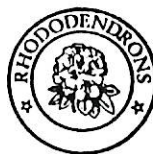


The Rhododendron & Camellia Group



BULLETIN No. 31 - April 1986

Forthcoming Events

April 29	Rhododendron Show	May 18	Open Day at The High Beeches, Handcross,
	RHODODENDRON & CAMELLIA GROUP AGM		Sussex
April 30	Rhododendron Show	May 20-23	Chelsea Show
May 10-16	Group Tour in Scotland		

Group Officers

In future, in order to conserve space, the list of the Group's Officers will be printed once a year only.

Bulletin Editor

It is with very mixed feelings that the Editor hands over his blue pencil to Patrick Haworth. He can only say how very much he has enjoyed his tenure of office which was made so much easier by kind contributors (with or without twisted arms!) and it would be invidious to name names. However tribute must be paid to Walter Magor who has proof-read each and every issue with patience and forbearance, deleting or amending only the worst errors. To Quintrells, who print the Bulletin, goes sincere thanks for their help unstintingly given on every occasion. Thank you all, proof reader, printer and contributors and now Patrick Haworth, the Editor is sure, will receive the same kindness and help. Our best wishes to Patrick and Pauline, who were married on the 22nd March.

Honours and Awards

It is with great pleasure that we record the award of the Veitch Memorial Gold Medal to Walter Magor. The citation reads "to those who have helped in the advancement and improvement of the science and practice of horticulture", and one can only reflect that this describes his efforts to perfection.

Our heartiest congratulations go also to Archie Skinner of Sheffield Park, who receives the A. J. Waley Medal awarded to a working gardener who has helped the cultivation of rhododendrons. Anyone who has the privilege of knowing Archie will know how true is the "working" part, and anyone who knows Sheffield Park cannot doubt the "help to cultivation of rhododendrons".

Treasurer's Notice

Members are reminded that, should they not have received a copy of the Yearbook it may be that they have inadvertently omitted to pay their subscription!!

List of Members

Thanks to our Membership Secretary, Ray Redford, and his computer we enclose with this Bulletin a list of Members. This happens once only in three years so keep it in a safe place!

South West Branch

On Friday 29th November, 64 members and their guests assembled at the Edgemoor Hotel, Bovey Tracey for a Rhododendron Evening.

The event was a great success and enjoyed by everyone present. On arrival members deposited a fine array of Rhododendrons on the plant stall. The quality of the plants was superb, and almost every one was sold. Thanks to our generous donors, who were equally keen to buy, £100 was raised for Branch funds.

Walter Magor had the Rhododendron Greeting Cards for sale on a table nearby. They sold well, being just in time for Christmas.

Meanwhile a splendid Quiz was in progress at the end of the room. John Bodenham and Kenwyn Clapp had planned this. But Kenwyn was unfortunately unwell on the night, and was unable to attend, so Margaret Bodenham stepped in to help her husband with the running of the event. It was first class. The presentation was superb, and it was enjoyed by all who attempted it. Walter Magor, who had kindly donated a copy of Peter Cox's latest book "The Smaller Rhododendrons" as one of the prizes, was outright winner himself! He got some warm applause from everyone, when he came forward to receive a shapely plant of *R. yakushimanum* as his prize. Barry Starling won the book. Other prize winners were Philip Cull and Terry Vince.

After an excellent buffet supper laid on by the Edgemoor Hotel, we came to the main event of the evening the lecture by Richard Fulcher on 'The Rhododendrons of Inverewe'. The coloured slides were a sheer delight, and the talk both informative and enjoyable.

Afterwards Bruce Archibold auctioned some Rhododendron seed, which was avidly bid for by members. The proceeds again went into Branch funds — thank you Bruce!

As we closed the evening, Ralph Budge, Vice-Chairman of the Governors of Bicton Agricultural College, invited the Branch to visit Bicton in the Spring, as guests of the Governors of the College. This generous offer was accepted!

