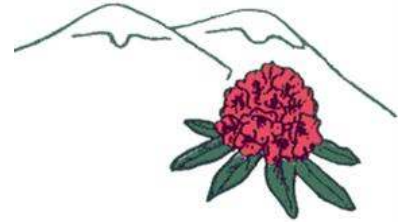


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**MARS
P. O. Box 342
Qualicum Beach. BC**

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Garden Tour – Kathy Loyer

Truss Show – Ray Walker

Greeter – Guy Loyer

Historian - Cassy Lacouvee

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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:

Panel of Rhododendron Experts

**You can't get much
better than ...**

**Terry Richmond
John Deniseger
and
Art Lightburn**

**...if you want to
learn more about
rhododendrons, their
care and culture.**

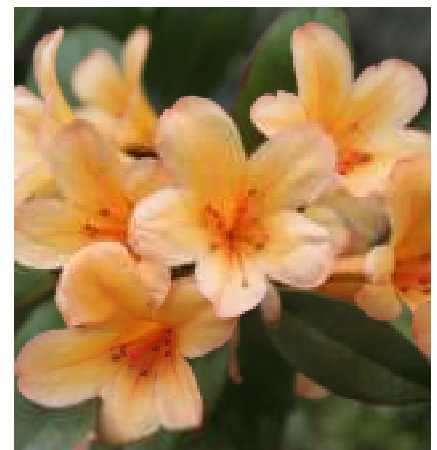
**Members of Nanaimo and Mt.
Arrowsmith Rhododendron
Societies, these three
gentlemen can answer pretty
much any question
you might have.**

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

**Wednesday,
February 11, 2015
7:30 pm**



Rhododendron 'Honey Star' is a lovely vireya blooming in the Covered Exhibition Walk at Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust on New Zealand's North Island.

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Upcoming Programs...

❖ February 11

- Panel of Experts

❖ March 11

- Douglas Justice

*The Importance of
Biodiversity in our Gardens*

❖ April 8

- Earl Daneluk

*2014 Rhododendron
Exhibition in Germany and a
Tour of Hachman's Nursery*

❖ Monday, May 4

- Ken Cox and Hartwig
Schepker

*Arunachal Pradesh: On the
Search for Rhododendron in
an Unknown and Mysterious
Part of North-Eastern India*

Exciting Events

Coming Your Way...

Mark Your Calendar Now

❖ Qualicum Beach

Seedy Saturday

Saturday, February 7, 2015

10 am to 3:30 pm

❖ MARS Rhododendron

Show & Sale, Parksville Arena

Saturday, April 25

❖ American

Rhododendron Society International

Convention, Sidney, BC

May 7 to 10, 2015

❖ MARS Mother's Day

Garden Tour

May 9 and 10, 2015

If you have interesting photos from your travels, please send to lindaderkach@shaw.ca for inclusion in our newsletter.

Pukeiti - Rhododendrons in a Rainforest

Story & Photos: Linda Derkach

Nestled in a rainforest between Mount Taranaki and the coast of New Zealand's North Island is Pukeiti - a 360 hectare sanctuary for rhododendrons and complementary native and exotic plants. Pukeiti holds more than 2,000 varieties of rhododendrons with species from wild sources and many man-made hybrids. A collection of vireyas and their tropical allies grow in the Covered Exhibition Walk.



Vireya *Rhododendron* 'Sherbert Rose' resides in the Covered Exhibition Walk along with sub-tropical allies such as *Asarina procumbens*(below).



Rhododendron 'Dr. Sleumer' was a show-stopper! A natural hybrid between *R. phaeocephalum* and *R. zoelleri*, this vireya carries flowers for nine months of the year. Somewhat sun-tender, the flowers of this vireya are much brighter in the fall, the lobes being almost scarlet rather than pink at other times.



Unabashedly blousy and beautiful, *Rhododendron* 'Charisma' greets visitors to Pukeiti with her fragrant blooms at the entrance to the gardens. *R. 'Charisma'* was chosen to appear on New Zealand's first 'scratch and smell' stamps.



Rhododendron 'Saxon Glow' was found growing happily in the rainforest at Pukeiti.



Ferns abound in New Zealand, but none so large as *Ptisana salicina*, the largest ground fern in New Zealand with fronds that can reach five metres. Rare and declining in many areas of NZ, they are thriving at Pukeiti.



This rhododendron seemed content to play host to the New Zealand native *Clematis paniculata* that was found growing up and through many of the rhododendrons in the garden.



This lovely is *Rhododendron formosum* var. *inaequale*. It is a Maddenia, so somewhat tender in a hard winter here in BC. Maddenii grow prolifically all over New Zealand. Many are delightfully fragrant such as *R. lindleyii*, *R. Iyi* and *R. johnstoneanum*.



The bark and fascinating branching of this *Luma apiculata* graced a main path at Pukeiti.



This robust pink was found growing in the rainforest of Pukeiti.



Rhododendron morii is native to Taiwan and fully hardy here on Vancouver Island.

Sidney Convention Promises Thrills and Chills



Rhododendron 'Champagne Lace'

Internationally-recognized speakers from Scotland, France, Germany and China are just a few of the 'thrills' scheduled for the ARS 2015 Convention in Sidney, BC.

And they are complemented by the 'chills' you will get while viewing some of the very best gardens on the West coast of Canada. From Victoria to Duncan, and Saanich to Cobble Hill, no effort has been spared to bring you access to gardens that are otherwise not available to the general public.

Rhododendron 'Champagne Lace' is the official rhododendron of the Sidney Convention. Hybridized by Jim Barlup, it will be available for purchase at the convention.

Sidney 2015: Meet the Speakers

Marilyn Dawson

One of the advantages of attending the ARS convention in May in Sidney is enjoying world-renowned speakers talk about their favorite topic, rhododendrons. In the next few issues of the newsletter our thumbnail sketches will introduce you to these rhododendron experts.

First up - **Kenneth Cox and Hartwig Schepker** - who incidentally will take a whirlwind tour of the mid-island before the convention and speak at a special MARS meeting on Monday, May 4 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. **Kenneth Cox** is the third generation of Cox rhododendron experts and nurserymen, following in the footsteps of grandfather Euan and father Peter. He is an author of several books, leader of plant hunting expeditions to Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh, India and managing director of the family firm Glendoick Gardens Ltd. in Scotland - a garden centre that specializes in rhododendrons, ericaceous plants, meconopsis and primula. He is well known as a lecturer and has delivered addresses on rhododendrons in the US, Australia and New Zealand.

Dr. Hartwig Schepker is the scientific director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron Park in Bremen, Germany. It is one of the largest rhododendron collections in the world, both hybrid and species. He made his first plant-hunting trip to Borneo in 1992 and since then has made several plant hunting journeys to various parts of Southeast Asia, India, including Arunachal Pradesh, and the US. He is particularly interested in the variability of the rhododendron habitat throughout its growing area.

Seedy Saturday

'SOW THE SEEDS!'

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Admission by Donation www.qbseedysaturday.com



Bring your seeds
for the seed swap

in the Lions' Room

QBSS 2015

Saturday February 7, 2015

10:00 - 3:30

Vendors

Seed Swap

QB Farmers' Market

Shoots With Roots

Master Gardeners

Seedy Café

10:30-11:30 Diane Sharp

'GROWING YOUR GROCERIES'

12:00-1:00 Kate Green

'SEEDS GROW MORE THAN FOOD'

1:30-2:45 'GARDENING PANEL'