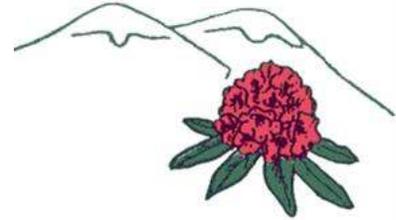


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH

MARS

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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Membership – Tony Ansdell

Milner Gardens - John England

Program Chair – Glen Jamieson

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments - Anne Gutsche

Sunshine – Maria Bieberstein

This Month:

Brenda Jager

presents

Many Bees

Live Here

Brenda Jager is a Master Beekeeper and breeder managing her bee yards on Gabriola Island.

An expert on the common European honey bee, she will also speak on life cycles and habitat for a variety of native bees in local gardens and fields.



This busy pollinator apparently loves rhododendrons as much as we do!!

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday,
October 8
7:30 pm



A clump of chives in the vegetable patch will ensure that pollinators such as this bumble bee will happily pollinate your crop.

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Remembering Jim Greig...

At the end of August, the rhododendron community and MARS in particular lost one of its pioneers. Jim Greig was an avid gardener and a founding member of MARS. We asked several of our members who knew him well to share their special memories of Jim.



Jim and Jean Greig were honoured guests at our 25th Anniversary Celebration in June - seen here proudly wearing their MARS name tags!

From Arlene and John England...

During the years we lived in North Vancouver our son Michael and the Greig's son Charley developed a friendship at UBC. At that time the Greig family lived on W. 16th Avenue near the University. One day after a visit at Charley's home, Michael reported that the Greig family was moving to Vancouver Island and that Mr. Greig was digging up plants around the property. Michael was very surprised as we had moved homes and provinces many times but knew that you didn't dig up the plants and take them too!!

It was not until we moved to Vancouver Island in 1990 and after we joined MARS that we realized the significance of the transplanted rhododendrons. Jim became a great mentor to us and to the whole island community, and a passionate promoter of the genus rhododendron.

PS: Michael and Charlie and their families still enjoy a great friendship in Kelowna/ Penticton....and both have gardens. Sadly they do not have the climate to grow rhododendrons very easily.

From Terry Richmond...

Terry remembers Jim as a really nice guy – liked by everyone. As a founding member of MARS and an accountant, Jim was instrumental in setting MARS on a solid financial footing, initially taking care of the books as Treasurer, and also as our volunteer Auditor.

Jim was a friendly and fun guy. On club bus trips, he started a tradition of bringing a suitcase full of liqueurs. Aided and abetted by Mary Parker and Terry Richmond, fellow travellers enjoyed a very civilized quaff on the way to the gardens.

Upon retirement Jim immersed himself in rhododendrons, a legacy from his parents. He and wife Jean had a very large collection of rhododendrons at their home on Dorcas Point.

From Glen Jamieson...

Gracious, friendly and generous - that is how Glen remembers Jim. While visiting Jim and Jean at their home in Nanaimo, Glen recalls getting into pretty good shape hauling rocks up from the beach to line his pond.

From Mary Parker...

(Reprinted from JARS)

The Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) lost one of their beloved charter members on August 25. Jim Greig, the son of Mary and Ted Greig, recipients of the ARS Gold Medal in 1966, passed away at the age of 93. The Greigs started the Royston Nursery on Vancouver Island, and about the age of twelve, Jim began to help his father move rhododendrons from their nursery to what is now known as Milner Gardens and Woodland in Qualicum Beach. Most of those plants are now mature "trees" and a visit to the gardens is a joy. Jim helped in the nursery until his schooling took him to UBC where he earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Jim then worked as a chartered accountant for the forestry company Crown Zellerbach until 1985, when he retired as Senior Vice President and moved to Nanoose Bay, BC.

Jim and his wife Jean had a lovely rhododendron garden and were active members of MARS until recent health issues slowed them down. Jim was a gentle caring friend, a true gentleman, and with Jean, were joint recipients of a MARS Bronze medal in 1996.

Jim was a MARS charter member when it was formed 25 years ago, and for years was its trusty treasurer and later, its auditor. This past June, Jim and Jean attended the MARS 25th anniversary party, allowing many members to have a memorable last visit with him. Jim and Jean were married for 67 years, and have four wonderful children. Daughter Chris Southwick, current president of the Nanaimo chapter, and daughters Jane and Nancy are all keen rhododendron lovers, and together carry on their parents' and grandparents' love of the genus *Rhododendron*.

From Everett and Pat Jefferson...

Founding members Pat and Everett Jefferson remember conspiring with Jim to start MARS at an ARS Convention, with Jim filling the position of Treasurer, attending most meetings and later doing the financial audit for the club. Early meetings of the fledgling club were often held at the Nanoose Bay home of Jim and Jean. Bus trips found Jim generously enhancing fellow travellers' morning coffee with some liquid sunshine!

A celebration of Jim's life will be held later in October.

To Jean and family, MARS sends our grateful thanks for Jim's contributions, friendship and generosity. Clearly, he will be greatly missed.



