

The Royal Horticultural Society  
*The Rhododendron & Camellia Group*



BULLETIN NO. 19 - MARCH 1982

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CALENDAR FOR NEXT FEW MONTHS

- MAR 16-17 RHS Show. RHODODENDRON COMPETITION. CAMELLIA COMPETITION.  
for plants grown in the open or under glass.
- MAR 26 South East Branch Meeting. Slide talk by Mr. John Bond on Magnolias  
(see Bulletin No. 18, page 4).
- MAR 30-31 RHS Show. Magnolia and Ornamental Plant Competition.
- APR 14-15 RHS Show. CAMELLIA SHOW, for plants grown in the open.
- APR 16-19 International Camellia Society weekend at the Royal Holloway  
College, Egham. (see Bulletin No. 18, page 8)
- APR 23-24 Cornwall Garden Society Spring Flower Show at Truro.  
(32 classes for Camellias and 33 for Rhododendrons).
- APR 27-28 RHS Show. RHODODENDRON SHOW.
- MAY 5-10 Rhododendron and Camellia Group Annual Spring Tour in North West  
England and South West Scotland. (see Bulletin No. 18,  
page 11). Programme from Tour Secretary.
- MAY 11-13 International Rhododendron Conference at Edinburgh.
- MAY 18-21 RHS CHELSEA SHOW.
- MAY 19 RHS Rhododendron and Camellia Group Chelsea week outing at Isabella  
Plantation, Richmond Park and Waterhouse Plantations, Bushy  
Park. (see Bulletin No. 18, pages 9/10).
- JUN 15-16 RHS Show. Flowering Tree and Shrub Competition.  
RHS RHODODENDRON AND CAMELLIA GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
at 4.00 pm on June 15.
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LECTURES

- MAR 16 RHS. Mr. Roy Lancaster "In the footsteps of Forrest", last year's  
expedition to Yunnan.
- MAR 19 RHS Outside Lecture in Truro. Sir Giles Loder on the Loder Gardens  
in Sussex.
- MAR 30 RHS. Mr. R.A. Banks on the Garden at Hergest Croft.
- APR 16 RHS Outside Lecture at Windermere. Mr. A.D. Schilling on Rhododendrons,  
wild and cultivated.
- APR 23 Cornwall Garden Society at Truro. Mr. Michael Hickson on the garden at  
Knightshayes.
- APR 27 RHS. Mr. A.D. Schilling on Rhododendrons in the wild.
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IMPORTANT NOTICE - ELECTIONS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In terms of the Constitution and Rules of The Rhododendron and Camellia Group,  
the affairs of the Group are in the hands of the Officers and eight elected members.  
These are at present:-

Chairman: Mr. G.A. Hardy  
Hon. Secretary: vacant

Vice-Chairman: Hon. H.E. Boscawen  
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.N. Farnes

Executive Committee:

Mr. J.D. Bond  
Mr. A.F. George  
Sir Giles Loder

Mr. A.D. Schilling  
Mr. J.T. Gallagher  
Miss C.E. Perring

Mr. J. Sanders  
The Lady Anne Palmer

THE RHODODENDRON AND CAMELLIA GROUP. NOMINATION PAPER for two candidates for election to the Executive Committee on the 15th June, 1982.

NAME                      I,                      SECONDED BY                      CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE .....DATE.....

MEMBER'S NAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS).....

To: Major E.W.M. Magor, Lamellen, St. Tudy, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 3NR.  
to arrive not later than 30th April, 1982.



In accordance with Rule 4, Mr. J. Sanders and The Lady Anne Palmer retire on 15th June, 1982, but are eligible for re-election.

In accordance with Rule 10, candidates for election to the Executive Committee shall be proposed and seconded by members of the Group, and must sign their nomination papers, which must reach the returning officer not later than 30th April, 1982.

Mr. K.J.W. Lowes resigned as Editor of The Bulletin on 31st December, 1981, and is, therefore, no longer a co-opted member of the Executive Committee. Major E.W.M. Magor was co-opted as a member of the Executive Committee at their meeting on the 28th October, 1981. In addition, the Regional Branch Organisers are 'ex-officio' members of the Executive Committee.

