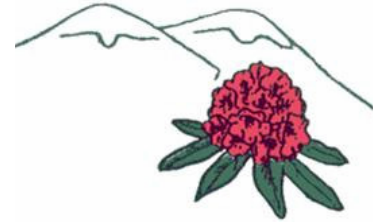


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**MARS
P. O. Box 342
Qualicum Beach, BC
V9K 1S8
mars.rhodos.ca**

Volume 20, Issue 5

May 2008

2007/2008 Executive

President 752-6131

John England
jaengland@shaw.ca

Past President 954-3210

Ron McMaster
rjcmaster@shaw.ca

Vice-President 468-7516

Art Lightburn
slightbu@shaw.ca

Secretary 752-3694

Marilyn Dawson
dawsom@shaw.ca

Treasurer 752-4475

Tony Ansdell
ansdella@shaw.ca

Directors 468-7252

Maria Bieberstein
abieberstein@telus.net

Ann De Brincat 724-5594

darrylhatch@shaw.ca

Bert Harding 752-3923

ruber@shaw.ca

Ann Robertson 752-5997

annierobertson@shaw.ca

Program Chair Art Lightburn

Meeting Coord Velda Rhodes

Greeter Susan Lightburn

Ways & Means Judy McMaster

Library Barbara Kulla

Refreshments Cassy Lacouvee

Dollar Table Bert Harding

Truss Show Art Lightburn

Garden Tour John England

Milner Gardens Maria Bieberstein

Christmas Party Ron McMaster

PR Maria Bieberstein

Sunshine Judy McMaster

Bursary Bert Harding

Membership Cassy Lacouvee

Historian 752-3923 ruber@shaw.ca

Newsletter Ann Robertson

752-5997 annierobertson@shaw.ca

This month's speaker

Wednesday 14th May

David Rowe has been creating bonsai for more than 30 years. While he was working for Spar Aerospace Ltd. in Toronto, he was heavily involved in the Toronto Bonsai Society, in various capacities -- on the executive, show chairman and newsletter editor. Over the years, he has given workshops and demonstrations across Canada and the United States and taught courses in Spokane, Wa., Toronto, Nanaimo and Albuquerque.

A few years ago, he moved to the Island and immediately started a bonsai club, meeting monthly at TOSH. He is a well known figure around the area, often seen giving bonsai demonstrations at garden workshops and nurseries, including Milner's Art and Photography in the Garden.

Inside this Issue

Events	Page 1&2
President's Message	Page 2
Member's Corner	Page 2
Oceanside Plant sale	Page 3
Minutes	Page 4
Truss Show	Page 5
PARS	Page 6

MARS Meetings

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
2nd Wednesday of the month
7:30 pm

June Meeting

SATURDAY June 14

Note the Day change.

The windup pot luck at Al and Maria Bieberstein's home.

You are invited

to

**The Grand Opening
of
Memorial
Rhododendron
Park**

Lake Cowichan,
Saturday May 17 at noon,
Point Ideal Rd.
(next to the Info Centre)

"Bringing Back our
Rhododendron Heritage"
three day event.

May 16th 17th & 18th

Garden tours, presentations
and much more. Part of the
town's Annual Heritage Days.

For further information
contact Katherine at
Lake Cowichan

Chamber of Commerce

www.cowichanlakecc.ca.

or

visitors center 250-749-3244

www.info@cowichanlake.ca

or

Ingeborg Woodsworth

(250)749-6291

President's Message

Welcome to May. Most of you will be enjoying all the new growth in your gardens with surprising developments appearing daily.

In the majority of countries in the western world 1 May is May Day and is dedicated to all workers. MARS certainly has its share of good workers and I want to take this opportunity of thanking all of you who helped make our Annual Truss Show and Plant Sale such a resounding success. In spite of adverse elements, shorting us on both vendors and trusses; a water supply problem which denied us the use of toilets and the ability to make coffee or tea, the 'bottom line' exceeded last year by a few dollars! Well done.

