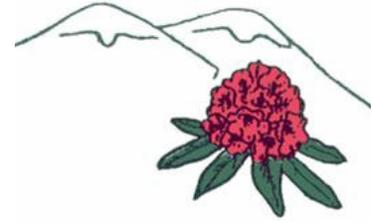


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

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

Volume 21, Issue 8

October 2009

2009/2010 Executive

President

John England 752-6131
jaengland@shaw.ca

Vice-President

Ann De Brincat 724-5594
slightbu@shaw.ca

Secretary

Marilyn Dawson 752-3694
dawsom@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Tony Ansdell 752-4475
ansdella@shaw.ca

Directors

Don Brigden 723-3916
Velda Rhodes 752-3923
Dan Schwarz 752-3923
Ann Robertson 752-5997
annierobertson@shaw.ca

Directors at large

Maria Bieberstein 468-7252
abieberstein@telus.net
Art Lightburn 468-7516
slightbu@shaw.ca

Bursary Glen Jamieson

Christmas Party Maria Bieberstein

Dollar Table Cassy LaCouvee

Editor Ann Robertson

Garden Tour Linda Derkach

Greeter Velda Rhodes

Historian Cassy Lacouvee

Library Arlene Johnston

Meeting Coord Art Lightburn

Membership Ann Robertson

Milner Gardens John England

Oceanside Plant Barbara Kulla

Photographs Susan Lightburn

Program Chair Ann DeBrincat

PR Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments Anne Gutsche

Sunshine Maria Bieberstein

Truss Show Al Bieberstein

Ways & Means Susan Lightburn

Wednesday 14 thOctober

Speaker Tom Carter

Tom Carter, a local, (Lasqueti Island), mountaineer and photographer has been leading treks in Nepal for nineteen years. He sees the Himalayan rhododendron forests, especially in full bloom, as one of the wonders of the world. He has learned when and how best to access them and for the last three years has offered treks to explore them. His presentation will walk you to and through the wild rhododendron forests of Nepal.

www.moonmountainadventures.com



Rosavellon in bloom Sept 2009.



Fall in Buchart Gardens.

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting
Thursday
12th November

To Be Announced

Inside this Issue

Presidents Message page 2
Minutes page 3
Events page 4
Member's Corner page 5
Editors Corner page 6



**Guess who is blooming now?
Bob's Blue.**

President's message

This past weekend Arlene and I were involved in entertaining visitors from Myanmar, aka Burma. As one of the most repressive states in the world (according to the UN), where few of its 56 million citizens get to travel out of that country's borders, we were fascinated to meet two of them; two clergymen living under a regime that had, you will remember, delayed world attempts to provide aid to their citizens following the aftermath of cyclone Nargis in 2008! Dead, or missing presumed drowned were many thousands of their people.

Burma is in the northern hemisphere, the southern border lies at 10N and the north border is on the Himalayas at 28N, an area of great beauty with which we rhodoholics are somewhat familiar. The highest peak in Burma is 19 thousand feet and change! Much of the country is jungle, fast rivers, humid most of the year and temps averaging 32c. They have few roads, even fewer cars and one international airport serving the capital Yangon (Rangoon).

There are certain obstacles presented to a host when entertaining visitors from such a remote part of the world. First is language, one of our two guests spoke halting but understandable English, unfortunately the other, not one word! Then customs, what to serve for meals. We were advised that you would be safe to serve rice, so we did - at every meal! That was popular! What to show them since they also have ocean, rivers, mountains and jungles full of a great variety of animals and birds, many dangerous, tigers, for example.

Then I thought I had a great idea, I would show them through Milner Gardens & Woodland; an east coast Vancouver Island Douglas Fir Forest; they don't have anything like that! There at least they would see natural beauty, perhaps something to which they could relate. But after a 90 min tour, the only positive responses were an interest in historical pictures of our Queen, Lady Diana and the property's giant Douglas fir tree (75m, 600 years old). The problem is, they come from a region where the only thing planted is a 'food garden' for survival! Why you would want to make a pretty garden of flowers or preserve a forest from development and charge admission? That was

completely 'off their radar' - far beyond their world! They have flowers year round; you need wood? go cut down a tree - if it's a rhodo, doesn't matter! Even if I had been the holy Oracle, steeped in wisdom about things ecological, I could not have discussed much with these visitors. All of which inspired me to share these thoughts with MARS members. Cherish and enjoy your gardens. Aren't we fortunate?

