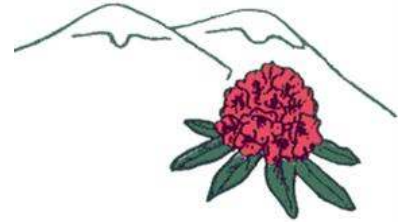


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

MARS
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Greeter – Guy Loyer

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Milner Gardens - John England

Program Chair – Glen Jamieson

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments - Anne Gutsche

Sunshine – Maria Bieberstein

This Month:

Ken and Madeleine Webb on Propagation

It's that time of year to propagate some of our favorite hard-to-find rhododendrons.

In that vein, we have invited Ken and Madeleine Webb of Saanich to show us some of the secrets to their very successful propagation methods.

Bring your cuttings to the meeting to either root yourself or give to Ken to propagate for you in his home propagator.

More on the Webbs inside.....

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

**Wednesday,
November 12
7:30 pm**



Azaleas are abundant in New Zealand gardens at this time of year. This lovely specimen grows on a ridge high above Dunedin on the South Island - a place that rivals even San Francisco for its hills!

Inside.....

Propagation Page 2
Coming Events Page 2
Hardy Fuchsias.....Page 3
MinutesPage 4
New Zealand Journal.....Page 5

Propagation with Ken and Madeleine Webb

For a number of years, the Webbs have put roots on 1000+ cuttings each year and have distributed them to the rhododendron societies in District One, asking only a small donation to the Victoria Rhododendron Society.

Ken will describe the propagator that he uses at his home. He will demonstrate methods by which members can successfully root rhododendrons at home and with little equipment. Ken and Madeleine will have lots of information on when to take cuttings and where to find the cuttings on the plants that have the best chance of success.

Ken and Madeline are well known rhodoholics hosting propagation workshops. They are very involved in the upcoming 2015 conference in Sidney BC, with Ken handling the bus tours both during and after the conference.

Ken is currently the District One representative to the ARS and travels to most of the ARS conferences. Ken and Madeline will accept cuttings from members at the meeting, so if you have a **rare or hard-to-find plant** that you would like to reproduce, come and listen to some basic instructions on how to take the cuttings. Ken has also indicated that he will take a limited number of labelled cuttings from MARS members and try to propagate them at his home facility in Victoria.

Upcoming Events...

❖ *November 12*

- Ken and Madeleine Webb on Propagation

❖ *December 6*

- MARS Christmas Party at Rotary House, Qualicum

❖ *January 14*

- Shannon Berch on Soil Biology and Rhododendrons

Seedy Saturday 2015

Volunteers Needed

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

Canadians at New Zealand Conference...



Glen Jamieson, Ginny Fearing, Bob Ramik, Dorothy Jamieson, Garth Wedemire, Laura Grant, Norma Senn, Elaine Derkach, Linda Derkach, Sue Grant, Harold Fearing, Margaret Charlton, and Charles Sale.

Hardy Fuchsias and Rhododendrons - A Match Made in Heaven

Story: Marilyn Dawson

Photo: Linda Derkach



Fuchsia 'Pride of Eugene' is a delicious double fuchsia and won by Kathy Loyer at the ARS Everett Conference in September.

The Amazing Hardy Fuchsias

It's amazing how quickly a hobby can morph from passion to business. Shirley Rock explained it this way. She had been growing hardy fuchsias, needed to plant them and discovered that many varieties would fit nicely under the tall rhododendrons her husband Jerry grew on their acreage in Marysville, Washington. Most gardeners, she said, are familiar with the taller *Fuchsia magellanica*, but there are others available that range from ground-cover size up to 2 and 3 foot specimens. In other words, they are the perfect companion plant for rhododendrons. Moreover, they root easily from cuttings taken in early fall as long as two leaf nodes are taken.

Shirley Rock was a speaker at the ARS 2014 Regional Conference in Everett this fall. The owner of Shirley's Fuchsias, she displays more than 500 varieties of hardy perennials in her gardens which also serves as a test site for the Northwest Fuchsia Society, of which she is a past president. Her display gardens are open to the public from June through October.

Hardy fuchsias are tough and easy to grow: that was the main message of her talk but you will have true success if you follow some not very difficult guidelines:

- Fuchsias are good container plants but they grow even better when planted in the ground as long as they are well-rooted.
- They need light and in this climate most need full sun for at least six hours a day. Good drainage is important.
- Place your fuchsia in the area it will grow at least a week before planting, gradually moving it into more light. (Shirley said leaves can sunburn particularly the first year in the ground, but acclimate the second year.)
- Plant them after the danger of frost is gone, but early enough so a good root system has time to develop. Dig a good-size hole and add manure, filling only partway and let the soil fill in as the plant grows. The first year build a cone around the plant and mulch with leaves.
- Feed with a balanced product, 14-14-14 for example, and do it early as soon as growth appears in spring.