On Saturday 12th April the Branch will visit Bicton, followed by Metcombe Brake, and Fernwood nr. Ottery St. Mary in Devon.

On Saturday 3rd May we visit Penheale Manor and Werrington Park near Launceston in Cornwall.

A report on these visits will appear in the July Bulletin, together with an outline of our plans for the Autumn.

Irish Branch

It is with great pleasure that we announce the formation of a Branch in Ireland. The Branch Organiser is Miss Mary Forrest who may be reached at Glenveagh National Park, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, Ireland.

A visit has been arranged to Fernhill, Sandyford, Co. Dublin on Sunday May 25th at 12 noon. The garden is owned by Mrs. Sally Walker and there is a fine collection of rhododendrons, some conifers and a natural rockery. Further details from Mary at the address above. We look forward to hearing how this first event goes in a later Bulletin and wish the new Branch the very best of luck.

Walter Magor has very kindly provided a quantity of seed of *R. crassum*, S.a.e. to Bruce Archibold at "Starveacre", Dalwood, East Devon, EX13 7HH, will get a supply whilst stocks last!

Wanted

Mrs. Joan Cansfield of "Hazelhurst", Ranelagh Drive North, Liverpool, L19 9DS, has an old print dated 1844 of *Camellia japonica miniata*. This does not appear in catalogues and, indeed, may now be known by some other name. If anyone can help with any information or, better still, a plant please write direct to Mrs. Cansfield?

1986 Tour

Arrangements for the Tour, this year in Scotland, are complete and a full complement of participants has booked places. In view of the restricted accommodation in some hotels no further firm bookings can be made but names can be placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations. Members living locally are welcome to join on a daily basis and details of the itinerary can be had from Mrs. V. M. Archibold, "Starveacre", Dalwood, East Devon, EX13 7HH. (S.a.e. please).

Next year it is hoped to organise a shorter tour of gardens in Sussex/Surrey.

Year Book 1985/86

The Hon. Editor wishes to apologise for the late delivery of this edition of your Yearbook. Despite lots of determined effort by various individuals it seems that events prevented achievement of intended publication date towards the end of 1985 - in time to include a copy in someone's Christmas stocking!

It is sure that many will be disappointed to find that the 'credentials' for the cover plate are missing. They should read *Rhododendron citriniflorum* Ssp. *horeaum* F21850.

On another tack, you will recall that overtures have been made both via the Yearbook and the Bulletin for articles to be considered for inclusion in the Yearbook. Apart from contributions from just a few stalwarts nothing has been received in response! All that this can mean for future editions is that the number of pages is likely to decrease. At the same time, no offers of help in response to pleas for a willing volunteer to write up the Hybrid Sections of the Rhododendron Show and Competition have been received. The outcome of this is that these reports may no longer feature in the Yearbook.

It is hoped that letters will now flood in in response to these further pleas for help! Also, do not forget that YOUR response is hopefully awaited to the Rhododendron Notes, etc. in the recently published edition. Only material that YOU write can be included.

The Hon. Editor is frequently criticised for failing to produce a 'balanced' (in respect of the three genera of the title) Yearbook. *Every last word* that reached the Hon. Editor during 1985 was gratefully included in this edition of the Yearbook. There was no opportunity whatsoever to be selective on this occasion. YOUR contributions, however short, REALLY ARE NEEDED.

Enough of 'doom and gloom'; copy, in volume, is now hopefully awaited *not later than 30th April 1986* for consideration for inclusion in the next issue.

John Sanders
Hon. Yearbook Editor

Tour to Bhutan

Edward Boscawen is organising a tour to Bhutan in late April/early May 1987 and there are still vacancies. Those interested please write to The High Beeches, Handcross, Sussex, RH17 6HQ but be warned you will probably need in excess of £2500 a head!!

Garden Open

Our Chairman and Mrs. Anne Boscawen will be pleased to welcome members to an open day at The High Beeches on the Sunday before Chelsea, i.e. 18th May, 1986.

