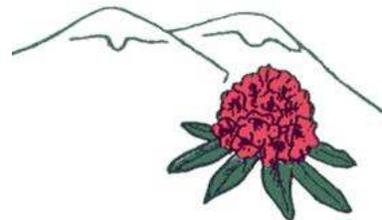


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH

MARS

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 342

Qualicum Beach. BC

Volume 27, Issue 3

MARCH 2015

2014/2015 Executive

President

Linda Derkach

752-3545 lindaderkach@shaw.ca

Vice-President

Tony Ansdell

752-4475 ansdella@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Ray Walker

248-5138 jrjiffy@shaw.ca

Secretary

Marilyn Dawson

752-3694 dawsom@shaw.ca

Past President

Tony Ansdell

752-4475 ansdella@shaw.ca

Directors

Don Bridgen

723-3916 dabridgen@gmail.com

Ann DeBrincat

724-5594 darryl59ann@telus.net

Maria Bieberstein

468-7252 abieberstein@telus.net

Kathy Loyer

738-0138 kathyloyer@shaw.ca

Bursary – Tony Ansdell

Christmas Party

Dollar Table - Cassy LaCouvee

Newsletter Editor - Linda Derkach

Garden Tour – Kathy Loyer

Truss Show – Ray Walker

Greeter – Guy Loyer

Historian - Cassy Lacouvee

Library – Donna deBoer

Meeting Coordinator- Tony Ansdell

Membership – Tony Ansdell

Milner Gardens - John England

Program Chair – Glen Jamieson

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments - Anne Gutsche

Sunshine – Maria Bieberstein

This Month:

Douglas Justice,

UBC Botanical

Garden

on

Biodiversity in

the Garden

Gardeners are at the fore front of a major shift away from the use of pesticides in public landscapes and private gardens.

Come and hear about this change, and the importance of biodiversity to the success of our gardens.

More information on Page 2

Don't Forget.....

Bring something special for

Grow and Show

to our meeting!

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday,
March 11, 2015
7:30 pm



Rhododendron
'Champagne Lace'

This beauty hybridized by Jim Barlup - renowned rhododendron hybridizer - will be available for purchase at the ARS Convention in Sidney, BC in May 2015.

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Douglas Justice

Douglas Justice is the head of horticulture and collections at UBC Botanical Garden. He teaches horticulture and plant identification and writes and speaks on a variety of plant-related subjects. Douglas is active in a number of local and international plant and garden organizations, including serving on the boards of two local public gardens. He is an advocate for trees and the conservation of historic landscapes and natural ecosystems. Douglas's most recent project is an app entitled *Vancouver Trees: Identification and Ecology*.

Biodiversity in the Garden

❖ *Douglas Justice, UBC*

The reduction in people's tolerance for pesticides in public landscapes is emblematic of a major shift in societal thinking currently underway.

Gardens are on the front lines of these changes, and our gardens are excellent models of what is happening in the wider landscape.

Gardeners are increasingly seeing the world in ecological terms, gradually switching from reactive to pro-active behaviour and coming to understand the importance of biodiversity to the success of our gardens.

***Don't miss this
informative talk
by one of BC's
eminent horticulturists!***

Upcoming Programs...

❖ March 11

- **Douglas Justice**

Biodiversity in the Garden

❖ April 8

- **Earl Daneluyk**

*2014 Rhodo 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

❖ **MARS Rhododendron**

Show & Sale, Parksville

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

From Your President....

Linda Derkach

Sunny days and cool nights have heralded a very early spring for lucky West Coast gardeners. Especially early is *Rhododendron* 'Cilpinense' which is a mass of blooms that survive the freezing night temperatures on my covered porch. I have learned from sad experience that early blossoms on some rhododendrons can be quickly ruined by a sudden night time frost - and *R. 'Cilpinense'* (below) does well in a pot as a bonus.



Also blooming enthusiastically is *R. 'Ptarmigan'* which is very hardy and well-suited to a smaller garden.

To say this is a busy time of year would be an enormous understatement. Regular garden chores share our time with the **MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale** and our **Garden Tour** over the next three months. To make things even more exciting, we have the **ARS Convention in Sidney** right on our doorstep. I encourage you all to participate in these activities. You will meet lots of other passionate gardeners and have fun as well. What a deal!

