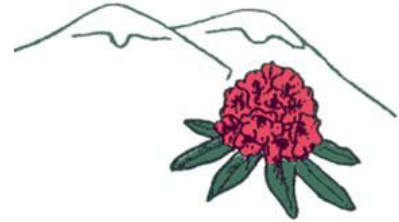


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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Milner Gardens John England

Plant Sale Barbara Kulla

Program Chair Ann DeBrincat

PR Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments Anne Gutsche

Sunshine Judy McMaster

Tickets Sandra Hemsworth

Truss Show

Ways & Means Don Bridgen

This Month

Wednesday, October 13

Garth Wedemire, a member of the Fraser Valley Rhododendron Society, will be our October speaker. An avid traveler and photographer, Garth has visited MARS in the past and has many friends here.

The title of Garth's presentation is

To MARS and Back

reflecting on a Garden Tour exchange between the Peace Arch Chapter and our club.

This should be a great show!



Rhododendron 'May Day'

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

13th October 2010



Rhododendron 'Nancy Evans'

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Lewisia cotyledon in a dish.

President's Message

As I said at the last meeting, Ann Robertson has had to leave us. Anne has done great service to the club as Registrar, Newsletter editor, Chairperson of the Truss Show and Sale to mention just a few of her past jobs. Ann will be missed. She had planned on being the President of MARS starting this year, but has had to resign. Apparently directing the club from Ontario where she plans to move to be closer to family is not an option. As a result I have moved into the post of President. I will do my best to serve the club as well as I can

New Lap Top Computer

As I announced at the last meeting, it has been decided that the club needs a Laptop for tracking the Club's financial affairs and for showing the Power Point slides of speakers. The Laptop has arrived and will be in the care of our new Treasurer, Bert Harding.

Reward for Increase in Membership

About a year ago, a challenge was issued to all chapters of the American Rhododendron society that, if they could increase their membership by 10% in the year ended August 31, 2010, they would receive a flat of rhododendrons from Biggs Nurseries in Washington.

We did achieve the necessary increase in membership, so we have now received a shipment of Rhododendrons from Biggs. We will be ready to announce what we will do with them at the next meeting. Suggestions are always welcome. Contact me at the email address below

Key Volunteers Needed Urgently

The two most important fund raisers for the club are the Truss Show and Sale, and the MARS Garden tour. We usually find we have plenty of willing volunteers to do the many jobs necessary to run each of these events. What we need for each is an organizer, someone to oversee the preparation of the event and make sure that all the jobs get done and complement each other. We have several people who have done this job many times in the past and will be happy to help and guide a new person. If you feel you can help in this capacity, please contact me at ansdella@shaw.ca.

Tony Ansdell

Ask an Expert.....

Terry Richmond fields a question from a plant-a-holic who can't resist buying something new.....

Question:

My friend and I picked up several rhodies in one gallon pots last week. So what should we do with them now....should we plant...or pot upor keep over winter??

Answer:

Hardy Rhododendrons and azaleas should go into the ground right away. So.....we should only purchase plants that we have room for – that can go into the ground soon after they are brought home. Plants that sit around in small pots will start to decline.

Fall is the best time to plant rhododendrons. They will settle in and get growing without the dangers that come with a hot, dry summer. Fertilizing is not necessary now. It is just critical to have good soil with good compost and fine bark mulch. Worm castings mixed in the soil is very beneficial.

Some rhododendrons can do well in a large half barrel with very well-drained soil – lots of bark mulch. Make sure that the soil can't become water-logged. Dwarf rhodies can be grown in half barrels all their lives. Other pots can be used such as large clay pots, wood or hypertufa – but not black or dark green. Dark pots heat up too quickly. Plants kept in black pots during the summer may die due to roots being over-heated.

Keep your rhodies out of the wind. Wind is very hard on rhododendrons – it dessicates and destroys the leaves. Big-leafed rhodies are most susceptible to wind damage.

Finally, check the cold hardiness of your plants. Any plant that won't take -15 degrees Celsius should be protected if in the ground or go into a greenhouse or garage with light when the thermometer dips.

Five Favourites...

With this issue, we begin a new feature – taking a virtual tour of a fellow Martian's garden and admiring their five favourite rhododendrons and why they are so special.

This time, we visit the garden of Jim and Ellen Rothwell in Qualicum Beach.



1. *R.* 'Biskra' x 'Conroy' – lovely, scented foliage with an elegant orange/yellow tubular flower.



2. *R.* 'Blue Boy' is long-blooming and reliable with a terrific purple blotch.



