



American Rhododendron Society

Eugene Chapter Newsletter

~~ Message to our Members ~~

And now it's October! We have several news items and reminders to share with you!

- ◆ Thank you for your response to our recent email ballots to elect/re-elect officers and board members. The slate of candidates was accepted as presented.
- ◆ It's membership renewal time! Renewal notices were mailed out mid-September. Thank you to everyone who has already responded. If you haven't yet sent in your renewal, please remember to do so - soon!
- ◆ Here is some exciting news: the board recently voted to try holding our monthly chapter meetings via the ZOOM online platform. The first opportunity to experience a ZOOM meeting will be on Wednesday, October 21st, at 7:00 p.m. The agenda for this first meeting will be primarily social. It will be a chance for all of us to experience/experiment with using ZOOM to meet up online. Future meetings will feature presentations, much like during our face-to-face meetings. In the next few days, please watch your email for more information and instructions about how to use ZOOM and how to join a meeting. For now, the only thing you need to do to get ready to join a meeting is download the software on your phone, tablet or computer. The program/app is FREE to individual users. You can learn more about ZOOM, and download the program/app by visiting the website: <https://zoom.us/> The board is excited to offer this approach to our chapter meetings and looks forward to seeing everyone via ZOOM!
- ◆ We would love to share what's been happening in YOUR gardens in future newsletters! Please send pictures, descriptions, and stories to our newsletter editor, Dana Manion, at dana.j.manion@gmail.com ... the deadline to be included in the November newsletter is Wednesday, November 4th.

October 2020

Chapter Meetings

Our Chapter Meetings are typically held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, October through March, unless otherwise specified. Unfortunately, face-to-face meetings are currently suspended due to Covid-19.

Upcoming ZOOM Chapter Meetings

- Wednesday, October 21,
7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 18,
7:00 p.m.

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Our Mission

Encourage the culture and interest of rhododendrons

Use our meetings for educational opportunities and building friendships

Grow both species and hybrid rhododendrons in our gardens

Educate ourselves and the community about the world of rhododendrons

Nurture the idea of garden design with rhododendrons

Exhibit our knowledge and the beauty of rhododendrons to the community

~ In Memoriam ~

We are saddened to report the passing of Kathy Reed, wife of Wally Reed, President of the Willamette Chapter ARS. Kathy was a good friend to many members of the ARS Eugene Chapter. She had battled several forms of cancer over the last seven years and succumbed to the disease on July 9, 2020. Our member, Ted Hewitt, writes:

"... Kathy was a wonderful lady who enjoyed life to its fullest with a wonderful laugh and was very happy to be back in Oregon. For those of you who were able to attend a Willamette Chapter ARS event at their house or a potluck dinner elsewhere, you are aware that she was an excellent cook and treated the chapter often."

Another Eugene chapter member, Tom Beatty, offered the following remembrance:

"I met Kathy Reed in 2010. The City of Salem was given a large donation to begin to build a rhododendron garden at Bush's Pasture Park. I was the horticulturist for the park and center in its design and construction. That was when I met Wally and Kathy Reed and together we planned this garden. Kathy and I became immediate friends, she welcomed me into her home ... Kathy had a general love for rhododendrons and the dozen or so she grew were grown to perfection. Kathy hosted the WCARS annual holiday dinner every year and was well-known for her cooking prowess and entertaining."

Please keep Wally Reed and his family, and the members of the Willamette Chapter in your thoughts and prayers. Kathy will be greatly missed.

American Rhododendron Society Eugene Chapter Officers and Directors

President	Terry Henderson	jentersruger@aol.com	2020 - 2022
Vice President	Jack Olson	rhodyjack@msn.com	2020 - 2022
Secretary	Emily Aune	emilaune@gmail.com	2019 - 2021
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Director	Helen Baxter	galen.baxter@comcast.net	2018 - 2021
Director	Grace Fowler-Gore	gracelovesbirds1@gmail.com	2018 - 2021
Director	Tom Beatty	muddlethruthis@gmail.com	2019 - 2022
Director	Dana Manion	danajmanion@gmail.com	2020 -2023

