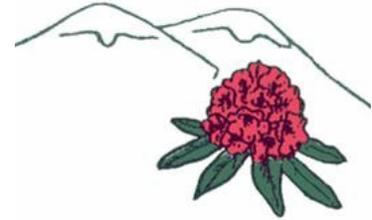


# THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH  
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**MARS**  
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**PR** Marilyn Dawson  
**Refreshments** Anne Gutsche  
**Sunshine** Maria Bieberstein  
**Truss Show** Al Bieberstein  
**Ways & Means** Don Bridgen

## **Bronze Medal Recipients Judy and Ron McMaster**

The American Rhododendron Society's Bronze Medal, the highest award a chapter can bestow upon its members was awarded this past month to Ron and Judy McMaster. The committee of Jim Greig, Maria Bieberstein and Terry Richmond, all holders of the coveted medal, made the selection after careful deliberation. It was presented at the annual Christmas party by MARS President John England.

The framed medal read: "The ARS Bronze Medal, our highest award for chapter members, is a fitting honor for Ron and Judy McMaster, who have worked diligently for the Mount Arrowsmith Chapter for many years. Ron has served on the executive in many capacities including President and represented the island as District Alternate Director. As well, he has been active in many fund-raising events. Judy served on the executive for several years and worked on many committees, including the Truss Show and the annual Garden Tour. Both have willingly taken on any chores they were asked to do. Ron and Judy have also hosted speakers, opened their beautiful seaside home to MARS garden tours and on many occasions welcomed chapter members to windup parties. MARS salutes you!"

## MARS Meetings

**Qualicum Beach Civic Centre**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday monthly**  
**7:30 pm**

## Next Meeting

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

January on Vancouver Island: at least if it is dismal, grey and rainy we don't have to shovel stuff. Highway conditions permitting, Bill McMillan from Victoria will take us to New Zealand for the evening. He went to a rhodo conference there in 2004 and toured around the rest of the country. Should the Malahat get too slippery, our next option is a combo presentation. Sallie Dabb can talk about terminator seeds (Monsanto custom seeds) and Joy Smith can get us scheming about Seedy Saturday (yes, only a month away!).

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## President's message

One of the more memorable 'watering holes' that we visited during our wonderful Australia trip in 2008 was Duke's Vineyard in the ever so tiny village of Porongurup, located in the extreme south-west corner of Western Australia, beneath the Porongurup Mountains. As a result of this short wine tasting session we were added to the customer list and now receive the 'Newsletter' from Duke's! Here's the opener in his Christmas 09 edition...

"Can you believe that we are about to enter the tenth year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Do you have your terminology ready for the next 10 years, the Teens Years? Will it be 'Twenty-Ten?' 'Oh-Ten?'...are you ready for the next decade." All of which depends upon which 'millenium school' you adhere to - ie, when did you celebrate the arrival of the new millenium?.. but let that pass. Question is still valid though, are you ready for the coming decade?

By the time that you read the January Rhodovine your executive committee will have already had their first meeting for 2010. High on the 'to do' list of items for them to consider is the high turnover of executive positions that it will be necessary to fill in 2010. This results from extensions to terms of office on the one hand and unscheduled resignations on the other. MARS does not run by magic! Supporting the smooth operation of the club is in everybody's interest; please give serious consideration to this advanced notification. We will be asking MARS members to step up to the plate and volunteer for the following executive positions-

Four directors( 2 year terms)- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Rhodovine Editor/ Membership.

One Director at Large (1 year term).

Together we must ensure that MARS remains the focus for rhododendron learning and dissemination, a hub for social interaction and a meaningful entity within the communities of Oceanside.

Don't forget the 2009 Survey that we distributed to you in November. Please bring the completed survey to the January meeting.

The Executive joins me in wishing you all a happy New Year and good health in oh-ten, twenty-ten, 2010...

See you at the 13 Jan meeting. John

## Bronze medalists



Ron and Judy McMaster



Ron, Judy and John

## Christmas Party

The evening was mild, not a snowflake in sight, as MARS kicked off its annual Christmas Party on Dec. 9. The tables were set, decked out with Christmas centerpieces made the day before by Maria Bieberstein and her elves, aka Barbara Kulla and Marilyn Dawson. The raffle table was full of goodies including two beautiful arrangements made by Skip Cockburn and in no time the gift table was loaded with brightly colored parcels. And underneath the appy table, the pile for the food bank kept growing. MARS was in a very generous mood.

Festive would be a better word. So festive that it was difficult to get some tables moving toward the main meal, an indication that the appy table was a great success. Dinner, as usual, was scrumptious. Ann DeBrincat's turkey was provided ready to eat by Terry and Verna Richmond, complete with dressing and gravy. John and Arlene England brought ham and Linda Derkach provided a mountain of wonderful mashed potatoes.

That was only the beginning. The side table was groaning with salads and vegetables, so enticing that many went back for seconds. Meanwhile, Christmas music and popular tunes sounded in the background, courtesy of George Despina, who was joined much later by wife Gwen, after her choir practice, to add to the sing-along.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation by President John England of the ARS Bronze Medal to Ron and Judy McMaster for their contribution to the chapter in many capacities. Ron worked his way up to be President for two years and he and Judy have been on many committees over the past decade. In thanking everyone, Ron said he hoped in the future to be more active. At the moment work is demanding much of his time.

