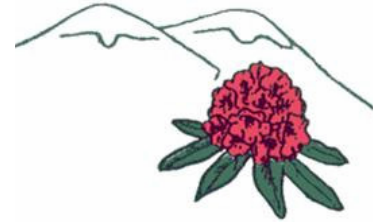


THE RHODOVINE

THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Volume 19, Issue 5

MARS
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May, 2007

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Photographed by Judy McMaster

The Joy of Winning.

This year at the truss show Anne Gutsch won a ribbon for the first time. A second prize for her beautiful Blaney's Blue.

May's Speaker

Glen Jamieson our peripatetic member, has talked to most of the rhododendron clubs in British Columbia, focusing on the winter garden, vireyas and botanizing in Yunnan. A research scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, he is an avid gardener on his San Pareil property. He has traveled extensively in Central and South America as well as Asia. Since 1999, he has established what is one of the largest collections of Vireyas, the tropical rhododendron, in Canada. His new talk is about the history of exploring for plants in China with emphasis on George Forrest's work in Yunnan and the changes that have taken place in that region over the past 100 years.

MARS Meetings

Second Wednesday of the Month
7:30 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

May Garden Tour Pot Luck

13th May 5pm
Susan and Art Lightburn's home
1489 Bay Drive, Nanoose

June Meeting

16th June 4pm
Windup Pot Luck
Ron and Judy McMaster's home
380 Dogwood, Parksville

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**The June Rhodovine
will be late, but before the
'Wind up Party'**

**Photographs from club
members including, Susan
Lightburn and Judy McMaster**

President's Message

This will be my last president's message as the members of our new executive assume their 2007/2008 positions as of our June wind-up.

When I was first asked to run as Vice President, I was somewhat reluctant because I felt I did not know enough about rhododendrons to be able to contribute. But I am glad I did accept the nomination because it gave me the opportunity to continue to learn about gardening, rhododendrons in particular, probably more quickly than if I had not joined the executive of our group. I certainly have become acquainted with a lot of very knowledgeable "rhodoholics" who are never intimidating with their knowledge, but always prepared to help if you have a question. I have learned that gardeners are among the most generous of any group I have ever met. I am still not an expert, of course, but I feel very comfortable about growing rhododendrons and, in particular, with buying them, which Judy feels is somewhat compulsive on my part.

These last two years as president have been very gratifying because we have had excellent teams for every activity and lots of volunteer help, without which our organization cannot be successful. Every activity has exceeded our expectations. I feel privileged to have served on the executive of such a group.

MARS has the second largest number of members in the ARS District #1. I think this speaks well for how we are perceived in the community. Most organizations are having difficulty maintaining their membership these days, but if we have fun at what we do (and we certainly have fun), and if we continue to be successful at our activities, our membership should continue to grow.

Thanks to everyone for their support. We have a particularly strong executive coming in for 2007/2008 and we will continue to be successful and to be perceived as a quality organization that adds value to the community.

Ron



April



R. albrechii

3 Beautiful Trusses entered into our show Photographed by Susan Lightburn



R. augustinii VG

EVENTS

The Seventh Annual George Fraser Day & Heritage Fair

Ucluelet, BC Saturday, May 26, 2007

10:30 AM: Welcome Ceremony

- George Fraser Memorial Park - across from Village Green at Main Street & Fraser Lane
- In the Presence of Her Honour, The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant Governor of BC
- Introduction of Her Honour, the Honourable Iona Campagnolo
- Her Honour's Remarks: 'Heritage in Small Coastal Communities'
- Scottish Fiddling & Piping ◦ Highland Dancers ◦ First Nations Dancers
- Garden Planting of Fraser hybrids by Her Honour, Children and Other Citizens of the Community

11:30 AM-12:30 PM: Interpretive Walking Tour

- Enjoy a stroll with Her Honour that begins on Fraser Lane to view heritage gardens where George Fraser lived and planted his heaven on earth
- Quick stop en route for a "Uniquely Ukee" Greeting at the Village Square Shops

12:30 PM – 4:00 PM: Heritage Fair

- U.A.C. Hall at 1510 Peninsula Rd.-Doors open at 12:00 Noon-Admission-\$2.00
- 12:30 pm-1:30 pm: Welcome Remarks ◦ Lunch & Refreshments ◦ Silent Auction Commences

Guest Speakers ◦ Presentations to Her Honour

Historical Displays * Old Time Fiddlers * Silent Auction * Door Prizes, Featuring a New Book by Bill Dale -

'George Fraser's Rhododendrons' Jigs/Reels on George Fraser's Fiddle * Scottish Music & Poetry Plant Sale and More...