Shirley said there is no need to prune in the fall. Let the stems protect the plant from the cold. She mulches the first winter but says it is not necessary with mature plants.

For containers, choose a large pot and a very hardy plant which should bloom from mid-May to frost. It will need mulch over the winter. A plant hardy list is available on the internet.

Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

October 8, 2014

Minutes

Held at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 7:30 pm

Draw prizes: *Rhododendron* 'Snow Lady', *R. fletcherianum*, *R. 'Birdsong'* and *R. 'Ramapo'* won by Ruth Harding, John DeBoer, Carol Hanson and Barbara Delgatty.

PROGRAM: President Linda Derkach opened the meeting by welcoming the audience, many of whom were visitors to hear Brenda Jager talk about bees and their habitat. She turned the floor over to Joanne Hamilton, who in turn introduced the speaker. Brenda Jager operates Brenda's Bees on Gabriola Island and is also a bee inspector for Vancouver Island. She said most of her time is now spent doing research on breeding prospects and bee problems in the province. She is particularly interested in breeding bees that are resistant to our weather, mite problems and diseases. Her extensive presentation covered the life cycles of several varieties of bees and attracted rapt attention from the audience. Many stayed to pepper her with questions.

BUSINESS: 1. After the break, Ray Walker moved and Maria Bieberstein seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without change. Approved.

2. Marilyn Dawson explained MARS' role in the upcoming ARS convention in Sidney next May. It is a District One-hosted event and MARS will be organizing the silent auction. She asked for suggestions of whom to approach for donations. She also passed out a sign-up sheet for potential volunteers at the convention saying it was only an indicator not commitment at this point.

3. On behalf of Kathy Loyer, Garden Tour chair, Linda said several gardens have been chosen for the Mother's Day Tour but more are still needed. Because our event coincides with the last days of the ARS Convention and many members are expected to be occupied, our tour will be shortened to about 10 gardens. The area chosen this year is Eaglecrest, Chartwell and Columbia Beach and members were encouraged to bring

outstanding gardens to the attention of the committee.

4. Linda said Lori Pross of the Eaglecrest Club and the chair of Seedy Saturday Volunteers is seeking volunteers for that very popular event on Feb. 7, 2015.

5. There was some discussion about the Christmas Party set for Sat. Dec. 6 at the Rotary Hall. The executive discussed changes to the evening and suggested members bring \$10 for a different kind of gift exchange. Some members questioned the need for a gift at all, but nothing was resolved.

6. A large assortment of plants was brought to the plant sale table and disappeared quickly.

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**



Rhododendron macabeum was flourishing in many gardens in New Zealand in October.

Bedazzled in New Zealand

Linda Derkach

New Zealand is a land of amazing contrasts, incredible beauty and very friendly people. These are the memories we came home with after a whirlwind 18 days touring gardens, mountains and fjords.

The impetus for this visit was the 70th Jubilee International Rhododendron Conference in Dunedin - five days of interesting talks but mostly truly awe-inspiring gardens!! Pre and post tours offered a glimpse into the life and natural beauty of the north and south islands of New Zealand.

Kanuka Ridge, the garden of Gretchen and John Henderson in Dunedin was overflowing with magnificent specimens of familiar and not so familiar plants.



Azaleas were very abundant in all the gardens that we visited. This beauty is *Rhododendron* 'Soft Lights' - a very floriferous double developed by Dennis Hughes, hybridiser and owner of Blue Mountain Nursery near Dunedin.



Echinium grows very easily in New Zealand gardens with the milder climate.

Two lovely pink rhododendrons were at their peak and stopping traffic.



Rhododendron 'Hinoki'



Rhododendron 'Chinese Silver' is also available on Vancouver Island.

New Zealand gardens include many different companion plants for rhododendrons.



This fritillaria grows abundantly near Australian tree ferns, rhododendrons and fuchsias.



This lovely *Lonicera korolkowii* with its pale rose/pink flowers was common in many of the gardens that we visited.

Kiwis include many beautiful deciduous and evergreen trees in their gardens to complement the rhododendrons and azaleas.



Aesculus pavia (Red buckeye) offers shade, privacy and beauty.



This *Drimys winteri* stood at least 14 feet and was dressed in umbels of fragrant ivory-white flowers. While common in New Zealand, it can be grown on Vancouver Island but with protection from our -10 Celsius temperatures.

Less than three weeks is just not long enough to appreciate all that New Zealand has to offer, but the country and its people managed to impress and amaze us none the less.