(NB. Nomination Paper on back of this sheet, at foot)

AWARDS The RHS Council made the following awards for 1981:

THE A.J. WALEY MEDAL, awarded annually to a working gardener who has helped the cultivation of rhododendrons: Mr. G. Baker, Sandling Park.

THE LODER RHODODENDRON CUP Mr. G.E. Gorer, Sunte House.

VEITCH MEMORIAL TRUST Gold Medal for his services to horticulture

Mr. J. Russell, Castle Howard.

THE VICTORIA MEDAL OF HONOUR IN HORTICULTURE: V.M.H.

Amory, Joyce Lady Heathcoat, Knightshayes.

Bond, Mr. J.D., The Crown Estates.

#### TREASURER'S NOTICE

'RHODODENDRONS 1981-2, with MAGNOLIAS and CAMELLIAS', the 1981-82 'yearbook', was sent at the end of the year to all members of the Group, whose subscriptions, due on the 1st November, had been paid. 135 pages and 4 pages in colour, the price this year is £2.75 to non-members of the Group £3 by post). Reminders are enclosed with this bulletin to members whose subscriptions are still awaited, and their yearbooks are waiting, ready for despatch immediately on receipt of their subscriptions.

#### EDITORIAL NOTE

The Editor of the Bulletin, Mr. K.J.W. Lowes, explained in Bulletin No. 18 that this was the last that he was producing. When the Bulletin began in September 1976, members of the Group were told that it was hoped to produce it quarterly, but this has proved to be easier said than done. Up to November 1978, when Mr. Lowes took over, we had only had five issues, when we should have had eight. In the next twelve months, he produced Nos. 6-10, and in his editorial in Bulletin No. 8 he said that after No. 10, there would be a regular timing of January, April, July and October in each year. Bulletins No. 11-14 in 1980 were dated January, April, July and October, though in fact No. 14 did not appear until December. In 1981, No. 15 was dated January, and No. 16 was dated April; Nos. 17 and 18 were not dated, but were received by members about the middle of October and a week before Christmas.

At its last meeting, the Executive Committee considered the position arising from Mr. Lowes's resignation, and decided that, if a new Bulletin Editor had not by then appeared, No. 19 should be issued three months after No. 18, with essential notices about the Spring Tour, and the Annual General Meeting, and any other material which might have come in, though essentially it would be a somewhat makeshift affair.

Although we are now 4 issues below par, our late Editor brought the Bulletin up to a high standard, and has included much interesting material, some of it worthy of a less ephemeral publication. We are very grateful to him, and sorry to lose him, and he will not be easy to follow. He has also inspired the American Rhododendron Society, which produces a 'Quarterly Bulletin', roughly equivalent to our 'yearbook', to produce also a 4 page printed leaflet entitled 'Rhododendron & Azalea News', rather on the lines on which this bulletin began.



GROUP SPRING TOUR 1982, WEDNESDAY, 5TH TO MONDAY, 10TH MAY  
NORTH WEST ENGLAND AND SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND

News about the Tour was given in the last bulletin (No.18, page 11) and all members who applied for full details have been sent them. It has been organised on a 'drive own car' basis. Members assemble at Grange-over-Sands, Morecombe Bay, on Wednesday, 5th May, visit gardens in the Lake District, and then gardens in South West Scotland. The Tour ends at Castle Kennedy, Galloway, on Monday, 10th May. So far about 40 members have booked.

The booking forms received show that there are not enough members in favour of a coach to justify the expense of hiring one, but a number of members are prepared to offer lifts to those who are without transport, or prefer not to drive themselves.

Further bookings are welcome, but acceptance must be subject to the availability of additional accommodation.

Members who have booked are reminded that the balance of the cost of the tour (£125 single, £230 double, less the deposit paid) should be sent to the Tour Secretary by 1st April (Nigel Glass, Evensong, 8, Nun's Walk, Virginia Water, Surrey, GU25 4RT). Cheques should be made payable to the RHS Rhododendron and Camellia Group. Detailed route notes, notes on the gardens, and a list of members taking part will be sent out shortly.

