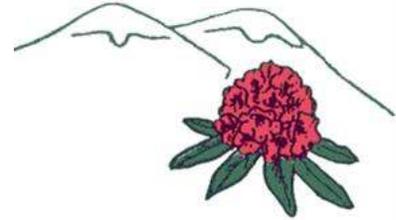


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS
P. O. Box 342
Qualicum Beach. BC

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Program Chair – Glen Jamieson

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Refreshments - Anne Gutsche

Sunshine – Maria Bieberstein

This Month:

Earl Daneluk of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society speaking on

2014 Rhododendron Exhibition, Germany and a Visit to Hachmann's Nursery



Rhododendron 'Hachmann's Polaris' is an award-winning hybrid from the Hachmann Nursery. Wind and sun tolerant, it forms a compact mound and flowers heavily. This plant survives well near the ocean and is hardy to -25 C.

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday,
April 8, 2015
7:30 pm



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

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Coming up in May...

A Very Special Program...

Plant Hunters Extraordinaire

Monday, May 4

7:30 pm - Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

MARS presents

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

Speakers:

Ken Cox and Hartwig Schepker



Looks like fun camping - but not for the faint of heart!

Presentation: Ken Cox was one of the very first people to get into the remote North

Eastern region of Arunachal Pradesh in 2001 where he discovered a new rhododendron species and introduced several others to cultivation for the first time. Ken and Hartwig teamed up in Eastern Arunachal for an autumn expedition in 2005 and in 2012 Hartwig's expedition to central parts of Arunachal Pradesh turned out to be the trip from Hell, with non-stopping rain, mud, landslides and rebelling porters. Ken and Hartwig will show this amazing, little known part of the Himalaya and reveal its people and plants.



Local hut in central Arunachal

Kenneth Cox (Scotland)

Born in 1964 into a family of renowned plantmen, Kenneth Cox is grandson of plant hunter, writer and nurseryman Euan Cox and son of Peter Cox VMH. The three generations were and are considered the world's leading experts on rhododendrons. Kenneth, himself a nurseryman and author,

has carved out his particular niche in the world of plant-hunting by leading several expeditions to South and South-East Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh, India, 1995 - to the present. Kenneth is managing director of the family firm *Glendoick Gardens* in Scotland, a garden centre and mail order nursery specialising in Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Ericaceous plants, *Meconopsis*, *Primula* and other plants collected by the Cox family around the world. Kenneth is author of more than 10 books on rhododendrons, plant hunting, gardens and gardening including: "The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species" (with Peter Cox), "Rhododendrons and Azaleas: A Colour Guide", "Garden Plants for Scotland" (with Raoul Curtis Machin), "Scotland for Gardeners 2009".



Landslide number 79 on the only road into the valley

Dr. Hartwig Schepker (Germany)

Hartwig Schepker is the Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park, Bremen, home of one of the largest Rhododendron collections in the world, including hardy and non-hardy species and hybrids. He is also the Secretary of the

German Rhododendron Society and co-editor of the society's publication "Rhododendron und Immergrüne". Hartwig has been on several rhododendron trips in South East Asia and North America, including four journeys to Arunachal Pradesh between 2005 and 2012. His main objectives are to promote the important ecological functions of Rhododendrons in their native habitats and to point out the long and important role of rhododendrons in the history of gardening in Germany. Hartwig is a much sought-after speaker at rhododendron conferences internationally.

Upcoming Programs...

April 8

❖ **Earl Daneluk** on:

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

Monday, May 4

❖ **Ken Cox and Hartwig Schepker** on:

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

Reminder...

Don't forget to bring your cheque book or cash to our **April** meeting. Kim Hammond will be renewing **Milner Garden memberships** at a discounted price for garden club members.

Exciting Events

Coming Your Way...