The evening wound up with the usual gift exchange and re-exchange, always a hilarious event. Some of the prettiest or most interesting wrapped gifts go round and around. One tubular parcel had a lot of people guessing what it could be. A poster, perhaps, or maybe a calendar! Nope! When it was finally claimed, out tumbled golf balls, to everyone's amusement.

Maria Bieberstein thanked all her elves for the setup in the afternoon, including Barbara, Marilyn, Cassie Lacoupee, Ann Robertson, John and Arlene.

After a great party there's always the cleanup. This year it was wonderful how everyone pitched in, clearing tables, loading dishwashers, folding tables and putting them back in the closet and sweeping up. Rotary House rules ask that all dishes be put away clean and trash set outside. With so much help cleanup was a breeze.



Opening remarks from our president sitting with him are Brenda and Arlene.



**Brenda, Mary and Tony awaiting dinner.**



**Cassie and Kay**



**More hungry friends Barbara, Shirley, Marilyn  
Linda**



**Marie and Anne**



**Looking through the kitchen hatch at our  
president John and his wife Arlene enjoying the  
fun.**



**Gift exchange table, they all look soooo interesting.**



**Music maker George**



**The girls Ruth and Joyce and  
their boys Tony and Bert**



**Yummy desserts for Marie and Brenda**



**Doug getting a well deserved mug of coffee**

Marie handing out the prizes and Anne with hers?



These guys Tony, Jim and Bert decided that they needed to enjoy Arlene's shawl.



**Bill with his MARS wine glass prize.**



**Linda with her prize**



**Judy with her prize that Skip had made**



**Brenda with the most coveted mystery exchange gift of the evening—used golf Balls.**

**By popular demand,  
Brussels Sprouts and Apple Salad  
( Adapted from Gourmet, probably)**

**1.5 lb Brussels sprouts, quartered  
1/4 cup sherry vinegar or  
2 tbs wine vinegar & 2 tbs dry sherry**

**3 Tbs mayonnaise**

**1 cup olive oil (rapeseed works too)**

**5 red-skinned apples, quartered, cored in  
1/2-inch dice**

**1/2 cup chopped celery leaves**

**1 cups crumbled blue cheese**

**1 cups walnuts, toasted, coarsely chopped**

**1/2 cup dried cranberries**

**Steam sprouts in batches until just tender,  
about 6 minutes. Transfer to bowl and ice down.  
Drain and transfer to large bowl.**

**Mix vinegar and mayo in small bowl.  
Gradually mix in oil. Season with salt and  
pepper. (Sprouts and dressing can be made a day  
ahead. Cover and chill separately.)**

**Add apples and celery leaves to sprouts. Add  
dressing, (you won't need all of it) and toss. Mix  
in cheese and walnuts. Season to taste.**

**NB: This recipe serves about 16 as a side  
dish. I used gala apples, because the skins tend  
to be less leathery than other varieties. The  
original recipe called for a lot more cheese, and  
nuts, so feel free to fiddle with the ingredients.  
Next time, I'll use fewer nuts and maybe a tad  
more cranberries. Marilyn Dawson**

## EVENTS

### The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference.

**April 9 – 11, 2010**

University of BC Botanical Garden

Registration is limited to 100 rhodophiles and over 50% of available spaces are now taken. Level 2 classes are filling up especially quickly. Please register now to ensure that you get the learning level you want. If you need hotel accommodation, make your reservation soon because the conference committee has not pre-booked any blocks of rooms in the three recommended hotels. Conference details and a printable registration form may be obtained from the ARS District 1 website:  
[www.rhodos.ca](http://www.rhodos.ca)

### Seedy Saturday

**6th February 2010. 10:00am to 3:30pm**

**MARS is hosting a table to promote our club and Rhododendrons.**

**We are looking for volunteers to spend an hour or two throughout the day. Let one of the executive know if you are able to give some of your time. It will be a busy time for us all as many of the local garden clubs and nurseries including master gardeners will be represented. So make sure you leave time to enjoy this day.**

Also the Seedy Saturday Committee is looking for volunteers to help out at the next Seedy Saturday.

Please respond to Louise Cotterill  
[lcotterill@shaw.ca](mailto:lcotterill@shaw.ca)

### The Outdoor Living Extravaganza

by Proven Winners® is coming to Minter Gardens March 26 and 27 in 2010. This great consumer event is a retreat and seminar with Proven Winners® where you will be able to learn from the Proven Winners® experts about creative new ways to use colour, the easiest ways to grow plant varieties, how to put together exceptional containers, and much more. Speakers include P. Allen Smith (The Today Show's gardening expert), Brian Minter (Minter Gardens), Ingrid Hoff (UBC Botanical Gardens), and John Gaydos (Proven Winners®). In addition to these great speakers, all attendees will be treated to a goody bag of exciting gifts including a plant, a delicious lunch, beverages, and snacks, and plenty of chances to win great prizes. This is an event that you surely don't want to miss!

Tickets are \$85 USD per person, include a catered luncheon and are good for one day. If you buy your ticket prior to January 2010 you get a discount of \$10 per ticket. The event runs each day from 9am - 3pm. You can purchase your tickets online from Proven Winners® and the first 100 to register with Proven Winners® prior to the New Year will receive a FREE 2010 Proven Winners® calendar. Remember space is limited so make sure to register early!

For more information and to purchase tickets to this exciting event visit:

[http://www.provenwinners.com/ce\\_index.cfm?OLES2010](http://www.provenwinners.com/ce_index.cfm?OLES2010)

### Editor's Corner

Here we are again with another New Year full of surprises. May they all be good health and happiness for you all.