GROUP DAY OUTING ON WEDNESDAY, 19th MAY, 82 (Chelsea Week)  
ISABELLA PLANTATION, RICHMOND PARK (10.30 am)  
WATERHOUSE PLANTATIONS, BUSHY PARK (2.30 pm)

Details of this outing were given in Bulletin No. 18, pages 9 and 10. 34 members have notified on the form provided that they hope to attend. Please come whether you have notified or not, but a notification would be helpful. A sketch map of Richmond Park and a photostat showing the roads around Richmond and Bushy Parks will be sent you by the Tour Secretary on request (stamped addressed envelope, please).

SPRING TOUR 1982 - Invitation to members of the Group coming North up the M6 on Wednesday, 5th May to join the Tour.

Dr. Florence Auckland (53, Oakwood Drive, Bolton. Tel: Bolton (0204) 40178) will be on the Tour, and expects to leave home for Grange-over-Sands at 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 5th May. She would be delighted if any members coming North up the M6 to join the Tour would make a detour and visit her at any time between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm on the Wednesday.

Bolton is on the North West edge of the Greater Manchester conurbation. It used to be called Bolton-le-Moors - it is set in moors to the North West, North and North-East but has flat land to the West and South West as far as the sea.

The garden is small and suburban, 550 feet above sea level, on rising ground and very exposed. In 1960, it was a field and, as Dr. Auckland's interest in rhododendrons did not develop until 1970, she did not plant enough shelter early enough. She has something over 100 small and dwarf rhododendrons and, as space is limited, she has to spend much gardening time moving them about.

On the M6 coming North, exit at junction 21A and join the M62 towards Leeds. Before Manchester follow signs to the M61 Bolton and Preston through "spaghetti junction". Do NOT be diverted along the A666 signposted Bolton. M61 towards Preston. At exit 5 turn right towards Bolton. At the second lights (the first lights control a pedestrian crossing) turn left along the ring road.



At the next lights (double set) turn right towards Bolton 4/10ths of a mile beyond the lights turn left up Markland Hill. There is a church here, but you do not see it until you are turning. The first right beyond the Victoria Arms is Oakwood Drive; No. 53 is on the right. It takes about 20 minutes from exit 21A on the M6.

#### THE 1982 SHOWS AT VINCENT SQUARE

Members of the Group who show, or may be tempted to show, at Vincent Square, will be interested in the schedules for 1982. There are classes for Rhododendrons from mid-February to the third week of November; for Camellias from mid-February to mid-April; and for Magnolias only at the end of March.

As it did in 1981, the RHS has produced three printed schedules; for the Camellia Competition on the 16th March and the Camellia Show on the 14th April; for the Rhododendron Competition on the 16th March and the Rhododendron Show on the 27th April; and for the Competitive Classes for Ornamental and Flowering Trees and Shrubs, Magnolias and Heaths grown in the open, on the 16th February, 30th March, 15th June, 13th July, 10th August, and 2nd and 23rd November. On the cover of the last mentioned schedule is a note saying 'For complete list of Competitions and dates see inside front cover', but in fact this list includes only the competitions contained in this schedule, and omits any mention of the Camellia and Rhododendron competitions.

Classes for Magnolias, which flower from mid-February to Christmas, are only provided for in 3 classes in the competition at the end of March, by which time the best of the Asiatic magnolias will probably be over. There is scope for the addition of magnolia classes at the fortnightly shows on the 16th March, and possibly also the 14th April and 15th June.

The 1982 schedules slavishly follow those for 1981, including the misprints in classes 9 and 10 of the show on the 16th February, and class 4 of the show on the 13th July. The Camellia and Rhododendron Schedules bear on their covers the statement that 'Changes in Regulations and Classes are indicated by sidelines', but in fact only classes 50, 90 and 100-103, sidelined in 1981, are sidelined in the 1982 Rhododendron Schedule. The only changes in 1982, to classes 6 and 7 of the Rhododendron Show, and to the addition of a new regulation 8, are not sidelined. The Camellia Schedule has new classes 38, and 43-46 which are not sidelined at the March Camellia Competition. Division II of the schedule for the Camellia Show has been completely re-cast, without being sidelined.