Mark Your Calendar Now

- ❖ **MARS Rhododendron Show & Sale, Parksville Arena**
Saturday, April 25
- ❖ **American Rhododendron Society International Convention, Sidney**
May 7 to 10, 2015
- ❖ **MARS Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour**
May 9 and 10, 2015



At our March meeting, Doug Kitts won this healthy but lanky *Rhododendron 'Aladdin'*. Following discussion with Terry Richmond, some judicious pruning resulted in a stouter plant that will grow in a more pleasing manner. Look to the right...

From Your President....

Linda Derkach

"Oh to be on 'Vancouver Island' now that April's here" familiar words from Robert Browning with a bit of a twist. And oh so true! For our joyous spring season actually started in February and shows no sign of abating. After what seemed to be a long, long winter, the thrill of new growth is experienced every day - hellebores, rhododendrons, snowdrops, grape hyacinth, daffodils, native allium, epimedium, pulmonaria, flowering currant, cyclamen, primula.....joining the spring chorus. Added to this horticultural splendour is the spectacle of the Brant returning to re-gain their strength on the herring roe, alongside eagles, herons, sea lions and every gull that ever inhabited the east coast of the island.

If this weren't enough to keep us busy and content, there are the famous MARS events and programs to fill our spare time. Be sure to volunteer for the **Rhododendron Show and Sale** on April 25 and the **Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour** on May 9 and 10. And not to be missed is the **ARS 2015 Convention** in Sidney, BC preceded by our special presentation of **Ken Cox and Hartwig Schepker** on Monday, May 4. Great times are ahead!!*Linda*



Pruned to the next whorl of leaves, 'Aladdin' will grow - hopefully - to be bushy and beautiful.

Rhododendron Show and Sale

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Procedures and Regulations

Here are the rules for the annual MARS Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale. Following are details of how and when to enter your trusses (rhododendron blooms).

1. Eligibility

Exhibits in most categories will be accepted from members of MARS and non-members in the area. Note the Novice category is open only to new MARS members (three years or less). All members of a household will be considered to be one exhibitor.

2. Entries

All entries shall have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 6 months and primarily cared for by the competitor. Only one entry of each name in each category per exhibitor please. For example, *R. macabeanum* could be entered in the species category and the appropriate color category, but not twice in the same category. Extra blooms are encouraged but will be for display only. All entries should be taken from plants grown without artificial protection, except for the category 'Protected' which is for the non-hardy.

3. Definitions

- Species: Botanically identified plants originating from seeds or cuttings
- Hybrid: Plants resulting from cross-breeding of more than one species, hybrid or combination thereof
- Truss: A single rachis, i.e. all florets coming from one bud
- Spray: Multi-stems emerging from a single stem
- Hammerhead: Truss with multiple rachides emanating from a single terminal
- Unknowns: A bloom whose identity is unknown to the owner and therefore cannot be judged;

Unknowns provide extra color for the Exhibition Table.

4. Exhibitors

- Shall make an effort to identify each truss
- Entries will be accepted from 7 am to 8.30 am at the Parksville Curling Club
- Entries and ribbons may be removed at 2 pm, but not before.

5. Preparation of Trusses

- Blooms should be selected when they are at the peak of their development
- Blooms should be cut from well-watered plants during the coolest part of the day
- Blooms should be carefully groomed. Damaged or dead twigs, leaves, bud scales and flower pips should be removed
- Cleaning or washing of leaves is advised, but no artificial polishing is allowed
- Use suitable containers to retain water during transportation to the show. Chemical additives to preserve bloom freshness can be used.

Participants' guide: Everyone who has blooming plants in their garden is encouraged to bring trusses either for judging or display. All categories, except the Novice category, are open to members and non-members alike. The Novice category is open to MARS members only.

Members should familiarize themselves with the categories and, a few days before the show, look around their garden and see what can be entered. **Categories** are: Red, Pink, White, Blue Collection, Yellow Collection, Foliage, Lax Truss, Spray, Species Large Leaf, Species Small Leaf, Hammerhead, Novice and Protected (such as *madenii* and *vireyas* that need winter protection here).

The Four-Step Process to Enter Blooms in the MARS Rhododendron Show

1. Register

Proceed to the Registration Table, sign in and pick up a competitor number and a number of dots. You will need a dot for each entry.