Take care, Linda

Rhodohaven...For More Than Rhododendrons

Linda Derkach

On the North Island of New Zealand, Juanita and Jim Elley have carved out 'Rhodohaven' with many interesting tropical plants, some familiar and not so familiar rhododendrons - and a paradise for their cats Bella and Romeo. First to catch our eyes were several vireyas in hanging baskets, secured to the limbs of trees by very strong cables.



This luscious, orangey-red vireya is thriving in a hanging basket with bromeliads and a pink azalea at its feet.



Rhododendron 'Spiced Honey' is a New Zealand hybrid.



Rhododendron 'Party Package' is aptly named, with frilly, luscious pink blooms on a large plant.



Rhododendron 'Double Eagle' glowed above dark green, healthy leaves.



Rhododendron victorianum is a popular species grown in New Zealand.



Rhododendron 'Pink Porcelain' also grows well here in British Columbia.



In the moist and shady lower garden, the berries on this deciduous tree were spectacular.



Bella and her partner Romeo were a big hit at 'Rhodohaven'. Clearly they are very lucky kitties to live in such a serene sanctuary!



Rhododendron 'Floral Gift'

Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 14, 2015

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 7:30 pm

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the Rhodovine.

Glen Jamieson introduced the evening speaker, Shannon Berch, a research scientist with the BC Ministry of the Environment and adjunct professor at UBC. Her subject was soil biology and she presented in such a way that soil organisms, fungi and mycorrhizas were interesting to almost everyone in the audience. With the use of a Power Point program, she took us through the basics of soil composition: bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes. Who knew that the human gut community of 7,500 species is very similar to what's in the soil?

Judging from the questions from the audience, mycorrhiza was of much interest, particularly when she talked about the various products on the market, that for the most part are only slightly effective. She illustrated how the roots of a healthy plant extend outward farther than originally thought and recommended keeping soil tillage to a minimum.

BOOK SALE: Because MARS (and other clubs) can no longer store their libraries at the Civic Centre, it was necessary to keep only the essential rhododendron books and sell the rest. Members snapped up a large number of general gardening books before

the meeting. The sale will continue at the February meeting.

BUSINESS: 1. Kathy Loyer, chair of the **Garden Tour** Committee, explained that because of the pressures of the 2015 convention that would keep some members in Sidney for most of the weekend, a volunteer to host the pot luck was needed. Maria Bieberstein offered her home for the May 10 evening.

2. Ray Walker, **Truss Show** chair, said MARS will have a table this year to sell its own plants. Members were urged to plan now for the event.

3. Linda said that the **February newsletter** will be published early, mid-January, because of her impending vacation.

4. Tony Ansdell gave an update on the proposed **species garden** at Milner Gardens and Woodland. Jim Cadwaladr has produced the architect's rendition, the Memorandum of Understanding is getting a final review and Milner executive director Geoff Ball will be requesting permission of the Town to remove certain heritage trees in the proposed area.

REFRESHMENTS: Provided by: Anne Gutsche, Marilyn Henderson and Mazie Walsh.

DRAW PRIZES: Shirley Meekison won the door prize, *Rhododendron* 'Conroy'. Other draw winners were: Don Bridgen for *R.* 'Lavender Princess' (donated by guests from North Island President Jake Ellis and his wife Claudia); Ann DeBrincat for *R.* 'Janet Blair', Linda Derkach for *R. morii* and Tony Ansdell for *R.* 'Helen Curtis', a white azalea.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:35 PM

Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 7:30 pm

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the Rhodovine.

REFRESHMENTS: Provided by: Anne Gutsche and Don Bridgen

Three panelists, John Deniseger and Art Lightburn from the Nanaimo RS, and Terry Richmond of MARS provided a lively exchange with members about the care of rhododendrons, always a popular topic. Glen Jamieson, the moderator, offered a series of questions and each panelist answered in turn. As might be imagined, there were differences of opinion, because sometimes there is no right or wrong way; if something works for you run with it. There were some universal truths:

- To avoid overplanting, have a plan.
- Research is imperative; seek out someone knowledgeable in your area to help.
- The best planting time is in the fall so plants can take advantage of winter rains; if you plant in the spring after the sales, be prepared to water that plant through the summer drought.
- Know your garden. Where are the wet, the windy spots? Is there a microclimate hiding somewhere?
- If you have a container garden, avoid the use of black plastic pots; they absorb heat and can be lethal to rhododendron roots in the hot summer sun.