The new regulation 8 in the Rhododendron Schedule is important, and arises from an incident at the 1981 Rhododendron Show. Up to 1980, there were classes at the March Rhododendron Competition for 'Arboreum varieties' and at the April/May Rhododendron Show for 'Arboreum or its sub-species'. In these could be shown 'forma roseum', 'forma album', and campbelliae, cinnamomeum, and nilagiricum, but not 'Sir Charles Lemon' or other hybrids, including the many plants grown from open-pollinated seed and known loosely as "the Arboreums" in old gardens.

In 1981, in deference perhaps to the 1980 Rhododendron Handbook, this was changed, and the classes at the March competition for 'Arboreum varieties' became 'Arboreum variants', with no definition of this term. At the Rhododendron Show however, the class continued to be for 'Arboreum or its sub-species', but there had been a change in the Handbook, and the Staging Stewards ruled that according to the 1980 Handbook, while campbelliae, cinnamomeum, and nilagiricum were eligible as sub-species, the commonly exhibited 'roseum' and 'album' were now varieties, not sub-species, and so were 'Not According Schedule' (N.A.S.). One famous garden withdrew their exhibit, in deference to this ruling, but another exhibitor protested "loud and clear" that this ruling was contrary to the intention of the committee, and his objection was upheld.



In the 1982 schedule, all the Arboreum classes in both shows are for 'Arboreum and/or its variants', and the new regulation 8 defines 'variant' for the purpose of this schedule as to include the botanical ranks 'sub-species', 'varietas' and 'forma' (but NB NOT 'Hybridum').

The reports on the Camellia Competitions and Shows in the Rhododendron and Camellia Annual for the last two years have been critical of the Camellia schedule, suggesting that there was scope for more classes for reticulata and hybrid blooms; that there were at present too many classes for individual named cultivars of C.japonica, several of which had been superseded; and that the Society with advantage could provide more classes for reticulatas and hybrids, as the Cornwall Garden Society has been doing for several years past. On the strength of this, advice was taken from a member of the Rhododendron and Camellia Committee, who is both a Vice-President of the International Camellia Society, and of the Cornwall Garden Society.

Sadly, however, only part of his advice has been taken. In the schedule for the March competition for Camellias grown under glass or in the open, there is the welcome addition of five new classes, for 3 cultivars of C.reticulata, one bloom of each; for one bloom of any hybrid other than of C.reticulata or x williamsii (it will be interesting to see what this produces, other than Cornish Spring or Cornish Snow, perhaps a granthamiana or lutchuensis; for one bloom of a semi-double williamsii; for one bloom of a paeony - or anemone-formed williamsii; and for any three williamsii.

For the Camellia Show in April, Division II 'Blooms' has been completely re-cast. In 1981, there were six sub-divisions, five of which consisted of classes for named cultivars, together with classes for white, self-coloured and variegated cultivars, each for Singles; Semi-Doubles; Anemone - and Paeony-formed; and Rose-formed and Formal Double cultivars of C.japonica, together with one sub-division for mixed types of C.japonica; and a Miscellaneous sub-division for other species and hybrids

This year, there is a sub-division for five named cultivars of C.japonica (3 semi-double and 2 anemone-formed; 15 others have been dropped); and there are six other sub-divisions, for white, self-coloured and variegated single, semi-double; anemone - and paeony-; rose-formed and formal double cultivars, together with one for mixed types; and one for Miscellaneous, including three named cultivars considered to be reticulata hybrids. The classified list of cultivars of C.japonica, showing which group they belong to, has been dropped this year, but the admonition remains at the head of each sub-division that cultivars of C.japonica should be shown according to the classifications laid down except where a class exists for a specifically named cultivar; this warning hardly applies to sub-division A, 'Named Cultivars'.

There is still the hiatus between classes 19 and 25 in the Camellia Show schedule, but it has been possible to reduce the number of classes from 74 to 55. There is still little to encourage the growing of reticulatas and of the hardy williamsii hybrids out of doors, in the show for camellias grown in the open, which is still essentially a Japonica show, though it is possible to show them in March, in competition with those grown under glass.

