY

PYCRAFT, D., RHS Garden, Wisley

The Rhododendron and Camellia Group of The Royal Horticultural Society

The main object of the Group is to bring together all, whether from this country or from any other part of the world, regardless of expertise or knowledge, who share a common interest in rhododendrons, camellias, magnolias and associated plants.

The Group is associated with the RHS in publishing each October a Year Book (free to members) – *Rhododendrons with Camellias and Magnolias* – containing articles of a wide interest, notes from members, descriptions of the various shows and competitions relating to the genera and lists of awards to selected plants. The annual supplement to the *International Rhododendron Register* compiled by the Royal Horticultural Society is also circulated to members. To keep members abreast of the activities of the Group, a Bulletin is distributed three times a year: it contains much information of current interest.

Apart from the main Group, with its country-wide scope, there are local branches in the South-East, Wessex, the South-West, East Anglia and Ireland. These branches organize lectures and visits to gardens, together with social events and plant sales throughout the year. Membership of these branches is free to all members of the Group, and names and addresses of the Organizers appear in the Bulletin from time to time.

A Seed Exchange is being established to facilitate the distribution of hand-pollinated seeds of selected clones of species. Seeds from this scheme will be available only to members of the Group.

The Group also organizes two social functions annually. One is the annual tour which takes place in early May and lasts approximately one week. The tour visits a different area each year and visits gardens both private and open to the public, containing plants and trees of particular interest to members of the Group. The other function is an annual get-together, normally a weekend in October. It is held at an hotel, the location of which varies from year to year, and it provides an opportunity for members to meet for discussion, lectures and, usually, a garden visit to see autumn colour.

The Rhododendron Group invites you to join their membership. The annual subscription is £7.00. Please send your remittance to R. H. Redford, 'Fairbank', 39 Rectory Road, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 7BT. We look forward to hearing from you.

List of Officers and Members of Committee 1988

Chairman: B. Archibold, 'Starveacre', Dalwood, nr Axminster, East Devon, EX13 7HH. Tel. 040 488 221

Vice-Chairman: Dr R. H. L. Jack, Edgemoor, Loch Road, Lanark, ML11 9BG. Tel. 0555 3021

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Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary: R. H. Redford, 'Fairbank', 39 Rectory Road, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 7BT. Tel. 0252 523005

Hon. Tours Secretary: Mrs. V. M. Archibold, 'Starveacre', Dalwood, nr Axminster, East Devon, EX13 7HH. Tel. 040 488 221

Hon. Yearbook Editor: Lady Cynthia Postan, 84 Barton Road, Cambridge, CB3 9LH. Tel. 0223 353314

Hon. Bulletin Editor: P. H. S. Haworth, Tirionfa, 240 Chester Road, Hereward Green, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2LR. Tel. 01 502 3662

Hon. Minutes Secretary: J. E. Fordham, Highcroft, 12 Albion Park, Loughton, Essex, IG10 4RB. Tel. 01 508 6606

Dr Florence Auckland, 53 Oakwood Drive, Bolton, BL1 5EH.

D. N. Farnes, Corton Lodge, 7 Burntwood Avenue, Emerson Park, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 3JD.

Miss Mary Forrest, Dept. of Horticulture, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

J. A. Fox, Holmwood House, Glenmore Road, Crowborough, E. Sussex, TN6 1TN.

J. T. Gallagher, Oldfield, Moorlands Road, Verwood, Dorset.

Lady Adam Gordon, Hethersett, Littleworth Cross, Seale, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 1JL.

C. E. Grainger, The Gables, Finborough Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk.

G. A. Hardy, Hillhurst Farm, Hythe, Kent, CT21 4HU.

Sir Giles Loder, Bt., VMH, Ockenden House, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH17 5LD.

Major E. W. M. Magor, Lamellen, St. Tudy, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 3NR.

Miss C. E. Perring, 47 Havelock Road, Hastings, Sussex, TN34 1BQ.

Major R. A. W. Reynolds, Woodland Grove, Bovey Tracey, nr Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9LG.

Major T. Le M. Spring-Smyth, Elcombe's Close, Lyndhurst, Hants., SO43 7DS.

Branch Organisers

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Ireland: Miss M. Forrest
Midlands: Temporary vacancy
South East: J. A. Fox
South West: Major R. A. W. Reynolds
Wessex: Lady Adam Gordon

Index of rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias

Names of newly registered rhododendrons are not included in this index.

(a) as applied to rhododendrons refer to azaleas; V indicates a Section Vireya hybrid; Section Vireya species are shown at the end.

An asterisk after an award indicates one given after trial at Wisley in 1988; awards prior to 1988 are not shown.

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