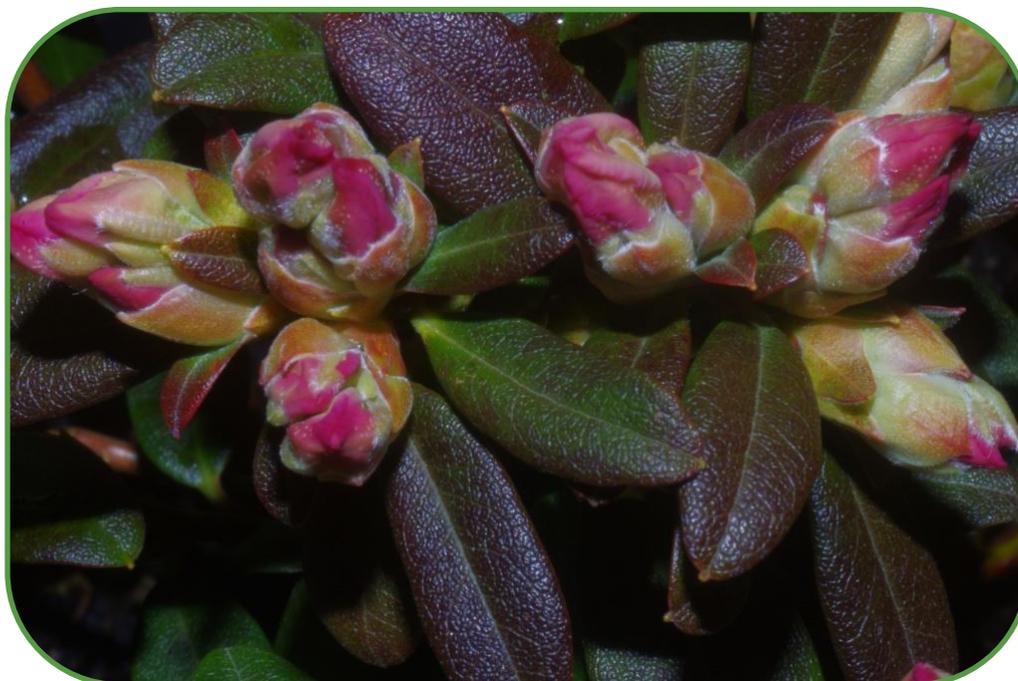
~~ *Rhododendron of the Month* ~~
'Anniversary Diamond'
by Harold Greer

This rhododendron has been grown in limited amounts for some years, but was never named until it was chosen to be one of the featured plants for the 75th convention of the American Rhododendron Society which was to take place in the spring of 2020. Alas, Covid-19 had other plans.

'Anniversary Diamond' is a cross of 'Spinulosum' x *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy' made by the late Louis Mensing who lived in Eugene for many years before retiring to his home on California Street north of Yachats, Oregon.

This plant is close to 'Ginny Gee' which is a well-known and widely grown dwarf rhododendron. It is a bit more pink than 'Ginny Gee'. You may wonder when can you get a plant of this new rhododendron? We hope to introduce it at the 2022 American Rhododendron Society Convention which is the rescheduled 75th convention (April 27 - May 1, 2022). We have lots of plants growing for introduction at that event.

- Height in 10 years: 2 feet
- Hardiness: 0°F
- Color: Pink to white
- Rating: 4/4/4 (flower / plant & foliage / performance)
- Ease of propagation: Easy



~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~

by Emily Aune

Late summer tends to be the hardest time in the garden for me to get excited about. Fewer flowers in bloom, hard soils, weeds have gone to seed, and despite our best efforts, we see the cumulative dieback from water and heat stress throughout the summer. On top of that, this year we had twelve days of intense smoke filling the air. I struggled to find much information on how wildfire smoke affects the plants, but I noticed something very peculiar in the garden. IMMEDIATELY after the smoke cleared (or maybe that's when I finally went back outside) I noticed prolific leaf drop on *Sarcococca* plants. Did anyone else notice this in their garden? This is an evergreen plant, and should not be losing its leaves all at once. I have seen incredibly cold snaps do this, as the plant is only semi-hardy, but never in September! I have confidence that these plants will live through this, it was just a peculiar thing to witness.