#### CONSERVATION, PLANT 'WANTS', ETC.

Things have been comparatively quiet on this front for the last month or so. It is my guess that the recent appalling weather has put all thoughts of adding to our collections out of our minds ! However, I have been able to direct one or two requests to the appropriate source. It is interesting to note that it is not always rhododendrons that figure on everybody's lists. A letter from France indicated that the writer was looking for Magnolia 'Grace McDade'. It gives me satisfaction to know that I was able to help this member.



You will recall that I included an insert in the last Bulletin on behalf of Walter Schmalscheidt from West Germany. He is looking for some of the older cultivars amongst his list. There was no response to this request as far as I am aware. I have recently received an amended list with a few more items included on it. In the hope that a member may be able to help Mr. Schmalscheidt with a plant and/or scions of any of these rhododendrons, will they please advise Mr. C.D. Brickell, the Director at Wisley Gardens. It may be advisable to write to Mr. Brickell prior to sending any plants or scions. The plants in question are Rhododendrons 'Duchess of Cornwall', 'Sir John Broughton', 'Sun of Austerlitz' (= 'Soleil d'Austerlitz'), 'Charles Truffaut', 'General Practitioner', 'Janet Ward', 'Silver Doctor', 'Oxlip', 'Galceador', 'Maximum Triumphans', and 'Miss Cunningham'. Can anybody help?

I have also recently received a request from a member in South Africa: Mrs. A McLeod, PO Box 461, Hilton 3245, Natal, who writes to ask if any member would be willing to send her rhododendron seed. She is particularly interested in receiving anything that is likely to flourish in her mild climate - to include Vireyas. Mrs. McLeod tells me that she would be more than willing to provide stamped addressed envelopes to any member who would oblige with some seeds.

Just to remind you that, if there are any plants that you are seeking, it may just be possible that I am able to help locate them. Alternatively it may be that you have propagated surplus interesting plants or forms, and would welcome the opportunity to exchange. It may be that, by including the details in the Bulletin, a member will respond.

I wonder whether anybody can help me? I am looking for good colour slides of Rhododendron chrysodoron and of Magnolia nitida. I would be very happy to pay the appropriate costs if it involves slide copying.

Meanwhile, if you feel that I might be able to help or advise - please write to John Sanders, Badger Cottage, 101, Guildford Road, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 5NS.

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE CONSERVATION OF PLANTS AND GARDENS

Arising out of a conference organised by the R.H.S. this body has been set up to co-ordinate the conservation of rare plants and of gardens of outstanding interest in Britain, and is being administered from Wisley. Regional groups have been set up in a number of counties, notably Dorset and more recently Cornwall, and these have been visited by Mr. Duncan Donald, a Horticultural Taxonomist at Wisley. Recently, he sent a circular to Specialist Horticultural Societies, including this Group, asking in some detail what plans they have for the conservation of the rare or threatened plants of the genera in which they are interested.

A reply sent on behalf of the Group stated that lists had been prepared of the camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons which had received awards from the R.H.S., and tentative arrangements had been made for the establishment of National Reference Collections for these genera. Owners of the Award plants would be asked to make plants or propagating material available to these reference collections. For camellias, the International Camellia Society has already founded such a collection at Mount Edgecumbe on the Plymouth Sound, a Cornish garden now under the care of the Plymouth City Council and, very appropriately, the responsibility of Mr. Donald Waterhouse. This is based predominantly on plants from Wisley and the Crown Estates at Windsor, but award plants from other sources, pinpointed by the Group's survey, will also be accepted.

BOOK REVIEW - The Colour Dictionary of Camellias by Stirling Macoboy. 208 pp. 565 colour plates, 9 B & W. Publishers: Rigby International Pty. Ltd., 6th Floor, Imperial Buildings, 56, Kingsway, London, WC2. Price £14.95.

This is a superbly produced book. Following a preface by Julius Nuccio, the Author explains that the estimated total number of named camellia varieties grown and described at one time or another is as high as 20,000, and as a consequence this book can only consider those of historical significance, of universal popularity, or those which have become newsmakers. He goes on to propound that these named cultivars are not all genuinely different one from another. The same sports have appeared spontaneously in several different places at several different times and,



because of the lack of coloured reference for comparison, these duplicated camellia varieties have been independently named and independently grown in different countries, and in different parts of the same country with nobody being any the wiser. He feels that, if this book with all its colour illustrations succeeds in reducing the multiplicity of duplicate camellia names by only half a dozen, then its publication will have been fully justified.