Happy Fall planting!

John England



Tiger lily at Hidden Acres



Hidden Acres Garden

MARS General Meeting

Wednesday September 9th, 2009

MEETING AT: 7:30 pm. at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Minutes of the May meeting appeared in the Rhodovine. They were accepted as presented.

BUSINESS ARISING: John England asked the meeting to approve extra expenditures involved with the 20th Anniversary Dinner. Earlier it had been agreed that MARS would subsidize members \$12 but at the time there was no way of knowing how many would attend. Since the turnout was large, the total subsidy was \$1036.57 and approval was needed from the audience. Joan Cavers moved and Joanne Hamilton seconded that the costs be paid as requested. The motion was approved.

REFRESHMENTS: Joanne Hamilton and Arlene England

CORRESPONDENCE: B.C. Council of Gardens Directory and magazine, plant catalogue from the Rhododendron Species Foundation, poster on the Ultimate Rhododendron Conference next April, a letter of thanks from Leah and Howie Meeker for including them in the 20th Anniversary Dinner, a Certificate of Appreciation to MARS from the George Fraser Committee for contributions over the years.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Ansdell gave his first financial report since May saying there was \$10,359 in the bank in various accounts. He said the ARS is raising fees to \$30 US, more than our current membership fees. Because we are in a good financial position, the executive agreed to hold MARS membership to \$30 and subsidize the extra costs, and because of that he stressed the importance of our three major fundraisers: ;Truss Show, Garden Tour and Oceanside Sale to raise funds for management of the chapter. At this point, Glen Jamieson, now editor of the ARS Journal said MARS membership is the lowest of any of the district chapters.

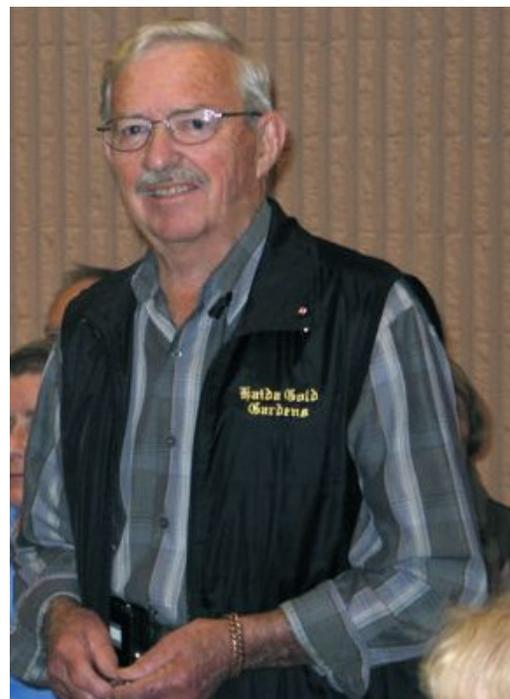
GARDEN TOUR: Linda Derkach said she is willing to be chair of the tour but wants to mentor someone who can take over in the spring if she is away. Barbara Kulla is already looking for gardens. In 2010 the tour will centre around Parksville as far east as San Pareil.

TRUSS SHOW: The date for 2010 is Saturday April 17.

WAYS AND MEANS: The door prize was R. Barmstedt. Other prizes were R. Bambino and R. Mrs. E.C. Sterling .

NEW BUSINESS: 1. John England reminded members that the Xmas party is set for Dec. 9 at Rotary House in Qualicum Beach and a chair is needed. Also he stressed what Linda had said about the Garden Tour, a need for new members to assist with the committee. The important dates to remember are the Truss Show April 17, Oceanside Sale April 24-25 and the Garden Tour, May 8 & 9.

