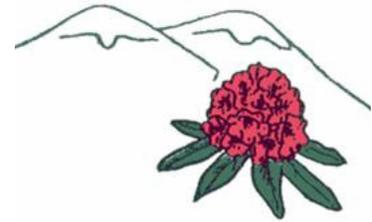


# THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH  
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**MARS  
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**Milner Gardens** John England

**Oceanside Plant** Barbara Kulla

**Program Chair** Ann DeBrincat

**PR** Marilyn Dawson

**Refreshments** Anne Gutsche

**Sunshine** Maria Bieberstein

**Truss Show** Al Bieberstein

**Ways & Means**

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November

### Speaker Harold Fearing

We're gettin' dirty!! Harold Fearing, president of the Fraser South ARS chapter and retired U.B.C. physicist, will be giving a demo and leading us through rhodo propagation. If you can, please bring a really clean pot, a few fresh rhodo cuttings (about 6 " stem???), labels and a clear plastic bag (to put the potted cuttings in for moisture retention). If you can't, we will have some for you to play with, although we won't guarantee there will be the varieties you've always wanted more of. This is going to be messy and fun!!

These little critters below are going to help us keep our plants healthy.



## MARS Meetings

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month  
7:30 pm

**Christmas Party**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**December**  
**5.30pm**



**Pot luck at the Rotary**  
**House , corner of Fern**  
**and Beach in**  
**Qualicum Beach.**

**More information next**  
**magazine.**

## Inside this Issue

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## President's message

Much has been written over the past five years about the demise the 'Garden Club', along with perhaps every other sort of social club. Here's a variety of reasons put forth to explain the decline in membership many clubs have experienced.

"A generational phenomenon - as with the absence of our younger homo sapiens in today's churches"

"Today's more recently retired couples wanting an instant garden complete with full maintenance. They don't want to learn how to maintain a garden!"

"I don't want to join any organization, just yet, I'm newly retired and savouring my time-off" and so on...

Whatever the reason, clubs all over North America are typically experiencing a decline in membership. In our own case, MARS has bucked that trend for the past two years - our membership has increased, albeit marginally.

So are you satisfied with the course we are steering presently? Does your club provide you with an inspirationally varied program? Is there sufficient stimulus to keep your interest in gardening alive? Do you have enough serious technical challenges, variety of topics, adequate social interaction, visits, tours, etc! Your executive needs to know the answers.

This month we have prepared a questionnaire with a number of topical questions for you to answer. Please give these questions serious thought and bring back your responses to the January 13th meeting. Hopefully, your answers will help your director's better design an annual program in synch with your wishes and create an even better MARS for the future.

See you all at the seed planting session with Harold Fearing on Thursday, 12 November.

John England

## EVENTS

### Milner Christmas Magic

Dec 4 - 6, Dec 11 - 13, Dec 17 - 21.

5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

A family oriented festival of lights and music in the Garden.

Admission by donation.

Santa will be here!

The Gardens will be lit up with thousands of Christmas lights. Musicians will entertain in the Milner House, decorated in old fashioned Christmas splendour. Guess the number of teddy bears in the gardener's cottage to win a prize or bid on silent auction items. Gift shops and tea room will be open. Although the Gardens are lit up we suggest you bring a flashlight.

Golf cart shuttle available for those with mobility issues.

### Mid Island Floral Art Club

Thursday November 12 at 2:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Church Hall, 150 Village Way,

Qualicum:

Workshop

"Corsages, Wristbands & Headbands"

by floral designers Ms. Merle Parsons and Margaret Norris Jones.

All welcome. Please sign up in advance because supplies will be provided in the \$5.00 workshop fee.



*R. macrophyllum* 5',-5F,M-L,2-3/2-3/2-3  
Grows wild in British Columbia through Northern California.

Photo by Walter Siegmund/ Wikimedia Commons.

## MARS General Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009

MEETING AT:

7:30 pm. at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Minutes of the general meeting appeared in the Rhodovine and were accepted without change.

GUESTS: Judy Millicheap, Rita Levitz and Betty Price

REFRESHMENTS: Ann Gutsche and Susan Lightburn

CORRESPONDENCE. Note from Hilda Pearce thanking MARS for the 20th Anniversary Party dinner and offering "special thanks to all those who worked to make it possible"

TRUSS SHOW: Chair Al Bieberstein said the committee is organized and working on the April 17 show.

GARDEN TOUR: In Linda Derkach's absence, Marilyn Dawson said she and Barbara Kulla have visited several gardens, but would welcome suggestions from members about great gardens in the area stretching from Pym to San Pariel. She said the committee is eager for more members to join. The Garden Tour is on Mother's Day weekend.

OCEANSIDE SALE: Marilyn Dawson said the sale at Coombs is slated for April 24 and 25 and encouraged members to dig up volunteer and unwanted plants from their gardens and pot them up.

WAYS AND MEANS: The door prize, R. Wax Bell was won by Tony Ansdell. Other prizes: R. Gretsels won by Al Bieberstein, R. Horizon Monarch won by Terry Richmond, R. Sunspray won by Judy Millicheap. R. luteum won by Wolfgang Ruff and R. Shrimp Girl won by Marilyn Dawson.

MEMBERSHIP: Ann Robertson reminded everyone that it was time to pay annual dues. She also welcomed one new member Nicola Lupton.

TREASURER: Tony Ansdell reported the dollar table brought in an unexpected \$51 and the raffle \$63 at the last meeting. MARS finances are in good shape going into the new season.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. In John England's absence, Vice President Ann DeBrincat chaired the meeting and reminded members that next month's meeting is on Thursday Nov. 12, because the Civic Centre is closed on Nov. 11. Same hour, same place different day.
2. The Christmas Party is slated for Dec. 9 at Rotary House at Fern and Beach Road. It's a potluck with the turkey supplied by Ann DeBrincat and Terry Richmond. Maria Bieberstein asked for ideas from the floor. Hearing none, she said members were urged to bring something for the food bank as well as a gift in the \$5-10 range.
3. Terry Richmond said he noticed that Dinter Nursery in Duncan has a great selection of rhodos in for the fall planting and late October is the best time for that. Ann Robertson noted that Arrowsmith Greenhouses locally has their fall order in too. Dinter is at 2205 Phipps Rd in Duncan.

GUEST SPEAKER: Tom Carter, who takes tourists on treks in Asia, gave a fascinating presentation. Called Rhododendron Trekking in Nepal, it was more travelogue than botanical lecture with magnificent scenery including the famous Mount Annapurna. Mr. Carter made his first visit to Nepal in the early 1990s and has gone back many times since, varying his itinerary to suit his clients.

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

## Editors's Request.

**“Don't forget that this is your magazine and we would like and need you to share your stories, articles and photos to make it interesting and a success.” Ann (Editor)**

## Editor's Corner



The clocks have changed back to daylight savings. The weather is cooler and my friend is back snacking on the fish in my pond. (This is Last year's photo.) The raccoons are laughing from the top of my fence at the dog. Life is good.

My apologies to Everett and Dave on page 4 of the October Rhodovine. The picture of the techies should read Tony, Harry and Dave Godfrey (Courtney)

### Ken Gibson's Garden in Tofino. February 2005

#### **R. protistum**

6', 20' F, VE, 3/3-4/3

Grande Plant spectacular large leaved, tree like shrub with foliage that reaches a size 18" X 9" covered with a greyish yellow undementum. Trusses are beautiful large holding 20-30 flowers each. Flowers are 2" long, tubular bell shaped, creamy white blushed rose.

Information from  
Greer's Guidebook of Available Rhododendrons  
by Harold Greer