As I write this message the Oceanside Flower Show is enjoying a beautiful day of weather; the MARS booth manned by a cadre of our tireless volunteer workers is doing very well.

In two weeks time it will be action stations for the Mothers Day Garden Tour. This event marks the end of our serious fundraising for 2008- let's ensure that we all do our bit! After that event, we may all return to our neglected gardens! Of note also, our 'joint ticketing' initiative with Milner Gardens is proving to be quite successful.

See you at the potluck after the Garden Tour.

John England

Member's Corner



"Honey Butter in my garden"
photographed by Ann Robertson

May 2008

Events

MARS visit to PARS

21ST AND 22ND May

White Rock and Surrey later this month promises to be an exceptional chance to see beautiful Rhodo gardens.

Please contact Mary Parker for more information. 754-1981.

Days at Milner Gardens

May 1st through May 11th

10:00am to 5:00pm (last entry at 4:00pm)

Come and enjoy the named and labeled collection of Rhododendrons and other spring flowering plants through a series of weekend walk-talks or self-guided tours.

Milner Gardens & Woodland

2179 West Island Highway

Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1G1

Tel: (250)752-8573

Wind up Party

Saturday June 14th

Al and Marie have again offered their lovely home for our wind up party. Thank you.

3060 Anchor Way

Nanose.

468-7252.

Directions

South on Highway 1 towards Nanaimo.

Turn left on Northwest Bay Road at the gas station and traffic lights.

Turn Right on Powder Point road just after the railroad tracks.

Turn 4th Right on Anchor Way.

At Bosun Drive turn Right and the house is on the immediate left corner of Bosun and Anchor Way, the one with tall trees and beautiful Rhodos.

Bring

Pot Luck, Drink,

Chair, plate, glass and cutlery.

Coffee and tea provided.

There will be pot luck, toss the Bean Bag, Auction of plants and great company.

The Case of the Disappearing Plants

MARS volunteers were busy again at the Oceanside Garden Show on April 26 and 27 at the Arrowsmith Hall in Coombs. This is the third year for this event, and MARS has been involved in all three, the first year, operating an information table and selling Garden Tour tickets. The next year Barbara Kulla had no trouble talking the Executive into turning our participation into a plant sale, which proved a great success, with only a few members involved. This year the sale grew. Again spearheaded by Barbara and Marilyn Dawson, members in great numbers dug in their gardens, divided perennials, potted up bulbs and shrubs. There were so many plants at the beginning of the sale; we looked like a nursery gone wild.

Volunteers were on hand both days to help customers, select plants, and just generally schmooze with the crowd and by Sunday at 3 pm there were not a lot of plants left to sell.

"It was a great success," said Barbara. "A lot of work, a lot of fun. A big thank you to everyone who pitched in, all those who brought plants and those who were on duty in the hall. It was great."

The final tally is not complete, but word is that the sale was even better than last year.



Before they disappeared.



Marilyn giving information.



Barbara and Marilyn made this all happen with the help of other MARS members.



John and Barbara cleaning up and still smiling.

A fun event well done!

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Apr. 9, 2008

MEETING AT: 7:30 pm. Minutes of the March meeting appeared in the Rhodovine. They were accepted as presented. There were no guests.

BUSINESS ARISING: John England reported that he had forwarded MARS choices for the 2011 ROY recommendations (Rhodo of the Year) to the ARS. The selection was made by Anne Gutsche. He reminded members of the May annual general meeting when some of the executive will be stepping down. Linda Derkach has agreed to run for vice president; Velda Rhodes and Dan Schwarz as directors. This year two more directors at large will be added to the roster for a one year term.

CORRESPONDENCE: B.C. Council of Gardens (March/April issue). Newsletter from the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

REFRESHMENTS: Lorne Hepting, Joan Cavers and Myrna Schebel.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The March statement, reported total bank balance was \$4,758.54. Tony Ansdell noted that Jim Greig would give the audited report later in the evening.

PROGRAM: Art Lightburn said the speaker in May will be David Rowe of bonsai fame.