There is a chapter on "The Genus Camellia and its species", followed by chapters on the Camellia in China, in Japan, in Europe, in America and in Australia and New Zealand.

Thomas J. Savage contributes a chapter on "Sporting in Camellias". This is followed by "The classification and identification of Camellia cultivars, their nomenclature, size, form and colour"..

At this point the dictionary starts with chapters on 'Camellia Japonica', 'Miniature Camellias', 'The Higo Camellias', 'The Reticulata Camellias', 'The Sasanquas', 'The Hybrid Camellias', 'Fragrant Camellias' and 'Camellia Relatives'. Under each heading, in alphabetical order, cultivars and hybrids are described and beautifully illustrated.

The work concludes with a Glossary, Bibliography, General Index, Cultivar Index and Acknowledgements.

United Kingdom readers should perhaps bear in mind that the descriptions and photographs are of cultivars growing under more favourable conditions than they could expect in this country. Nevertheless, writing strictly as an amateur, I think this is a splendid book for Camellia lovers.

John Owens.

#### STEWARDSHIP AND JUDGING RHODODENDRON CLASSES.

A year ago, at the time of the show season, the Editor asked for a short piece for the bulletin on stewardship and judging rhododendron classes. We were able to include in the last yearbook, 'Rhododendrons, 1981-2, with Magnolias and Camellias' an article from the President of the International Camellia Society on judging camellias on 3 continents. My own experience is limited to Cornwall and London, but it does go back about 15 years.

At the Cornwall Garden Society's shows in Truro, we have a panel of usually two (this year, three) judges for rhododendrons, and they judge about 40 classes and are accompanied by three stewards, who are responsible for making out the prize cards, turning over the exhibitors' cards after a class has been judged, and marking up the Judges' record card. In London, at the Rhododendron Show, there are four panels, each of three judges, and they are not accompanied by a steward, so it is the junior member's task to keep the record. Each panel judges about 25 classes, i.e. two panels for species and two for hybrids: generally speaking, each panel includes a nurseryman, a professional and an amateur.

At neither of the shows with which I am familiar is a formal 'Points System' used: the panel makes its choice of prize winners by eye; usually one exhibit is outstanding, and it is not difficult to select the second and third. One member of the panel assumes the leadership and declares his choice, and the other members either agree or give their reasons for another choice. In a large, very level class, sometimes the three or four best exhibits are placed side by side for comparison, before a choice is made. Trusses of course are easier to judge than sprays or vases: all round perfection is what is looked for, no blemishes, no un-opened or frosted buds, not going over, good foliage, a good shaped truss, true to name, etc. Credit is also given for a good exhibit of plants which are rare or known to be difficult to grow or exhibit. For sprays, and vases, a lot depends on the way the exhibit is put up, and there is considerable skill in this, and a very good spray on the plant can fail to catch the judges' eye if it is leaning over, for instance.

Some judges are perhaps over-concerned with 'condition', and spend their time turning exhibits round looking for blemishes. Others take the line that their job is to select the most eye-catching exhibit in the class, presumed to have been passed by the steward as according to schedule, and in this way year after year some of the species classes are won by fine hybrids (seedlings), to the delight of whoever is writing up the show, and the annoyance of the other exhibitors (thomsonii williamsianum and calophytum come to mind as recent examples).



Besides the stewards who go round with the judges (in Truro) or after the judging (in London), a more important functionary is the steward on duty while staging is in progress. His duty is "to assist exhibitors on questions of nomenclature and classification". He should be able and willing therefore to answer exhibitors' inquiries as to whether their exhibit is eligible for a particular class, or which class it should go into. This requires considerable familiarity with the appearance of the species and hybrids likely to be exhibited, as well as a knowledge of the classification and nomenclature currently in use in the Rhododendron Handbook, and also if possible as a knowledge of the parentage of the increasing number of hybrids registered since the last revision of Part Two of the Handbook. Given this knowledge, this part of the duty is fairly straight forward, and there are not often very many requests for help, though it is as well to be prepared for the unusual inquiry. Once, before the Truro Show, a lady came up to me and said 'Please will you show me where to put my pussy willow?' It is necessary to watch the staging throughout, and to spot a mistake as soon as it is made, and to advise the exhibitor accordingly. The steward needs too to have the courage of his convictions, and to be able to stand up to an exhibitor for instance who insists that his fine hybrid was grown from collector's seed, and is therefore eligible for a species class.