The unusual *Sarcococca* leaf-drop



Epilobium canum – California-fuchsia



Rhododendron macabeaeanum

Despite all the challenges of late summer, I still found a flower to get excited about. It is a little California native, *Epilobium canum* (formerly *Zauschneria californica*), that I've been propagating from a tiny start a friend gave me, and it is now growing big enough to be noticed in the Xeric Meadow. Commonly called California-fuchsia, it is a willowherb that can easily be mistaken as a weed when just leaves, but when it blooms, the red tubular flowers brighten up a late summer garden. The hummingbirds think it's pretty sweet too, and it does not require much water to thrive. I can certainly pass on starts to anyone interested from my patches at my home.

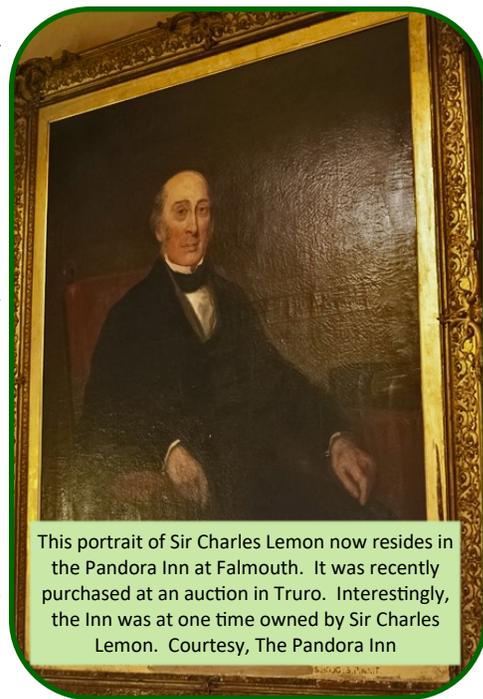
It is also a good time of year to get excited about foliage. I was pleased to see my *Rhododendron macabeaeanum* is growing so well. Such large, thick, dark and glossy leaves. It was very happy to be released from its pot last year, and hopefully it is in a sheltered enough place to make it through its second winter planted in the garden.

In this month's newsletter, we are pleased to share the conclusion of John Hammond's essay detailing the history of the Carclew Mansion and Gardens, located in Cornwall, England. The article traces the origination of the rhododendron 'Sir Charles Lemon'. One of these rhododendrons can be found in Hendricks Park here in Eugene, Oregon. We hope you enjoy the conclusion to this fascinating story which explains the background of the plant and where it originated. Article and photographs are reprinted with permission from the author.

The Development of Carclew Mansion and Garden at Mylor in Cornwall, and The Raising of Rhododendron 'Sir Charles Lemon' from Wild-Collected Seed ~ An Historical Perspective, Part II ~ By John M. Hammond

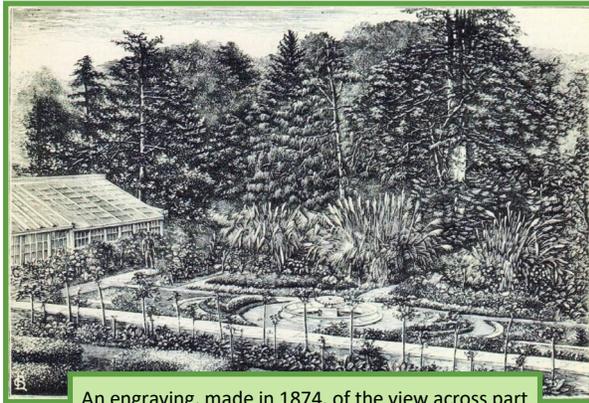
Plants grown-on from Joseph Hooker's 1848-51 Expedition:

Sir William was succeeded by his tenth child, Sir Charles Lemon (1784-1868), who soon after becoming of age, served his parliamentary apprenticeship representing Penryn from 1807 to 1812, then later represented Penryn, then Cornwall from 1830 to 1857. He was Sheriff of Cornwall from 1827 to 1828, but perhaps more importantly from a horticultural perspective, he was a founding member of the Royal Horticultural Society of Cornwall. Wealthy through mining and overseas trade, Sir Charles developed the gardens at Carclew in the early-1800's and planted rhododendrons and other genera brought back to Falmouth from India and the Far East by the Cornish sea captains. In this era, Falmouth was the first calling point and a rest station for ships arriving back in England from the Far East, and having caught their breath, the crews would then sail on to the Thames. But not only that, Falmouth was the branch of the General Post Office's Packet Service, its maritime mail delivery service. Captains working for the Packet Service in Falmouth are recorded as undertaking additional work to their postal duties, as on Sir Charles Lemon's behalf, and that of the Fox Family, the Captains explored the ports they visited in search of new plant varieties. Sir Charles Lemon also had many links to the Veitch Family and their nurseries in Exeter, having employed and trained William Lobb and his brother Thomas in the stove house at Carclew; while their father worked on the Estate as a gamekeeper. William began his plant-hunting career on the Packet Ship 'Seagull' travelling from Falmouth to Rio de Janeiro. Falmouth was also the port where the intrepid plant collectors usually disembarked on arrival of their ship at the port and then travelled overland to London, arriving in the City days prior to their ship. Sir Charles was also an 'intimate friend' of Sir Joseph Hooker who would stay at Carclew on his visits to Cornwall, and Sir Charles sponsored his 1848-51 expedition to the Himalaya. Carclew was one of the earliest gardens to obtain plants from Kew, and on 5th December, 1851 Sir Charles received, *R. falconeri*, *R. hodgsonii*, *R. griffithianum*, *R. maddenii*, *R. ciliatum*, *R. dalhousiae*, *R. cinnarbarinum* var. *roylei*, *R. glaucophyllum*, *R. niveum*, *R. thomsonii* and some plants that were numbered having not yet been named. It is likely that Sir Joseph Hooker accompanied these plants to Carclew during one of his visits to Cornwall. Sir Charles appointed William Beattie Booth (c1804-1874) as Head Gardener. Booth was an expert on the cultivation of Camellias and would have been able to care for rhododendron material; he remained at Carclew until 1858. During this period Carclew was run as a small country estate with enough offices and farm buildings to be self-sufficient. Sir Charles died without issue in 1868, leaving the estate to his nephew, Colonel Tremayne, son of John Hearle Tremayne of Heligan. So here is yet another ancestral 'link' between the great gardens of Cornwall, and it should be no surprise that Colonel Tremayne provided plant material to the Heligan Estate, which gives a clue to the origin of some of the material in that garden. Other gardens to benefit from the 'links' between Carclew and well-known Cornish Gardens are Tremough, Tregothan, Killiow, Menabilly and Scorrier.

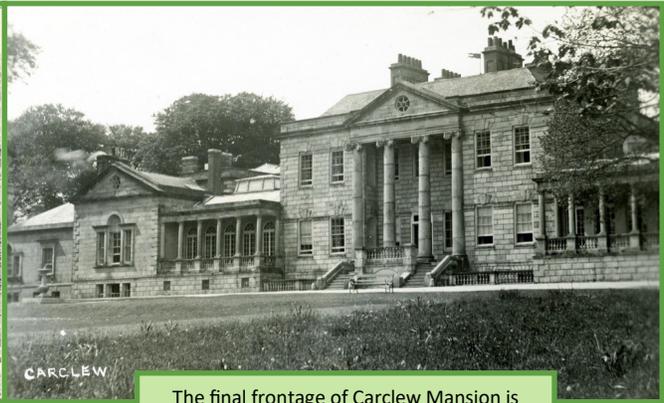


This portrait of Sir Charles Lemon now resides in the Pandora Inn at Falmouth. It was recently purchased at an auction in Truro. Interestingly, the Inn was at one time owned by Sir Charles Lemon. Courtesy, The Pandora Inn

(continued on page 6)

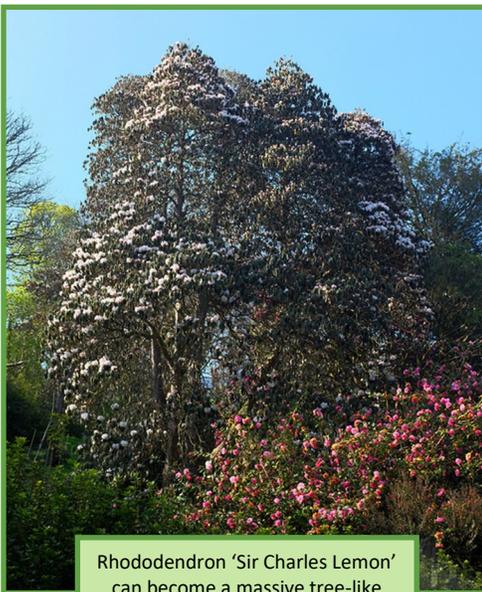


An engraving, made in 1874, of the view across part of the Formal Terrace Gardens, with a fountain in the center of the carpet bedding. *Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener*, 1874