Rhododendron 'Kalinka' is a favourite haunt of some pollinators.

October Speaker:

Brenda Jager

'Many Bees Live Here' is the topic of Brenda's lecture and although she is, without a doubt, an expert on *Apis mellifera*, the common European honey bee, she will also speak on life cycles and habitat for a variety of native bees in local gardens and fields.

Brenda has provided many years of support to BC Bee Breeders' research and breeding projects. She began her work with the organization in 2006 when she joined Liz Huxter's breeding project in Grand Forks as a research technician. The goal of that breeding project was to improve the honey bees' natural resistance to Varroa mites. After completing three years learning to assess and breed commercial bee stock, Brenda came back to the coast and started the first cooperative BC Bee Breeders' Assessment and Training Yard.

The Breeder Assessment Yards are essential for assessing cold hardy bee stock from across Canada and disseminating the best stock to other BC beekeepers.

Until recently, Brenda was the Apiary Inspector for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. In her role as the inspector, Brenda provided inspection services for beekeepers selling bees and provided outreach and education opportunities through community organizations.

Upcoming Events...

❖ October 8

- Brenda Jager: Many Bees Live Here

❖ November 12

- Ken Webb: Propagation

❖ December 6

- MARS Christmas Party at Rotary House, Qualicum

MARS Plant Sales

Barbara Kulla reports that we raised almost **\$60** in plant sales at the September Meeting!! So let's continue to bring our excess horticultural treasures and continue this financial boon!!

Help Wanted



Phygelius 'Moonraker' is growing well in the QB Museum garden that is tended faithfully by Barbara Kulla. If you are interested in joining her, please get in touch.

ARS Convention:

Sidney 2015

Volunteers Needed

MARS along with other District One chapters will be asked to indicate in October who is willing to be a volunteer at the 2015 Convention next May in Sidney, BC.

At a recent meeting of the Convention Committee, Calvin Parson handed out a sign-up sheet to each chapter and stressed that the sign-up sheet was to be used as an indicator of interest, rather than a total commitment. "We need to get an indication from volunteers what they would like to do so we can plan accordingly."

The form indicates such volunteer jobs as greeters, plant sales, and registration. As well, 14 bus captains will be required, and for them there will be in-depth training. The convention for most events runs from Thursday, May 7 through Saturday, May 9. The all-day Board Meeting is on Wednesday, May 6 and all-day garden tours up-island are on Sunday.

Ken Webb, District One Director said he wants everyone to know this is a district convention and all chapters are involved, one reason why all members are encouraged to volunteer. For example, members attending for one or two days could take a shift and still hear most of the speakers, buy plants and take in a garden tour if they wished.

The speakers' list reads like a who's who of the rhododendron world: Jim Barlup, Kenneth Cox, Hartwig Schepker, Lionel de Rothschild, Harold Greer to name a few. Garden tours are also a big component of the convention with the afternoons set aside for touring; there is also one all-day tour planned for Friday.

ARS Silent Auction:

Do you have an idea?

The MARS executive will soon be deciding the nature of the chapter's donation to the Silent Auction at the ARS Convention in Sidney next May. Will it be a basket of goodies with a theme or something creative?

Marilyn Dawson explained the situation at the September meeting and those in attendance appeared to prefer the "something creative" idea. At the 2012 conference, Terry Richmond acquired a burl bowl which attracted a lot of attention. He has offered to help out again. Any opinion on the selection should be sent to President Linda Derkach.

MARS is also responsible for organizing the entire Silent Auction for the convention and the committee will be approaching donors. Members are asked to suggest possible donors, keeping in mind that many of the visitors will be travelling by plane and arriving from all across Canada, the United States and beyond.

The committee can accept financial donations for a gift certificate from the ARS Store and of course donations from members themselves. (Perhaps an aged bottle of scotch from a household that doesn't drink?)

Any ideas should be sent to Marilyn Dawson at dawsom@shaw.ca or Barbara Kulla at bkulla@shaw.ca

In Our Members' Gardens....



Doug Kitts reports that *Rhododendron* 'Little Joe' was blooming in September!!

Angel's Trumpets Abound...



Kathy Loyer propagates *Brugmansia arborea* in a sheltered spot then brings out in summer to thrill passersby!! This huge shrub resides in her front yard. So far, the deer haven't nibbled!!



The very late flowering and hardy *Hibiscus syriacus* (Rose of Sharon) brightens up the garden at summer's end. This large and luscious specimen is in the Loyer garden.

Strawberries Galore....



If you are like me and think that you don't have space for strawberries - here's a brilliant idea in the garden of Kathy and Guy Loyer. Can you see the blue, plastic garbage can hiding amongst the prolific greenery? Guy cut holes all around the can, inserted a PVC pipe also with holes in the centre of the can and filled in with soil. Watering can be done right into the PVC pipe to ensure moisture gets to all the plants right to the bottom. Guy suggests raising the container off the ground by 4 to 6 inches.