Milner Gardens Membership Offer

Geoff Ball of Milner Gardens will attend our May meeting and sell memberships for Milner Gardens to our members at a discounted amount of \$15.00 for a single membership and \$25.00 for a family membership. This will be a one time only offer and only those members of MARS that are in attendance at the May 8/07 meeting will be able to purchase the memberships at these discounted prices.

Master Gardener Sessions.

Sat.	May 5	Qualicum Bay Nursery , 2975 Becque Rd. Q. Bay	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
		Arrowsmith Greenhouses , 2880 Alberni Hwy., QB	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
		Cannor Nursery , 609 E Island Hwy., PK.	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
		Kendor Nursery , (Pond Day) 792 W Island Hwy., PK.	10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Fri.	May 11	Buckerfield's , 587 Alberni Highway, PK.	11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sat.	May 12	Arrowsmith Greenhouses , 2880 Alberni Hwy., QB	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
		Cannor Nursery , 609 E Island Hwy., PK.	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat.	May 19	Arrowsmith Greenhouses , 2880 Alberni Hwy., QB	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
		Cannor Nursery , 609 E Island Hwy., PK.	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat.	May 26	Arrowsmith Greenhouses , 2880 Alberni Hwy., QB	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
		Cannor Nursery , 609 E Island Hwy., PK.	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
		Great Gardens Naturally , Rec. Ctr., 644 Memorial, QB	9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sat. June 2 **Arrowsmith Greenhouses**, 2880 Alberni Hwy., QB 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Urban Greenery Nursery Garden Club members are invited to visit our nursery between 10 - 4 on Saturday June 9th for our first ever Garden Club Day. Please wear your t-shirts, pins, and bring your garden club membership card. We will have draws, special discounts on our 'Sheenas Best' product line and any one plant at ½ **price!** Urban Greenery specializes in organic solutions and products for the garden. We have a unique selection of quality, healthy, and sometimes unusual perennials, shrubs, gifts for the garden including glass art, wrought iron planters, and Italian pottery.

Directions: As you approach Port Alberni stay to the right, precede down highway #4 past Starbucks and further down Tim Horton's. Then on your right you will see a Chevron gas station, this is Elizabeth street, turn right and we are on the left, look for the 1913 yellow house. 4632 Elizabeth Street Port Alberni BC V9Y 6L7 Tel # 724 2942 www.urbangreenery.com

Oceanside Plant Sale

Here are some of the hard workers having fun and making money at the same time.
Ron, Marilyn, Barbara & Judy.



MARS Success at Coombs

Only 10 MARS gardens contributed plants to the Oceanside Plant Sale at Coombs on April 28 and 29, but there was such a wealth of material, Barbara Kulla and her helpers were almost sold out by the end of the first day.

Sunday a few more plants were added to the mix and by the end of the day the sale produced \$792.90 for MARS. As well, the group sold 20 tickets for the Garden Tour. The sale was part of the Oceanside Garden Festival at the fairgrounds. Other participants included Milner Gardens, Malaspina University, the Town of Qualicum Beach encouraging visitors to get rid of the broom and several commercial outlets. Debbie Schug who masterminded the festival said she was happy with the turnout and even happier that the weather cooperated. Among the MARS plants sold were seed-grown trilliums by Art Lightburn, who wants members to know he is running low on the tall one-gallon plastic pots and would welcome any donations.

Remember the Garden Tour

Posters are turning up on bulletin boards all over the area reminding viewers that the annual Garden Tour is coming up on Mother's Day Weekend. There are 13 gardens this year ranging from Qualicum Beach to San Paniel. Three of them focus on what to do with an impossible hillside, a few are ocean view and there are two with Asian themes. MARS members, whether volunteers or not, are all invited to the pot luck after the tour closes on Sunday afternoon at the home of Art and Susan Lightburn, 1489 Bay, Nanoose. Art, who is chair of the Garden Tour this year, says Terry Richmond has agreed to give a brief pruning demonstration at the pot luck. Don't forget to bring a dish to share, cutlery, dishes and a chair. And something to drink, of course. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Volunteers should pick up their tickets at the May meeting, if they have not already done so.