Each panelist uses slightly different potting mixes and fertilizing methods, agreeing that commercial fertilizer can provide a quick fix, but the organic mixture lasts longer. Summing up, John Deniseger pointed out that gardening should be enjoyable. Have a place to sit and contemplate your plantings, walk and around often and observe. Above all, enjoy!

BUSINESS: After the coffee break, Glen, who was the only person to bring plants from his garden,

showed off *Rhododendron* 'Rosamundi' which is in full bloom around town right now, a flowering dogwood and both a yellow and a white forsythia. Members were urged to bring blooms to future meetings.

2. In Kathy Loyer's absence, Marilyn Dawson said the **Garden Tour** had received a recent setback with the cancellation of three gardens largely due to health problems, but was moving forward again. The garden sitter sign-up board will be set up at the March meeting.

3. Ray Walker said the **Rhododendron Show and Sale** will be setting up on Friday, April 24 and will need volunteer help. Volunteers will be needed for all sorts of jobs on the day of the sale and a sign-up sheet will be provided at the March meeting. MARS will have its own sales table this year so members are encouraged to pot up good looking plants.

4. Acting President Tony Ansdell said he had met recently with Geoff Ball, executive director of Milner Gardens and Woodland and there is still work to do before the Memorandum of Understanding is signed by the parties involved in the creation of the proposed **Species Garden**. There will be a meeting of the whole advisory committee in March to review plans drawn up by Jim Cadwaladr.

5. Glen reminded members that **Douglas Justice**, curator of UBC Arboretum, will be the speaker in March, a special evening which may attract the general public. His topic is Biodiversity in the Garden.

6. The door prize, *Rhododendron* 'Autumn Gold' was won by Dan Schwarz. Other prize winners were: Tony Ansdell for a cyclamen, Chris Southwick for *R.* 'Grace Seabrook', Doug Kitts for *R.* 'Very Berry' and Jane Walker for a potted palm.

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 pm

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The Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

present

David Sellars



To speak on

Picos de Europa:

**The Alpine Garden of the Cantabrian Mountains &
Where to find alpine flowers in the Olympic Mountains**



Monday, March 30th, 2014, 1-3 p.m.

(doors open 12:30),

QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE,

747 JONES, Q.B.

**\$5 at door includes entry in prize draw &
coffee/tea**

The speaker will have plants for sale.

Picos de Europa: At the end of May 2014 David and Wendy Sellars joined the Saxifrage Society field trip to the Picos de Europa in Northern Spain. While the primary focus of the trip was to identify endemic Saxifrages, the amazing floral diversity of the area was an added attraction. The presentation will feature alpine and meadow plants of the Picos including many that can be grown on the west coast. Photos will include *Fritillaria pyrenaica*, *Lilium pyrenaicum*, three Narcissus species, the endemic *Erysimum duriaei* and spectacular orchids (*Orchis ustulata* pictured above left).

Olympic Mountains: The presentation will focus on routes in the Olympics to locate endemic alpinines and other special plants.

David Sellars is an award winning photographer and writer and regular contributor to several alpine journals. He is also an avid mountain hiker and President of the Alpine Garden Club of B.C.

Info? Valerie: 250-594-4423 or
Melanson.valerie@gmail.com



Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society
Presents

Ken Cox and Hartwig Schepker

Internationally Respected Rhododendron Experts and Plant Hunters Extraordinaire
*Arunachal Pradesh: On the Search for Rhododendron in an
Unknown and Mysterious Part of North-Eastern India*

Date: **Monday, May 4, 2015**

Time: **7:30 pm**

Place: **Qualicum Beach Civic Centre**

Everyone Welcome!

Refreshments - Door Prize

Non-members of MARS: \$5

Presentation: Ken Cox was one of the first people to get into the remote north eastern region of Arunachal Pradesh in 2001. Hartwig's expedition to central parts of Arunachal Pradesh turned out to be the trip from Hell, with non-stop rain, mud, landslides and rebelling porters. Ken and Hartwig will show this amazing part of the Himalaya and reveal its people and plants.



Camping in Arunachal at 3,300 metres.



Rhododendron concinnoides was introduced for the first time into horticulture by Steve Hootman and Ken Cox after a 2005 trip to Eastern Arunachal with Hartwig Schepker.

Ken Cox of Glendoick, Scotland is a well-known nurseryman, author and plant hunter.

Dr. Hartwig Schepker is Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park, Bremen, Germany.