GARDEN TOUR: Chairman Linda Derkach thanked members for volunteering so quickly for sitting chores during the tour. She said she and Barbara Kulla will be manning the telephones nearer Mother's Day Weekend to remind volunteers.

TRUSS SHOW: John England reported on behalf of Bert Harding who was recovering from leg surgery that Bert who was not fully mobile was determined to be at the Rhodo Show and Plant Sale on April 19. A host for the pot luck after the show was still needed.

TRUSS PREPARATION. Skip Cockburn, a longtime MARS member talked briefly about preparing trusses for the show, selecting the right truss, removing bad leaves and finishing with the admonition "You can take away, but you can't add."

AUDIT: Jim Greig said that while not all non-profit organizations need an audit, our bylaws require it. In essence, he said our books are in order and Tony does a "superb job".

WAYS AND MEANS: The door prize was R. Eider. Draw prizes were R. Canadian Sunset, R. Oudijk's Sensation and R. Thunder, a PJM seedling.

SUNSHINE: Maria Bieberstein has sent a card to Bert Harding.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Mary Parker said there would be 15 members of the Peace Arch club visiting **MARS**; they would be touring gardens on April 23 and ending the day with a pot luck and barbecue at Al and Maria Bieberstein's. The following day, PARS made the trip to Tofino and Ken Gibson's garden. MARS' visit to Surrey and White Rock is on May 21 and 22; talk to Mary if you plan to go.

2. Barbara Kulla said the Oceanside Plant Sale on April 26 and 27 needs volunteers for two-hour shifts to sell plants and Tour tickets.

3. John England said the Windup pot luck will be on June 14. Invited guests will be the executive from North Island and MARS executive will go there for their windup.

4. John England reminded members that the ARS convention in the fall will be in Hilo, Hawaii. MARS offers \$400.00 to subsidize a member who has never attended an ARS Rhodo Convention; there will be a draw if there is more than one applicant.

5. John also reminded members that MARS members are invited to the grand opening of Memorial Rhododendron Park at Lake Cowichan, Sat. May 17 at noon, Point Ideal Rd., next to the Info Centre. Internet site: www.cowichanlakecc.ca. "Bringing Back our Rhododendron Heritage" is a three day event.

GUEST SPEAKERS for the evening were Wanda McAvoy, Fraser Event co-coordinator of Ucluelet and Dave McIntosh, Ucluelet Heritage Fair Director, who gave a historical-pictorial presentation of George Fraser, a nurseryman, who came to Canada in 1883, tried to farm in Winnipeg, saw the error of his ways and eventually moved to Vancouver Island. From 1894 until his death in 1944, the somewhat eccentric bachelor lived in Ucluelet on 236 acres of Crown land that he had bought for \$236. His first rhodo hybrid in Canada was Rhododendron condense by Rhododendron japonica, which bloomed in 1912, and was simultaneously named Rhododendron Fraseri by Kew Gardens and Boston's Arnold Arboretum in 1920.

The speakers reminded members that George Fraser Day and Heritage Fair is Sat. May 24 in Ucluelet.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9:50 PM

John England, President
Marilyn Dawson, Secretary



R. irratum-spatterpaint
Ken Gibson's Garden

Truss Show and Plant Sale.

Not snow, nor road work, nor lack of water could stop the determined MARS gardeners at the April 19 Rhodo how and Plant Sale. Eager exhibitors, heeding Bert Harding's words arrived at the Parksville Curling Rink just after 7 am with armloads of rhodos for show and exhibition. With snow falling outside, it was a good thing that they had been picked the night before. A team of volunteers helped the vendors unload their trucks as they straggled in. Most made it, but a few had to turn back because of the snow. Meanwhile in the ice-cold entryway others, with freezing hands, helped to register the show entrants and look up name cards. In the early part of the day there was no water for washrooms or hot coffee. It was a gloomy start to what proved to be a successful show. Ruth Harding and her crew had already decorated the entry, eliciting oohs and ahhs from the public. The curling rink did have a happy look about it, with a huge exhibition table as well as the trusses lined up for judging by Chris Southwick and John Deniseger who themselves were an hour late getting up from Nanaimo. We were lucky to have them; many events in Nanaimo were cancelled because of the weather.