Garden Tour Party at Susan and Art Lightburn's home.

Sunday 13th May. 1489 Bay Drive, Nanoose Bay

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2007.

MEETING called to order at 7:30 pm.

WELCOME GUESTS: Nancy Stevens

MINUTES of the last general meeting, March 14, 2007, were not taken. Very little in the way of business was dealt with in order to allow maximum time for the panel discussion on "Rhododendrons of all Seasons".

BUSINESS ARISING: none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

April 2007 Victoria Rhodo Club newsletter

March/April 2007 B.C. Council of Garden Clubs bulletin

AUDIT REPORT: Jim Greig said Tony's numbers are great. He reported that we broke even last year. He also thanked the executive.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Ansdell gave the February 28 and March 31, 2007 financial reports and they were accepted. He also thanked Jim for the audit.

WAYS AND MEANS: Susan Lightburn. Tonight's door prize was Rhododendron 'Wardance'. The raffle prizes were Rhododendron 'Pink Cherub', Rhododendron 'Lem's 121', Trillium ovatum (donated by the Lightburns) and a 3 kg package of Norm Todd's rhodo fertilizer as a substitute prize.

REFRESHMENTS: Barbara Kulla: this evening's goodies were brought by Ann Robertson, Gerry and Richard Kuhn and Celsa Rasmussen.

SUNSHINE: Maria Bieberstein: no sunshine required this month.

GARDEN TOUR: May 12th and 13th, 2007. Art Lightburn said all the gardens are ready to go, as are the posters and tickets. He insisted everybody sign up on his volunteer board.

TRUSS SHOW and SALE: Bert Harding asked for lots more volunteers and a host for the after-show potluck dinner. His big message was "BRING TRUSSES".

OCEANSIDE GARDEN SHOW: Marilyn Dawson/Barbara Kulla. Volunteers and plants are needed for Saturday April 28th and Sunday the 29th. Please try to get plants to Coombs Fair Grounds by 9:00 AM Saturday.

PETITION: Ron McMaster brought a petition for Qualicum Beach Composting.

MARS STUDENT AWARD: Judy McMaster moved that "MARS offer a \$500 award for three consecutive years to a student who resides in District 69 or 70 and who is enrolled in the Horticultural Technician Program at Malaspina University-College. The student must have demonstrated academic achievement and proficiency in the field. Financial need may also be considered. The award is to be managed and administered by Malaspina's Scholarship and Awards Committee."

If MARS pledges the award for the three years, Malaspina will match it each year with a second \$500 award in our name.

The motion was seconded by Marilyn Dawson and passed.

UCLUELET: Terry Richmond took fertilizer (his own mix at his own expense) to the display rhodos in Ucluelet. This is his experimental mix which he hopes will reduce fungal diseases in addition to feeding the plants. He will be going back to Ucluelet May 26th to the George Fraser Days with our MARS donation of \$100.

MARS ELECTIONS: Brenda Moore read off the list (so far) of nominees for the May meeting election of 2007/2008 executive. If there is anyone who would like to volunteer for the executive or nominate anybody else, please call Brenda at 752-5931 or see her at the beginning of the May meeting.

THE BIG SHOWDOWN: Joan Rich gave us an educational demo on how to choose, care for and spiff up rhodo trusses for this year's competition. She brought handouts giving all the details so members could have take-home references.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. For those that inquired, the long awaited Vireya book is now in our library. Thanks Glen.
2. Island Rhodo Species School Days: Art Lightburn gave a brief overview.
3. Milner Gardens: Geoff Ball will attend our May 9th general meeting and will offer Milner memberships to MARS members at the reduced price of \$15 per individual or \$25 per family. He will return to our March meetings each year after this to make the same offer. This is a good deal and it should encourage more people in the community to support Milner Gardens.
4. Rhododendron of the Year Program: We will not be participating this year because it is too late (MARS results would have to be in by May 1st). We will try to do it next year.

GUEST SPEAKER: Tonight's guest speaker was Carol Dancer. She is a horticultural consultant with the Government House volunteer gardener program in Victoria. She gave us a super slide show and history of the Govt. House gardens and encouraged everyone to visit them.

DOOR PRIZE: Sharon Kevis won Rhododendron 'Wardance'.