One of the snares of which the Staging Steward must beware is the vanishing exhibitor. Certain ladies in Cornwall, and one or two back-woodsmen who come to the Rhododendron Show, seem to appear for a fleeting moment when everyone's back is turned, and resolutely place their choice hybrid in the middle of the species classes. There was a charming Princess in Cornwall, sadly no longer with us, whose very fine 'Elezabeth' used to make such an appearance. By the time the unfortunate steward spots this, they have gone, they cannot be found, and it is too late to ask them to move it into the right class. Sometimes, he steward can do this for them; in the days when Mr. Davidian used to steward the species classes during the staging for the Rhododendron Show, one could spend an instructive evening with him, moving exhibits from one class to another, for which the exhibitor was usually grateful next morning. Now, more often one has to mark the exhibit 'N.A.S.' (Not according to schedule), and incur the exhibitor's wrath in the morning. One habitual offender at the Truro Show objected vociferously to the disqualification of her fine large-leaved hybrid from a species class (by Mr. Davidian), saying: "but it must be hodgsonii, I got it from Mr. .... (naming a well-known nurseryman).

When it is all over, the judge or steward has to be prepared with a soft answer for the disappointed owner of the only exhibit, under-sized and slightly frosted, in a class judged by someone else, who asks; "Why did my exhibit only get a 2nd; it is the F.C.C. form?"

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is sad that from all our members no one has come forward for the post of Secretary to the Group. We owe John Owens our retiring secretary a great deal of gratitude for the work he has done since its inception. Secondly our bulletin



editor has found it necessary to give it up and so we are also looking for a successor to him in order we may maintain our previous standards. However I do feel the more articles we have for the Yearbook the better and that the bulletin should maintain the information of tours, lectures, etc. and be the diary of events for all our groups combined with timely comment on points of interest from the Rhododendron world to all our members. Sadly too but in plenty of time our Yearbook editor Walter Magor feels he would like to retire. He has done so much for the Group it needs no telling, but it is one of the most important features of our Group to produce for the world to see a really first class Yearbook, which he has done so splendidly for many years. Having done it myself I know how much work goes into it, it is not arduous but it does help for authors to keep to datelines in order we may publish on time ! I am deeply sorry to have to write this plea but if we cannot find anyone to come forward your committee may have to think very hard about the whole future of the Group, so please do help us by coming forward for the three posts, we will be most grateful.

#### FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

Species Lovers, and those who learnt their rhododendron lore at the feet of The Master, whatever their feelings about the Edinburgh revision, will rejoice to know that at long last "David's" monograph is about to see the light of day; published by Richard Abel of the Timber Press in America, Vol.I 'Lepidotes' is to appear this Spring (just in time for the Edinburgh Conference); Vol.II 'Elepidotes' Spring 1983 and Vol.III on 'Azaleas' in Spring 1984. There is to be a pre-publication offer, and it was hoped that leaflets would have been ready in time to circulate with this bulletin.

#### CHRISTMAS CARD

As a new venture, the Group is to have its own Christmas card this year, a very lovely water colour of Rhododendron 'Souldis' by a new flower artist, and produced by the printers who have produced the last two yearbooks. The price, which is likely to be very reasonable, rather depends on the number required; it will not exceed £1.50 for 10 with envelopes and, if enough are ordered could be a little as £1 for 10, plus postage.

It is hoped that members will support this venture. To enable the order to be placed with the Printer, please return the detachable slip as soon as possible.

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

I am interested in the Rhododendron and Camellia Group Christmas card, an illustration of Rhododendron Souldis, and would probably take..... cards, in packs of 10 with envelopes.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....