GUEST SPEAKER: Harry Wright of the North Island Chapter gave a presentation of his Courtenay garden, Haida Gold, covering a period of 12 months, including the damage inflicted last December with our harsh winter. He showed his 30-year-old garden in spring through fall including hellebores and trilliums as well as lots of rhododendrons. He finished with an invitation to the club to visit in the late spring when the kalmia are in full bloom.



Harry Wright

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 9:30 pm
John England, President
Marilyn Dawson, Secretary

EVENTS

Presented by the Victoria Hardy Plant Group
Seasons in the Garden at Ashwood Nurseries
Speaker John Massey

DATE: Tuesday November 17, 2009 TIME: 7 PM
 VENUE: Salvation Army Citadel
 4030 Douglas, just north of Mackenzie Avenue.
 TICKETS: \$15 Available through all Dig This
 stores in the Greater Victoria area, as well as VHS
 and Hardy Plant Group regular meetings.
 Ashwood Nurseries specializes in Anemone
 Pavonina, Camellias, Conifers, Cyclamens,
 Hellebores, Hepaticas, Hydrangeas, Lewisias,
 Primula Auricular, Salvias and Snowdrops
www.ashwood@nurseries.co.uk.

Dan Hinkley, famed US West Coast plantsman, is
 quoted as recently writing: "Ashwood is a nursery I
 consider to be the best in existence today.
 Immaculate, talented, consumed, I always leave
 feeling horribly inadequate (suicidal is more
 appropriate) yet enormously grateful for the time
 and plants." FYI - The Salvation Army Citadel, the
 site of this year's Elizabeth England lecture, has
 very comfortable padded seating, and multitudes of
 free parking.

For further information, please contact
 Valerie Murray 250-592-2005
 murray@gmail.com
 Margaret Argue 250-472-0475
 margaret.argue@argusbioresources.ca

The Ultimate
Rhododendron Conference
April 9th-11th 2010

**Remember to register for this great event - check
 it out and get your registration forms on line.**

www.rhodos.ca



"Techies". Harry, Tony and Everett



Familiar Faces.



Fall in Buchart Gardens.

Members Corner



Everyone enjoying their home grown Tomatoes!!.



How do your Hydrangeas grow?



Flowers on a garlic chive.



Fall in the garden.

Terry's Tips

Our member Terry Richmond is once again sharing his expert advice.

- Prune both dead branches and those that may get winter damage.
- Treat with Epsom Salts any time of the year.
- Top mulch if required for winter protection, making sure to cover shallow roots.
- Water dry locations.



Ann's Garden

Editor's Corner

Fall is here and this one is very special with the beautiful gold and red colours with a great deal of sunshine. Sad to say it will not last and we will soon be in garden withdrawal. The good thing is that our backs and aching muscles are finally about to enjoy a well deserved rest. Our dreams and plans should help to keep us happy until we can once again get our fingers into the warm spring dirt.

Please send me some of those garden photos, stories, articles, sayings, experiences or special memories you had this last gardening season or at any other time. Sharing them with your fellow Mars members would help us through these next few months. I also thought it would be fun to include your favourite poetry lines, verses or short poems about Nature, West Coast, gardening or environment. I know you have some amazing or funny ones to share. If I don't use them right away they will go into the future pile of goodies.

Right now I am out of goodies, so, I am going to share my favourite poem with you.

Inversnaid
by Gerald Manley Hopkins (1844-1899)

This darksome burn, horseback brown,
His rollrock highroad roaring down,
In coop and in comb the fleece of his foam
Flutes and low to the lake falls home.

A windpuff-bonnet of fawn-fróth
Turns and twindles over the broth
Of a pool so pitchblack, féll-frówning,
It rounds and rounds Despair to drowning.

Degged with dew, dappled with dew
Are the groins of the braes that the brook treads
through,
Wiry heathpacks, fitches of fern,
And the beadbonny ash that sits over the burn.

What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.

I learned this one in school a couple of years ago. The poem was written by a Jesuit priest in Stirling Scotland, while he is telling us how beautiful this brook is he is also appalled at the excessive growth of towns. Stirling at that time had a population of about 200 people. What would he make of us today?

Now it is your turn!

Happy Thanksgiving



My fall Garden