Winners

Best in Show large leaf was won by a former member Judy Millicheap of Parksville, who had never entered before, with Grace Seabrook.

Best in Show small leaf winner was Linda Derkach, with Lyi.

Popular Choice again this year was taken by Lorne Hepting with R. Macabeanum.

Blue Collection: 1. Al Bieberstein, 1. Bob's Blue.

Colour Collection: 1. Bieberstein, Moonstone; 2. Judy McMaster, Odee Wright; 3. Marilyn Dawson, Cream Crest.

Foliage, large leaf: 1. Lorne Hepting, R. insigne; 2. Bieberstein, Polar Bear; 3. Ann deBrincat R. sutchuenense.

Foliage, small leaf: 1. Bieberstein, Fabia x bureauvii, 2. Bieberstein, Silver Skies; 3. Skip Cockburn, Elizabeth Lockhart.

Lax Truss: 1. Linda Derkach, Lyi; 2. Bieberstein, Moonstone; 3. Dawson, Elizabeth.

Novice: 1. Millicheap, Grace Seabrook.

Pink: 1. Millicheap, R. davidsonianum Ruth Lyons; 2. Cockburn, Sea Shells, 3. Bieberstein, Riplet.

Red: 1. Millicheap, Grace Seabrook 2: Bieberstein, Taurus; 3. Derkach, Taurus.

Species: 1. Art Lightburn, R. megeratum; 2. Hepting, R. macabeanum; 3. Lightburn, R. hippophaeoides.

Spray: 1. Bieberstein, PJM; 2. 2. Joan Rich, McKee's Blue, 3. Bieberstein Mary Fleming.

White: 1. no first. 2. Rich, Sir Charles Lemon; 3 Rich, R. boddaertianum.



Robert-Fortune

23rd April 2008

Ken Gibson's Garden in Tofino.

Peace Arch Rhododendron Society visit to Qualicum Beach

Mary Parker organized a tour of gardens for the PARS on 23rd April. MARS gave them a tour of three gardens belonging to club members, Judy Wood, Tom and Linda Hill, Al and Marie Bieberstein. Al and Marie entertained the guests and some members with a sumptuous feast, a great salmon barbecue, roast beef and wine. (Thank You Al and Marie.) PARS members spent the night in Qualicum Beach and traveled the next morning to Tofino where they saw Ken Gibson's amazing garden.

Pars took many beautiful photos of their trip which you can find on their website <http://www.peacearchrhodo.ca>

Why Prune

Harry Wright

Undoubtedly there are numerous gardeners who shudder at the thought of inflicting so much as a small cut on any unsuspecting plant. Look at the forest around us on Vancouver Island and the vast fields of untouched trees living quite happily in their un-pruned state! Not so you say! Look a little closer and one will see the constant 'natural' pruning process of 'Mother Nature' in action. Wind, weather and wild animals are forever reshaping and resizing our forest trees and plants in an effort to maintain a healthy population of all species.

Cultivated plants, on the other hand, are pruned by our hand, for several reasons.

- To keep a plant healthy (prune to let in light and air, remove dead and dying branches, crossing limbs etc.)
- To keep a plant from growing too large (pruning roots as well as branches may be called for to keep a plant in size!)
- To make a plant more beautiful (prune to topiary, hedges, espaliers, or bonsai)
- To improve the quality or quantity of flowers, leaves or fruits (help to coax the best from a plant by pruning stems, shoots, leaf buds or flower buds)

My vast experience has shown that pruning will not harm a plant but will actually help it in all the areas indicated above.

The Rhodoteller Nov 2006 Vol 21 #3

Editors Corner

This has been a busy month for MARS members Thanks to all of you that participated. We have had a good time and made money to support our club. Well Done.

“See you all at the June Party”