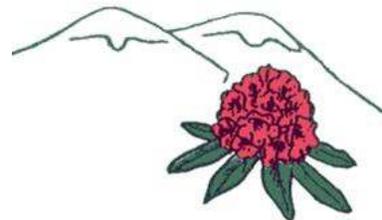


# THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH

MARS

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 342

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Qualicum Beach. BC

JANUARY 2013

## 2012/2013 Executive

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**Bursary** – Tony Ansdell

### Christmas Party

**Dollar Table** - Cassy LaCouvee

**Newsletter Editor** - Linda Derkach

### Garden Tour –

**Greeter** - Velda Rhodes

**Historian** - Cassy Lacouvee

**Library** – Donna deBoer

**Meeting Coordinator**- Tony Ansdell

**Membership** – Bert Harding

**Milner Gardens** - John England

**Plant Sale** – Marilyn Dawson

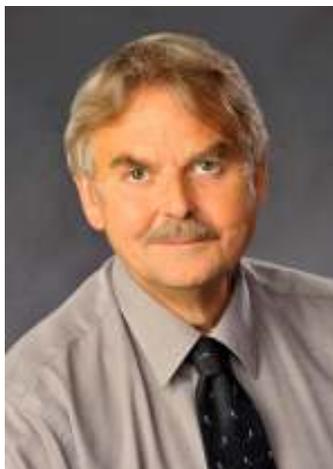
**Program Chair** - Ann DeBrincat

**PR** - Marilyn Dawson

**Refreshments** - Anne Gutsche

**Sunshine** – Maria Bieberstein

## THIS MONTH:



### Brian Minter

### 7 pm Plant Sale

### 7:30 Presentation

Brian is known for his enthusiastic and information-packed presentations - this time...

### "Taking Your Garden to the Next Level"

Brian will bring a selection of the latest and best plants for our gardens, many of which are good companions for rhododendrons. Bring your friends and neighbours to this inspiring event in these dark days of January!!

We are assured the information will be new and different from his October presentation in Qualicum.

Public is most welcome!

Non-members - \$5

## MARS Meetings

Qualicum Beach

Civic Centre

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 7:30 pm

### Next Meeting

Wednesday,

January 9, 2013

7 pm Plant Sale

7:30 Brian Speaks



Our John England – long-time MARS member and volunteer received the ARS Bronze Medal at our Christmas Party.

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## From Your President...

A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year to all MARS Members - I hope you all had a Merry Christmas with family and friends.

To all new members: "Welcome to MARS." I hope you will find your membership informative and entertaining, adding to your list of good friends. I am pleased to tell you that the vast majority of members have renewed their membership for 2013 so I am looking forward to well-attended meetings again this year.

The annual Christmas party was a success again this year. We had more attendees than last year and a good time was had by all. We were able to make donations of food to the Salvation Army and money to the SOS from collections at the party. A great big THANK YOU to all who were involved in organizing this party and providing for the food.

**During the party a well- deserved Bronze Medal was awarded to John England to recognize his contributions to the club over the last many years.**

The 2013 MARS year begins with a bang on January 9 with a presentation by Brian Minter, the famous radio and television personality, author and owner of a well-known garden store. I hope to see you all there and don't forget to tell your friends and acquaintances - and anyone you meet who is interested in gardening - about this major event.

Thanks to Ann DeBrincat, we have an excellent selection of speakers, and a panel discussion, planned for the first half of the year.

I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings in the coming year.

Tony

The Editors reserve the right to edit submissions to the newsletter for purposes of consistency, clarity and space restrictions.

## MARS Programs in 2013...

**January 9 - Brian Minter**

❖ **Taking Your Garden to the Next Level**

**February 13 - Dick Beamish**

❖ **Nanaimo Seaside Garden**

**March 13 - Expert Panel**

❖ **The Rhodie Calendar: Care of Rhododendrons Through the Seasons**

**April 10 - Verna & Bob Duncan**

❖ **Pushing the Hardiness Limits: Fruit Trees and Sub-tropicals**

**May 8**

❖ **Yet to be confirmed**

**June**

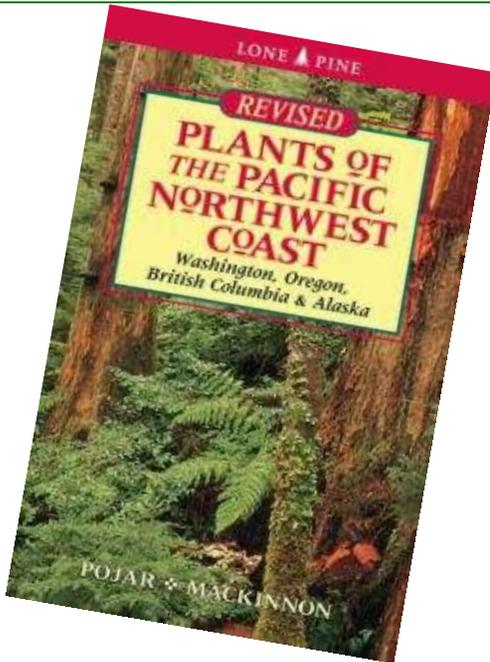
❖ **MARS Wind-up Party**



Our Marilyn Dawson, slaving in the kitchen, helped to make our annual Christmas Party a great success!! Thanks to Marilyn, Maria, Barbara and everyone who worked so we could all have fun!