RAFFLE: Winners were Bert Harding, Carol Hansen and Ann De Brincat

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:45 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER: The next general meeting will be May 9, 2007 at 7:30 pm.

Secretary, Ann De Brincat
President, Ron McMaster

'Special invitation'

Open Garden
10th 18th 25th June

3925 West Island Highway

10am-7.30pm

Cindy and Lorne Hepting are inviting club members to visit their beautiful garden.

Drop in and enjoy a pleasant visit with the Heptings in their garden.

Morsels from MARS

Terry's Tips

- Fertilize as soon as you can up until the middle of June
- Dead Head and Prune at the same time

Pirie Bottles

We ran out this year. Please start collecting any bottles that you have for your truss show next year.

TRUSS SHOW

The WOW! factor was in full play Saturday when MARS opened its annual Rhodo Show and Plant Sale. Visitors were met with a blaze of color as they entered the Parksville Curling Club and many paused at the entryway to take it all in.

Chairman Bert Harding and his expanded crew did a great job of setting up and taking down and MARS members came through with a huge number of trusses. So huge that all the little green bottles were used up and some exhibitors were forced to using brown beer bottles. The rhodo display even brought favorable comment from Judge Chris Southwick, who was also a judge last year. A “much-improved show and display”, she wrote in her comments.

The cash registers were kept busy and Tony Ansdell reports business was about 20 per cent better than last year. Door prize tickets sold briskly with a lot of interest shown in the grand prize, a huge rhodo, Bernard’s Cross, from Vic Vickers’ old house on Pintail. It was eventually won by Debbie Schug, who drew her own ticket. All the prizes were donated by businesses in the area. Another winner, Chris Southwick took home the set of ceramic pots donated by Thrifty Foods.

Although the day was chilly, and the rink even cooler, a good number of volunteers found the energy to drive to Nanoose and take a potluck dish to the home of Al and Maria Bieberstein for a fun evening.



Party host’s Marie & Al with Ron making whoopee

“A great day,” declared Bert Harding. “Everyone came through beautifully, bringing in all those trusses and working hard to make things work.”



The following quote is from a vendor at our plant sale, Sue Klapwijk from Surrey, in response to my request for constructive criticism from a vendor's point of view. We have had favourable comments before, but this one is current (that is, 2007) and our members might like to see it printed in the Rhodovine.’ Ron McMaster’

‘I had a wonderful time and am looking forward to your sale next year. The venue was excellent. With the drive through drop off and pick up and the shopping carts, plenty of room for people to just take their time and have a good look at everything, who could ask for more. I hope that your club fared well and that you can continue to support students.’

**Sue Klapwijk
Finlay's Rhododendrons, Surrey**

Winners of the Truss Show

COLOUR COLLECTION

1. Joan Rich, Igham Yellow
2. Bieberstein, Moonstone.

LAX TRUSS

1. Mary Parker, Conroy
2. Lorne Hepting, Fred Robbins
3. Joan Cavers, Elizabeth.

PINK

1. Bieberstein, Mission Bells.
2. MaryParker Maureen
3. Helen Peace.

BLUE

1. Peace, Augustinii Hobbie,
2. Ann Gutsche,Blaney's Blue

RED

1. Bieberstein, Taurus
2. Marilyn Dawson, Taurus
3. Joan Cavers, Etta Burrows.

WHITE

1. Rich, Boddaertianum
2. Hepting, Sir Charles Lemon
3. Dawson, Sir Charles Lemon.

SPECIES

1. Art Lightburn, R.albrechtii
2. Bieberstein, R. pseudochrysanthum
3. Jim Greig, R. baileyi

SPRAY

1. Barbara Galick, R. schlippenbachii
2. Rich, McKee's Blue
3. Lightburn, R. augustinii

FOLIAGE

1. Bieberstein, R.Hansel
2. Rich, R. pseudochrysanthum
3. Bieberstein, R. calophytum.

NOVICE

No entries

HAMMERHEAD

Bieberstein, Taurus.

BEST IN SHOW -SMALL LEAF

Mary Parker,Conroy

BEST IN SHOW - LARGE LEAF

Bieberstein,Taurus.

POPULAR CHOICE

Lorne Hepting,R.Macabeaum

Judges for 2007 Truss Show



Many thanks to
Chris Southwick and John Deniseger.



Judy and Barbara at the door prize table