3. *R.* 'Nancy Evans' is a lovely two-toned orange with some September flowers



4. *R.* 'Mood Indigo' x *augustinii* – This is a very early blooming mauve shrub now 7 feet tall.



R. 'Cherry Float' - spectacular, brilliant pink

Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society Meeting Minutes

General Meeting held at the Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach, September 8, 2010 at 7:30 pm

MINUTES of the May meeting were approved as published in the Rhodovine.

Refreshments: Provided by Ann Gutsche

BUSINESS ARISING: 1. Tony Ansdell opened the meeting with the announcement that Ann Robertson who had been acclaimed President last May had just resigned. She plans to return to Ontario where she has bought a home to be closer to family. As he was Vice President, Tony has been approved as the new President by the Executive. He said the Executive had also voted in Bert Harding to replace him as Treasurer. The Vice-President spot is still vacant; all other positions are unchanged.

2. The Executive has approved the purchase of a laptop and necessary software for the Treasurer to cost in the \$600-\$700 range, but no more than \$1,000. On a point of order, Terry Richmond questioned whether this was allowed under the Constitution, but was assured the Executive can spend up to \$1,000 before going to the membership.

3. MARS will return \$1,500 in grant money to the ARS because Milner Gardens and Woodland will not be able to undertake building the propagation greenhouse in the near future due to huge expenditures that are needed for erosion control.

4. Tony said MARS will need Chairpersons for both the Truss Show and the Garden Tour. The Truss Show, now known as the Rhodo Show and Sale, will be on April 16, 2011 at the Parksville Curling Club. The Garden Tour is on Mother's Day Weekend, May 7 and 8, 2011.

5. The annual Christmas Party will be Dec. 1 at Rotary Hall on Fern in Qualicum Beach - same place as last year.

CORRESPONDENCE: B.C. Council of Gardens Journal, summer issue has arrived. A request comes from the Chamber of Commerce for a donation to their silent auction on Gala night. MARS promised four tickets. There was also a fall plant sale catalogue from the Rhododendron Species Garden in Washington.

MEMBERSHIP: Linda Derkach reported three new members were just added to the roster. She reminded the audience that membership for the current year was now due and must reach the ARS

by Dec. 1. As Editor of the Newsletter, she reported that a news committee has been formed, including Terry Richmond and Joan Rich. As well, a new feature will ask members to name their five favourite rhodos, and another will try to answer questions about plants from members.

TREASURER: Tony Ansdell gave his last financial summary, reporting a healthy balance, and explaining that new CIBC fees had forced a change of bank accounts to Coastal Community Credit Union. The credit union has no such fees for organizations such as MARS.

PROGRAM: Ann DeBrincat said Garth Wedemire is expected in October, and Ron Knight will talk about rhodos and digital photography at the November meeting. Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Garden in Washington is on the agenda for January. She noted that an earlier speaker, Bill Bischoff, had donated cyclamen seeds and they are available for \$2 a packet.

WAYS AND MEANS: Don Bridgen outlined the raffle prizes: *R. 'President Roosevelt'*, *R. 'White Gold'*, *R. 'Annah Kruschke'* and *Paulownia tomentosa*. Gillian Walker won the door prize; other winners were Sandra Hemsworth, John De Boer, and Kay Burgoyne.

GUEST SPEAKER: Long-time member and former president, Glen Jamieson, gave an entertaining presentation of his trips to South America. It was a wide-ranging journey over challenging hiking trails, through native villages and their colourful markets. There were lessons on history, geography and biology as Glen showed once again that even dining on beetle grubs and other delicacies is not too much to ask of the intrepid traveller. After treks through parts of Ecuador and Peru, the presentation ended in the Galapagos with a close-up look at the area's famed creatures. Meeting adjourned at 9:50

A SEEDY SITUATION

There was a miss-communication at the general meeting in September when members thought all the **cyclamen** seeds had been sold. **Ann DeBrincat still has several packets of seeds** that Bill Bischoff from Fraser South donated and she will have them for sale at the October meeting. If you don't see them on the dollar table, check with Ann. Still \$2 a packet.

Three New DVDs from the ARS Program Library

The following 3 new DVDs have been added to the program library at the ARS. An order form is available.

1. **“A Spring Walk in Walters’ Woods”** is a personal tour with Spike and Kay Walters in their natural woodland garden in Western Pennsylvania. This DVD is spiked with humor and interesting observations by Spike, who narrated and conducted the tour with Kay. The Walters are members of the Great Lakes Chapter. Running time 29 minutes.