The final frontage of Carclew Mansion is depicted in this 1925 postcard scene, not many years prior to the devastating fire of 1934. John M. Hammond Collection

(continued from page 5) An overview of the gardens written in 1874, six years after Sir Charles Lemon passed away, tells us that the mansion at Carclew occupied a slightly elevated position in a much diversified park through which runs a lengthy carriageway, the major part of which is profusely interspersed with groups of oaks and old Scotch firs. On approach to the mansion there are fine specimen trees and both common and choice rhododendrons, planted around 1750 by William Lemon, an enthusiastic owner at a time when horticulture and the creation of a designed landscape was not so fashionable a pursuit. To this foundation Sir Charles Lemon overlaid a wide range of genera, including the exotic dark-leaved Magellan Fern, *Dicksonia antarctica* and *Woodwardia elegans*, and many other specimens of fern. To the left of the mansion two terraces contained the formal flower gardens, surrounded by substantial stone walls, and basin fountains occupy the centre of the beds. Ascending to the second garden, with its geometric layout, the visitor is surrounded by a class of shrubs and trees, that were they not in Cornwall, would be only found under glass. To one side of the geometric gardens the land has been allowed to retain its natural outline and the slope, intersected by suitable walks, is overgrown in places with trees and shrubs. Rhododendrons of all kinds seem quite at home, including some of the Sikkim and Himalayan ones; and the same can be said of the Camellias and Indian Azaleas. There is a *Rhododendron* of the true arboreum section, or one very near akin to it, with a clear bole more than six feet high without a branch and stout enough to form a gate post for a carriage road, while others of the *Smithii* type were equally large and attaining the proportions of trees, one of which is *R. 'Gill's Goliath'*, having been measured at 24 feet height with a stem of 4 feet in circumference. Many of the Sikkim species seemed equally at home; *R. thomsonii* was particularly fine, as were *R. falconeri*, *aucklandii*, *campanulatum*, *maddenii*, etc. Intermixed with these rhododendrons were Camellias, and Magnolias of the deciduous class assuming the character of timber trees. A fine *Rhododendron cinnamomeum* was quite 10 feet high; the underside of its leaves are of a rich brown, and its flowers are said to be magnificent.⁴ So, here is the plant that is the subject of this article.



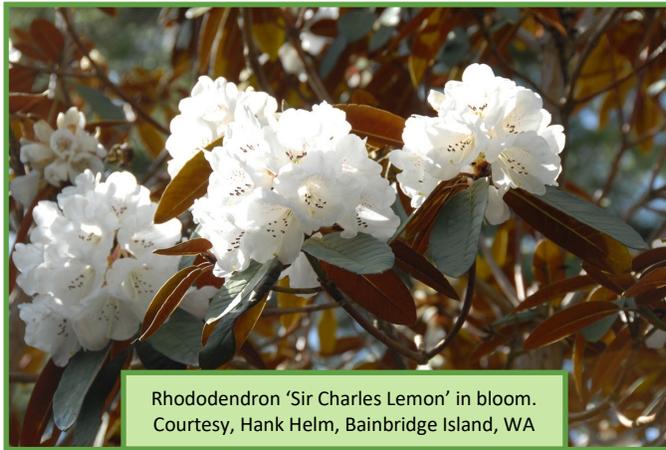
Rhododendron 'Sir Charles Lemon' can become a massive tree-like spectacle, as did the specimen in Carclew Garden. Courtesy, Burncoose Nursery

There is no record of how many plants Sir Charles received of each of the Hooker species; however, Kew raised four *R. arboreum* forms: *R. arboreum*, *R. campbelliae*, *R. arboreum rubrum* and *R. arboreum roseum* and some, if not all, of these were among the unnamed plants circulated in 1851, as confirmed by John G. Millais in his 1917 monograph '*Rhododendrons*'. Based on a visit to Carclew in 1917 he recorded seeing: *R. grande*, *R. falconeri*, *R. barbatum*, *R. arboreum*, *R. griffithianum*, *R. lanatum* and *R. arboreum* var. 'Sir Charles Lemon'. Of the latter he notes:

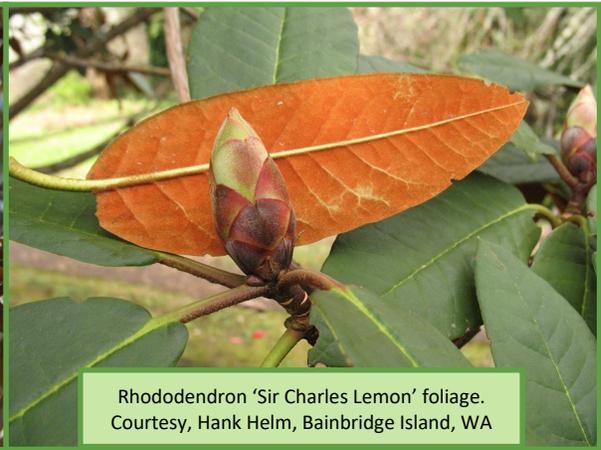
'The original plant of this fine form *R. arboreum* is at Carclew. It is 27yds. round [drip line dia., or spread] and 30ft. high [1917]. It is a tall growing plant with fine dark leaves with an orange brown pubescence to underside. The flowers are good size and pure white in colour. It is regarded as one of the best forms of the species. The late-Mr. Charles Daubuz of Killiow remembers this plant coming as a seedling to Carclew. It came from seed sent by Sir J. Hooker from India. Recently Mr. P.D. Williams discovered a large plant of this variety with lilac-mauve flowers in Miss Mangles' garden at Littleworth [Beauty of]. It may be a common plant in Sikkim.'

As mentioned above, the late-Mr. Charles Daubuz of Killiow also noted another seedling of the same form could be found that had white flowers edged with lilac. This plant in Miss Mangles' garden at 'Hetherset', Littleworth Cross, had been transferred for safe-keeping from 'Valewood', the home of another pioneer rhododendron plantsman, James Henry Mangles (1832-1884) who passed away at the early age of 52 and had visited Sir William Hooker at RBG, Kew to see the forms of *R. arboreum* then being grown under glass.⁷ **(continued on page 7)**

(continued from page 6) John G. Millais also noted *R.wightii* and *R. campylocarpum* that were known to be Hooker seedlings at Littleworth Cross, which suggests that Mangles also obtained *R.arboreum* plant material from Sir Joseph Hooker's expedition direct from Kew. ⁶ You may well ask, 'What has all this got to do with Carclew?' Well, in a different life, Sir Charles Lemon and James H. Mangles were well acquainted, as both were Directors on the Board of the London & South Western Railway, which is a story for



Rhododendron 'Sir Charles Lemon' in bloom.
Courtesy, Hank Helm, Bainbridge Island, WA



Rhododendron 'Sir Charles Lemon' foliage.
Courtesy, Hank Helm, Bainbridge Island, WA

another time. ⁷

In the early 1900's, Lord Aberconway made a point of visiting several of the key gardens in Cornwall each spring, staying with the owners and hoping to acquire a selection of plants to take back to enhance Bodnant Garden; he was also one of the 'key' members of *The Rhododendron Society* founded in 1916, which met at Lamellen House each spring for many years. While visiting Carclew in around 1910 he was very impressed with the specimen raised from *R.arboreum* seed that had a *R.cinnamomeum* appearance, which he considered was a cross of *R.cinnamomeum* and *R.campanulatum*. It had the stature of a tree, was then over 50 years old and more than 30 feet in height, so he named it R. 'Sir Charles Lemon', and took cuttings home with him to raise plants at Bodnant. It remained one of his favorite plants and he registered the cultivar in 1937.

On 5th April, 1934, Sir Charles Lemon's mansion, described at the time as the finest Palladium mansion in Cornwall, was destroyed by fire and today just a few ruins, surmounted by the clock tower, (Listed Grade II) are all that is visible of what was once a great house. Following the destruction of the house by fire, the gardens were neglected for many years and, unfortunately, some of the plantings were cleared in the 1950's, including the original R. 'Sir Charles Lemon', which was then over 100 years old and in good condition.

