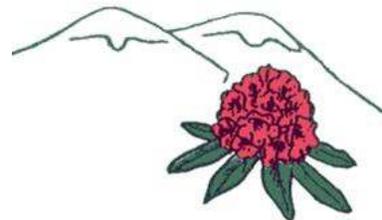


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH

MARS

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 342

Qualicum Beach. BC

Volume 25, Issue 2

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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:

Dick Beamish

My Nanaimo

Seaside Garden

At the Fall ARS Conference in Nanaimo, some of us were lucky enough to enjoy a tour of the garden of Dick and Anne Beamish.

At our February meeting, Dick will present some of his fabulous plants in full bloom!



Rhododendron falconeri was elegant and robust in October in the Beamish garden.

MARS Meetings

Qualicum Beach

Civic Centre

2nd Wednesday of the month 7:30 pm

Next Meeting

Wednesday,

February 13, 2013



It's January, but a huge crowd of enthusiastic gardeners got fired up – ready to "Take their Gardens to the Next Level" - after Brian Minter's visit to Qualicum Beach for our MARS January meeting!!

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From Your President...

We had a highly successful meeting on January 9th when we hosted Brian Minter who gave a presentation on "Taking your Garden to the next Level." His presentation included information and recommendations on many plants, including companion plants for Rhododendrons. He also included some philosophy on new approaches to your garden and all this was delivered with a touch of humour which kept the evening light. Altogether - an excellent evening. More information can be found on page five of this newsletter.

In three months we will be starting a very busy three weeks with the Truss Show, Spring Fling and Garden Tour. Planning for these events is already underway in the capable hands of Glen Jamieson, Marilyn Dawson/Maria Bieberstein and Kathy Loyer/Linda Derkach. As in the past, these folks will be looking for volunteers to help to make these events as good as they have been before.

Tony

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

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

MARS Programs in 2013....

February 13 - Dick Beamish

- ❖ Nanaimo Seaside Garden

March 20 - Expert Panel

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

April 10 - Verna & Bob Duncan

- ❖ Pushing the Hardiness Limits: Fruit Trees and Subtropicals

May 8

- ❖ Yet to be confirmed

June

- ❖ MARS Wind-up Party

Thinking of Donating to the ARS.....????

Here's an idea..... voluntary for sure

Recently, you would have received a donation request from the ARS President asking for help to cover the budget shortfall. If you are inclined to make a donation, you may do so at our meeting in February. Our Treasurer will collect any donations to the ARS and send as a lump sum from MARS....thus negating the need for you to find an envelope and stamp.

If you like this idea, please bring your donation to the meeting.

And please remember – this is totally voluntary.

There are no expectations that anyone will donate.

Year Round Interest in the Garden....



Ellen and Jim Rothwell's garden is exquisite in spring and summer.....and something totally different - but still beautiful - after a little snow below.....



Photos: Ellen Rothwell

Bronze Medal Award

At our MARS Christmas Party, we recognized long-time and very active member, John England, with the Bronze Medal...

The

**Mount Arrowsmith
Rhododendron Society**

is pleased to present

The Bronze Medal

to

John England

This is in recognition of John's long-standing service to MARS. Since he joined many years ago, he has been a willing volunteer; he has edited the newsletter, coordinated meetings, chaired the Garden Tour Committee and acted as liaison with Milner Gardens. He has taken part in many Truss Shows, chaired the successful 20th Anniversary party, and served as President for three years. Two England gardens have been featured on the Garden Tour. Both John and his wife Arlene have been gracious hosts to many pot lucks and also many, many guest speakers over the years. With great pleasure, we recognize this outstanding service to MARS with the chapter's highest honour, the Bronze Medal
Congratulations John - well-deserved!!

**Please note – our March meeting will be held on
MARCH 20 – the third Wednesday -
due to availability at the Civic Centre.**

In Our Members' Gardens....

Nicola Lupton shares some photos of wonderful old rhododendrons in her seaside garden.....their names have long been lost, but their beauty shines on year after year.



**Nanose Naturalists
Present**

Andy MacKinnon

TOPIC: Alpine Plants of British Columbia

DATE & TIME: February 14, 2013 at 7pm

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

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

Alpine Plants of BC

ADMISSION: By donation

Brian Minter Wows Them in Qualicum

Over 170 passionate gardeners braved the rain, sleet and cold on Wednesday night to get fired up for the coming gardening season by Brian Minter, well-known speaker, radio personality, writer and horticultural expert.

Brian never disappoints - he is at once enthusiastic, hilarious, high-energy and knowledgeable...an irresistible combination to ardent gardeners.

He encouraged us to be creative, shake off the old and bland, and have fun in our gardens. According to Brian, the secret for a great garden is not just the plants, but how they are put together in creative and unusual combinations.

He encouraged us to plant wild containers, try new fruits and vegetables in exciting new ways, create hanging baskets of succulents, grow winter veggies, plant up the walls and trellis our fruit trees.

Suggestions of plants to add to our rhododendron beds included alliums, hellebores, hydrangeas, blueberries and clematis.

Plant sales were brisk, and creative juices were really flowing once Brian was through with us.

Many thanks to our fellow gardeners who came out in droves, and to the members of MARS for helping to make the evening a great success!



Brian hamming it up with some of his fans while others snapped up bargains at the plant sale.



Brian extolling the virtues of painting a little silver calocephalus an iridescent orange - and with sparkles no less!!

And on Barbara Kulla's Wish List.....



Rhododendron 'Honey Butter' at Kubota Gardens

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Federal Way, Wash.

Br-r-r-r, it's been cold out! We've had overnight temps in the mid 20's here at the RSBG, but our thoughts are on SPRING. We even have a couple of rhodys showing color already! Order from our Spring Plant Catalog and get some early bloomers for your garden!

The
2013 Spring Plant Catalog
is now available online!

And now a word from our Nursery Manager...

Allocation Day is January 17th

So what does that mean for the discerning plant shopper?

As you may know, this is an important day because many of the plants we offer are in limited supply, and, of course, members who get their order in before January 17th have a much better chance of getting the rare and unusual than those who wait.

Orders that arrive after January 17th are filled as they arrive, but many things will sell out in that first round of allocation.

This spring make sure that you get some of my favorites, including:

- ❖ The rarely offered and very rarely cultivated evergreen *R. hemitrichotum* has narrow foliage, hairy on top and glaucous white beneath. Stunning! Our first offering in many years and grown from wild collected seed.
- ❖ A few of our *R. triectorum* have flower buds! This is the first time these have come into bloom for us and we're excited to see their pale yellow or sometimes pink flowers. The plants are similar in habit to *R. forrestii* but broader and rounder in leaf. We offered one of these at auction a couple years ago and it went for \$140!
- ❖ We are finally able to offer *R. pentaphyllum*, a rare and lovely deciduous azalea. Here at the RSBG, its large flattened, clear rose-pink flowers burst forth in early March.

You can wait and still order after January 17th and we will still have lots of amazing rhododendron species to fill your order, but if you are looking for that special rare plant, you will want to mail, fax or email your order in as soon as you can before January 17th!

All catalog ordering closes May 1st.

Happy Shopping!
~ Dennis Bottemiller

Editor's Note: *If you are planning to attend the ARS 2013 Convention in SeaTac, you will be able to tour the RSBG, or join them for a special AGM scheduled for May 1. Check out the website for more information.*