2. **“Nepal: Our Ultimate Rhodo Flowering Experience!”** This DVD was developed via the internet with Ian Chalk from down under. Ian is a member of the Emu Valley Rhododendron Society and the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia. Ian and his wife Jenny share their experiences while trekking through the world’s largest rhododendron forest in Nepal. Ian narrates with insight and personal impressions. Summing this up is WOW! Running time 21 minutes.

3. **“Oban, Scotland ARS 1996 Convention Revisited”** Win and Anne Howe, of the Valley Forge Chapter, take us back to an extraordinary convention which attracted hundreds of attendees from all over the world. This is one of the best photo-documented garden tours: Stonefield Castle, Achamore House, Ardkinglas Woodland Garden, Mount Stuart House, Stirling Castle. After the convention Win takes us on a tour of Glendoick Gardens and Nursery, home of Peter and Kenneth Cox. All this in one DVD. Running time 36 minutes.

**Important Reminder....
Please bring \$30 to re-new
your membership in MARS for
2011.**

Victoria Flower Arrangers Guild
Presents

Christmas Floral Fantasy

Friday, November 5 - 12 noon- 8 pm
Saturday, November 6 – 10 am – 5 pm

Featuring

- Fabulous Floral Displays
- Free Demonstrations –
Friday – 1 pm, 3 pm, 6 pm
Saturday – 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm
- Floral Design Supplies and Materials for Sale
- Tea and Coffee Room

Admission - \$6.00
Relax and enjoy refreshments
in our Tea Room
Plate of “Goodies” - \$5.00

Cadboro Bay United Church Hall
2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria



Rhododendron 'Lem's Cameo'

Propagation Workshop Set to go in Victoria

The date is official now – October 30.

The Victoria Propagating Group is a very successful monthly group that has about 25 active members. We will be holding a hands-on propagating seminar on Saturday, October 30.

We plan to start around 10 am to let people from up island and the mainland get here. We have a full day planned with an early group dinner so everyone can still get home that evening. We will discuss all types of propagating with a very loose agenda so we can go just where participants lead us.

Many members of our club will be on hand to offer their views about cuttings, seeds and alternative methods of propagation. We will have a hands-on session in the garden propagator where all attendees will be able to bring their own cuttings and stick them in the propagator. Hopefully some of their own “babies” will have roots next spring. There will be several lectures about seeds, cuttings and nurse grafting, etc.

You should bring warm and waterproof clothes as we will be working in the garden. A nominal fee will be charged for lunch so that we can continue the excitement through the day.

Due to room constraints, we may have to limit the number of attendees – so first come, first served. Please contact Ken or Madeleine Webb at kenwebb@live.ca or 250-744-1785.

WHO WANTS LEFTOVERS?

Marilyn Dawson still has leftovers from the windup potluck, including a yellow tray, one blue and white tea towel and a large serving spoon. She also has a wine glass marked with an Olympic torch from the Garden Tour pot luck in May. Please email or call her, if you recognize any of these items.



Nerine bowdenii in a Victoria late-summer garden.



Clematis maximowicziana
(Sweet Autumn Clematis) is blooming now.

This is your Newsletter..

Please email me and let me know what you would like to see in the newsletter...or send me articles you would like to share with your fellow Martians.

lindaderkach@shaw.ca

Garden Journal

From your Newsletter Editor....

As the sun blasts through my windows, I am hurrying to finish the newsletter so I can go outside and do some autumn gardening jobs.

I have already dug up and moved *Rhododendron* 'Bruce Brechtbill' who refused to bloom for me (too much shade). He is going to my daughter's North Vancouver garden for some sunshine....and I know he will be very happy there.

Although my small garden has more than its share of large rhodies, slowly I am introducing some dwarf varieties that are better suited to my limited space. *Rhododendron* 'Blue Diamond' and *R.* 'Pink Drift' will be getting more prominent homes, and *R.* 'Ptarmigan' has come along well, earning a prime spot.

In the vegetable garden, clean-up is well underway. Raised vegetable beds will soon get a cozy and nutritious blanket of seaweed, chopped leaves and compost to encourage and sustain all the beneficial organisms that hunker down through the winter.

And it is now time to pick the remainder of the tomatoes....think I'll make some Bruschetta for a taste treat tonight!!



Hardy Geraniums bloom all summer and into Fall and make a great companion for rhododendrons.



Farewell, Ann...

When this photo was taken at our Wind-up Pot Luck Party in June, little did we know it would also be a farewell for Ann Robertson who has contributed significantly to many activities of MARS. Ann is moving back to Ontario to be closer to family....and to no doubt create a garden with much hardier plants than we enjoy here. Whatever she puts in her garden, we are sure it will be as creative and packed with interesting plants as her garden on Schley. Good luck, Ann - Many thanks from your fellow Martians!!