Nanoose  
Naturalists

present  
**Andy  
MacKinnon**



co-author of

**Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast**

**TOPIC:** Alpine Plants of British Columbia

**MEETING:** February 14, 2013 at 7pm

**PLACE:** Nanoose Library Centre  
(Corner of NW Bay Road & Nanoose Road)

**Andy will talk about his latest book due out in  
March -**

**Alpine Plants of BC**

**ADMISSION:** By donation



*Looking Forward to.....  
Early Blooming Rhododendrons*



*Rhododendron 'Androcles'* in Milner Gardens in April



*Rhododendron fulvum* – mid-April at Milner



*Rhododendron 'Isola Bella'* .... blooming mid-March in my garden

# ***MARS Christmas Party a Blast!!***

The turkey and ham were plentiful, the mashed potatoes a creamy delight, veggies were healthy and delicious, and desserts enough to satisfy the sweetest tooth - judging by the food alone, our annual Christmas party was a resounding success.

Once again, our goofy but fun gift exchange elicited much laughter. And to cap off the evening, those of us who love to sing at least once a year belted out more than a few Christmas favourites at the sing-along. Raffle proceeds and food donations went to the Food Bank.

Special thanks go to the "party elves" who set aside their own pre-Christmas responsibilities to help make this a great party for us all.....Maria Bieberstein, Marilyn Dawson, Cassie Lacoupee, Barbara Kulla, Vic and Nancy Vickers, Bert Harding, Kathy and Art Jones, Joanne Hamilton, Sandra Hemsworth and Verna Richmond....and to everyone who stayed to clean up!!



Arlene England and George Gutsche in their Christmas best.....love the tie, George!



Gorgeous gift-wrapping disguised amazing and creative gifts....



Three revellers we all know....Ruth Harding, Joyce Ansdell and Nancy Vickers....

Text and Photos: Linda Derkach



They say....."Eat, drink and be merry" ..... and it appears that much of that was happening!!

# ARS CONVENTION 2013

## Thursday, May 2 - Sunday, May 5

Hosted by District 3  
The Pacific Northwest - USA

The Convention will be held near **Seattle Tacoma** Airport, an ideal central location for regional garden tours, sightseeing and travel before, during, and after the Convention. We encourage all members to put May 2-5 on their calendars and begin planning to be with us for a fun and social event.

Our headquarters hotel will be the newly renovated **SeaTac Marriott** one block east of the airport and rapid transit station with wonderful convention accommodations and a very attractive \$99 per night rate !!

The **plant and book sales** will feature the best of our Northwest plants - both hybrids and species - and will be accompanied with a **truss and photography show**.

**Outstanding speakers** will conduct two half days of seminars and we plan a series of "hands-on" **demonstrations/participation experiences**.

Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2 (before tours, etc.) thus allowing Board members to enjoy the full Convention.

**Key events** include welcoming reception/ heavy appetizers, one full-day tour (covering gardens/sights to the North & South of the hotel), as well as half-day tours. Why not include a family member (son/daughter or grandkids) or plant enthusiast to accompany you thus experiencing the camaraderie

and sights and sounds of this fabulous area?!!

**Accessible attractions** in the area include the new LeMay Car Museum, Museum of Glass, Museum of Flight, Experimental Music Museum, the new Chihuly Glass Center and the Pike Place Farmers Market (home of the flying fish you might have seen on TV).

We hope you can join us and we look forward to seeing you in SeaTac!

For more information please visit...

[www.olympiachapterars.org](http://www.olympiachapterars.org)  
**Connie Klein - cklein@q.com**  
**Fred Whitney - fredwhitney1@comcast.net**

## Mark Your Calendar...

**MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale**  
Saturday, April 27, 2013  
Parksville Curling Club

**ARS Convention 2013**  
Near Seattle/Tacoma Airport  
Thursday, May 2 - Sunday, May 5, 2013

**MARS Spring Fling Plant Sale**  
Saturday, May 4, 2013

**MARS Mothers' Day Weekend Garden Tour**  
May 11 and 12, 2013

# Garden Journal

Linda Derkach, Newsletter Editor

I love Christmastime for the bright lights that bring cheer to these seemingly endless, dreary days of winter. But even on these very short, gray days many plants quietly brave the cold, wind, rain, sleet or snow to bring colour and light to our gardens.

My favourite is *Helleborus niger* which I have grown for years – and was grown by my mother in our Victoria garden 60 years ago. Much hybridization of hellebores has occurred since then, bringing us *Helleborus niger* 'HGC Josef Lemper' – an extraordinarily robust hellebore with pure white, very large flowers that face outward and bloom from early December to spring. This lovely Christmas Rose has been blooming in my garden for over a month already, and still has many more blooms to open. Even on the darkest days, the white blossoms glow – surprising more than one Christmas visitor.



*Helleborus niger* 'HGC Josef Lemper'

New to my garden last winter is the dwarf *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Little Honey' that is grown for its chartreuse leaf colour – great for part-shade or where you need some contrast – and a great companion for rhododendrons. Last winter, a large plop of snow landed on my precious plant and decimated it. But there was a small sign of life, so it was moved to a less hazardous spot, and has recovered amazingly well. Even now, on the last

day of the year, it proudly shows off its oak-leaf finery...and I wonder if the leaves will ever turn bronze and drop before spring returns!!



*Viburnum bodnantense* 'Pink Dawn' continues to amaze after many years – here perfuming the garden with its lovely fragrant blossoms – long before the leaves appear.



On a calm winter's day, when I need a break from the stuffiness of indoors, I love to walk around my garden – count the swelling rhododendron buds with their springtime promise – and delight in these modest winter bloomers that always surprise and amaze. Best Wishes to you all for an enjoyable gardening year ahead!!