In Conclusion:

Writing in 1923, J.C. Williams of Caerhays Castle recalled:

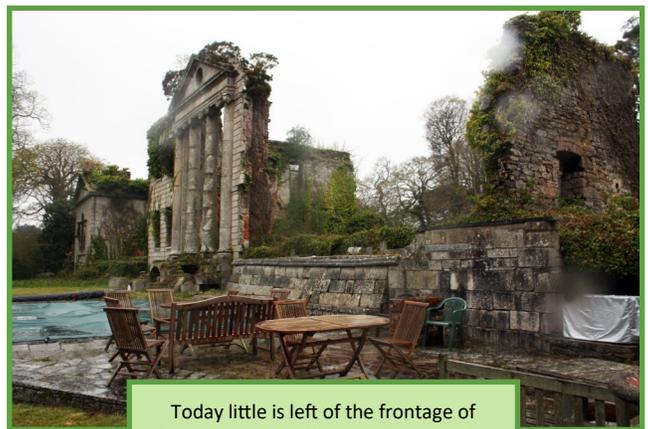
'Probably the finest specimen (Rhododendron) of any kind (in Cornwall) is 'Sir Charles Lemon' at Carclew on account of its great size, of remarkable refinement of flower, which is a good white, and of the unusual beauty of the foliage, particularly of the underside of the leaf, which is the most brilliant contrast in colour to the surface of the leaf, which any member of the family gives us as far as I know.

The late Mr. Daubuz always said that this plant came out of a sowing of Indian seed, and has every appearance of being a good form of the Indian ARBOREUM, which is endless in its variation . . . ¹⁰

While reviewing the Arboreum Series in 1989, H.H. Davidian noted this interesting comment on plant identification:

'It may be remarked that in cultivation *R.cinnamomeum* is sometimes confused with the hybrid R. 'Sir Charles Lemon'. It is regrettable that in a few gardens some plants which have been labelled *R.cinnamomeum* are in fact R. 'Sir Charles Lemon'. Both plants have cinnamon indumentum and white flowers. They differ in that in *R. cinnamomeum* the leaves are oblong-lanceolate, lanceolate, or rarely oblong, 2-5 cm broad, and the inflorescence is very compact or somewhat compact, whereas in R. 'Sir Charles Lemon' the leaves are nearly orbicular, oval or broadly elliptic 5.5-10 cm broad, and the inflorescence is lax.' ⁹

The well-known *R. campanulatum*, one of the most common plants in the Himalayas and widely distributed from Kashmir to Bhutan, is also exceptionally variable, and is known to hybridize freely in cultivation. There are known natural hybrids from the wild, **(continued on page 8)**



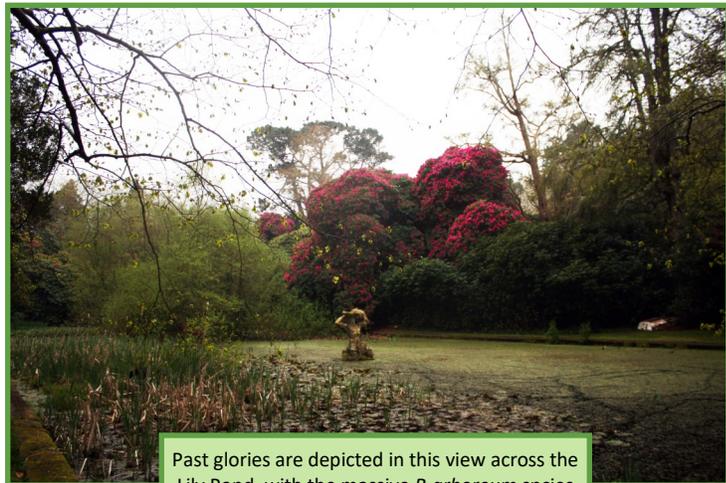
Today little is left of the frontage of Carclew House, although what remains has been Listed Grade II.
John M. Hammond Collection

American Rhododendron Society
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(continued from page 7) including some early named species such as *R. Batemanii* whose characteristics are intermediate between *R. campanulatum* and *R. arboreum*, as both, including *R. cinnamomeum*, populate the 2,700-4,000m (9,000-13,000ft) altitudes.¹¹ So it is extremely likely that Hooker brought back some natural hybrids among his *R. cinnamomeum* seed, and this would explain the *R. campanulatum* shaped leaves and lax trusses of *R. 'Sir Charles Lemon'*. It is hardier than some ratings suggest and will grow well in locations where the pure forms of *R. arboreum* are too tender.

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Past glories are depicted in this view across the Lily Pond, with the massive *R. arboreum* species and its *R. 'Smithii'* hybrids in the background.
John M. Hammond Collection