Garden Journal

From Linda Derkach, President

As summer fades to fall - or rather glows into autumn - fewer pollinators can be found. But there are still some bumblebees and bees hanging around. I always like to have something in the garden to satisfy their taste, keeping them happy and productive - and surviving. Here are a few of the bee-nurturing plants in my garden that bloom from spring right to the first frost and beyond.



Veronicastrum 'Fascination' is a bee magnet...and they add a wonderful billowing architectural interest to the garden in summer. Easy to grow - just plant and forget - it returns year after year.

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Helianthus 'Lemon Queen' produces masses of soft yellow blooms from August to frost - a very useful plant to provide colour in the garden at this time - and food for pollinators. *H.* 'Lemon Queen' is a very easy perennial - no pests or diseases - but requiring some staking if there are no shrubs nearby to lean against.



Pollinators love *Verbena bonariensis* - gathering nectar as they sway gently in the breeze. A short-lived perennial, this plant will grow 6 feet in a season and take up virtually no space at all.



Pollinators can often be found on blue flowers - and this Eryngium is no exception.



Clematis terniflora (Sweet Autumn Clematis) might be considered a bit of a garden thug - scrambling more than 12 feet over nearby accommodating shrubs and trellises - but at the end of September the masses of blooms provide sustenance for pollinators....thus this vine has earned a place in my garden. Once the bloom is done, I cut back to about five feet.



Heleniums are one of my favourite flowers - and bumblebees love them too! Blooming from July to frost, they need a sunny spot and grow happily among rhododendrons. Some good cultivars include *H. 'Sahin's Early Flowerer'*, *H. 'Moerheim Beauty'* and *H. 'Mardi Gras'*.

Seedy Saturday 2015

Volunteers Needed

Please contact Lori Pross at 752-0196
or email: nickorlori@shaw.ca

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society General Meeting

Held at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre Wednesday,
September 10, 2014

The evening began with what is hoped to be a monthly feature, members bringing cuttings (or plants) for others to enjoy. The timing was fortuitous because computer problems caused a delay in the program. Ray Walker moved and Terry seconded that the minutes of the May meeting be approved. All were in favor.

Glen Jamieson, Program Chair, introduced guest speaker Robert Argall of Courtenay, whose beautiful garden was toured by a small group of MARS members a few years ago. His presentation included a multitude of shots of his various plantings. He has seven acres, three of which are under cultivation, including 200 rhododendrons and 3,000 new bulbs every year. His selection includes many different narcissus, a variety of trilliums, including a triple, anemones, and several species of tulips.

He generally replaces his narcissus each year, he said, because most of them are attacked by the narcissus fly after the first season. Although he talked of other plants in his garden, the audience seemed most interested in his bulbs, the main question being, "Where do you buy your bulbs?" The answer, Art Knapp's in Courtenay; apparently that nursery brings in quantities of quality bulbs each year.

New Business: 1. After the break, Dan Schwarz was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation which was awarded to him and Velda Rhodes at the 25th Anniversary BBQ. Two other absentee recipients Mike and Joan Rich still await their award. 2. Marilyn Dawson gave a brief overview of the role of MARS in the 2015 Convention in Sidney next May. MARS is responsible for organizing the silent auction for the 70th anniversary. Every chapter in the

district has been asked to prepare one large basket, or two or three smaller ones based on a theme as a club donation. Or, MARS could do as it did for the 2012 conference in Nanaimo and donate something creative. Members were also asked to suggest the names of possible donors to the auction. 3. Kathy Loyer gave a brief overview of the 2015 garden tour on Mother's Day weekend which coincides with the convention dates. Because there is expected to be a shortage of volunteer sitters, the tour will be trimmed to possibly 10 gardens, hopefully close together.

4. Tony Ansdell gave an update on the proposed Species Garden at Milner Gardens and Woodland. An advisory group has been formed and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Milner and Vancouver Island University should be signed this fall. Jim Cadwaladr has offered to do the landscape design pro bono. The chapters have contributed so far a total of \$20,000 to the project, which is matched by Milner. Chapter funds are kept in a special fund administered by Tony. No funds are released until the MOU is signed by all chapter presidents and Milner-VIU. A funding committee is already applying for specific grants. The second meeting of the advisory group will be held on Thursday, Sept. 11.

Draw Prizes: Cassie LaCouvee won *Rhododendron* 'Very Berry', Linda Renwick won *R.* 'Thor' and Judy Millicheap took away *R.* 'Melba Johnson'.

Refreshments: Sweet treats were provided by Anne Gutsche, Ann DeBrincat and Marilyn Dawson.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

Recorded by Marilyn Dawson

Our Talented Fellow Martians....

MARS member **Joanne Hamilton** is not only a grower of beautiful rhododendrons, but also a talented flower arranger. Here are some of her prize-winning creations from a recent flower show.

Congratulations, Joanne!



Things to Remember....

- ❖ **MARS Christmas Party - Dec. 6**
- ❖ **Silent Auction Ideas for ARS Convention in May 2015**
- ❖ **Volunteer** to help at the ARS 2015 Convention in Sidney
- ❖ Think about helping out at **Seedy Saturday** on February 7, 2015