Lectures at Vincent Square

The RHS is always prepared to receive suggestions for lectures and lecturers on any appropriate subject, and it has been suggested that a talk on some aspect of Rhododendrons or Camellias might be held at the time of the Group's AGM. It is too late to arrange this for this year, but suggestions for subjects and/or lecturers would be welcomed for next year. Suggestions please to the Hon. Editor who will pass them on.

The Camellia Competition and Show 1986

Bulletin no. 29 (August, 1985) included a note from a member living in Putney, complaining at the innovation of allowing camellias grown under glass to compete against those grown in the open at the 1985 Camellia Show, as they have always done at the earlier Camellia Competition. For those who exhibit camellias grown in the open this was a blow, as hitherto they had stood a better chance of competing at the Show in April than at the Competition in March where they met on level terms those grown under glass, and most exhibitors were unaware of the change until they received the schedules early in March.

In 1986 however, the situation has been restored in this respect, and the schedules have been made more attractive in other respects as well. The Competition, a week later than last year, has 7 new classes for hybrid sprays. The Show, two days earlier than last year, has 15 classes for sprays, as was the case last year, but all from the open. The 12 bloom class, for the Leonardslee Bowl, is only for blooms from the open, and in fact all except four of the classes at the Camellia Show are for exhibits grown in the open, and the exceptions are clearly stated.

The relevant regulation is regulation 5, which has been re-drafted, and now reads:

'Exhibits grown in the open or under glass - At the Competition (March 18/19) exhibits may have been grown under glass or in the open. At the Show (April 8/9) exhibits must have been grown in the open except those entered for classes 30, 35, 40 and 45, which must have been grown under glass. When blooms are cut from

plants growing in tubs or other containers, the plants must have been standing in the open for the six months prior to the Show to qualify as "grown in the open".

The specified classes are:

30. Any three single flowered cultivars of *Camellia japonica*.
35. Any three semi-double cultivars of *Camellia japonica*.
40. Any three anemone-formed and/or paeony-formed cultivars of *Camellia japonica*.
45. Any three rose-formed and/or formal double cultivars of *Camellia japonica*.

There are also equivalent classes for three blooms of these groups grown in the open, so it will be possible to compare those grown in the open with those grown under glass.

Catalogues received

The following catalogues/plant lists have been received.

Peter Chappell, Spinners, Boldre, Lymington, Hants.

This contains a fine selection of "hard-to-get" trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Just the thing for the gardener who wants something a bit out of the ordinary.

Leonardslee Gardens Nursery (A. J. Clark), 15, Cyder House, Lower Beeding, Horsham, W. Sussex, RH13 6PP. Rhododendrons in great variety. Propagated from good forms and many of the species with Collector's Numbers. Some of the more unusual plants.

Mallet Court Nursery, Curry Mallet, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 6SY.

This one is for the Acer enthusiast but has the added bonus of some rare oaks and seedlings from wild collected seed in China, Korea and Japan.

Bulletin No. 32

The last date for receipt of copy for inclusion in the next Bulletin is 10th July, 1986. In future all contributions to Patrick Haworth, Tirionfa, 240, Chester Road, Hereward Green, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2QP.

Important Notice

In accordance with Rule 4 of the Constitution and Rules of the Rhododendron and Camellia Group, the following members of the Executive Committee retire this year but are eligible and have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election:

Dr. Florence Auckland.

Mr. John Fordham.

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. These must reach the Returning Officer not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting on 29th April, 1986.

A Nomination Paper for the use of Members appears below.

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY RHODODENDRON AND CAMELLIA GROUP

Nomination Paper for Candidates for election to the Executive Committee on 29th April, 1986

Name of Candidate: Candidate's Signature:

Seconded by: Signature:

Proposer's Signature: Date:

TO: Mrs. B. Jackson, 2, Essex Court, Temple, London, EC4Y 9AF.