Proceed to the Labelling Table and leave your list of Truss names. Lists will be taken in order. Please don't shout out entry names. There may be a wait for plant names if a lot of people come at the same time.

2. Put Trusses in Bottles

Nearby is a table with bottles and corks. Take one bottle for each truss, put a numbered dot on the bottom of each bottle, making sure first that it is dry. Don't turn the bottle over; it's full of water. Place a truss into each bottle using a cork to hold it securely if necessary.

3. Label Trusses

Leave trusses on the Work Table and go to the Labelling Table to pick up labels. Take trusses and labels to the Holding Table. At any stage, feel free to ask for help.

4. Position Trusses in their Categories

From the Holding Table, trusses will be taken by a designated volunteer to the judging area and placed in the appropriate category. The label is placed in front of each truss. All categories are clearly labeled.

All trusses must be in place by 8:30 am so judging can start on time. Late entries will go to the Exhibition Table. Please bring as many extra trusses as you can for the Exhibition Table.

Time to Start Potting Up!

❖ Rhododendron Show Reminder

Marilyn Dawson

MARS will have its own table at the Rhododendron Show and Sale on April 25 and will need members to help sell the plants.

Shifts will be arranged so no one will have to be there the entire time of the sale which is 9 am to 2 pm. Barbara Kulla will organize the shifts. Please talk to her if you are available or email

bkulla@shaw.ca

Plants should be good looking, in clean pots and labelled. They will each be given a tag to identify them to the cashiers as MARS plants. They can be rhododendrons, perennials, ferns or companion plants, but limited in quantity to six of any one kind. If in doubt about a plant, ask either Barbara or Marilyn Dawson dawsom@shaw.ca for clarification.

The show and sale opens at 10 am to the public, but MARS volunteers are permitted to shop for an hour before opening.

It's time to start potting!

MID ISLAND FLORAL ART CLUB APRIL MEETING NOTICE

Thursday, April 9, 1:45
at St. Stephens United Church Hall
150 Village Way, Qualicum Beach

For Information call
Joanne [250-757-8969](tel:250-757-8969)

Species Garden at Milner Takes the Next Step

Marilyn Dawson

The much talked-about Rhododendron Species Garden took another step forward recently when the Advisory Group met at Milner Gardens and Woodland and agreed on a tentative date for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. Five island chapters of the ARS have pledged an initial \$20,000 which will be matched by Milner Gardens and Woodland. The money will be held in a separate account.

Former Milner Executive Director Jim Cadwaladr - with the aid of members of Milner Gardens and the rhododendron clubs - has drawn up the detailed landscape plan on the 5/8th of an acre behind the Milner gift shop. This site for the proposed project will see the removal of some trees to allow more light into the area.

Meanwhile the Plant Advisory Committee has decided the collection of species will include rare or endangered species, parents of hybrids currently at Milner, geographical representatives and companion plants. It is researching suitable plants for the area. Planting is not expected to begin for at least another year, although specific plants may be acquired as they become available. Strict attention will be paid in verifying species and only those certified by the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Wash. will be acceptable.

Milner has made available a special holding area for early purchased plants and chapter volunteers will monitor their care.

Additional funding for the project will be needed and eventually a fundraising campaign will be launched. Donations made to Milner Gardens and Woodland Society are tax deductible and can be earmarked specifically for the species project.

ARS Convention Sidney, BC

Marilyn Dawson

At the recent Convention Planning Committee meeting, members learned the following:

- Garden tours are filling up, some more popular than others. The only tour dropped so far for lack of interest is Butchart Gardens.
- Photographers are urged to check the deadlines in JARS for submitting their digital photos.
- There will be training for certain volunteers including the bus captains, but an attempt will be made to get volunteers from distant areas together only once.
- The early bird rate has been extended to April 15.
- Volunteers and committee members will be treated to a barbecue at the home of Roy and Lois Blackmore on May 28 as a special thank you.
- Ian Efford of the Cowichan Valley RS has put together a booklet on the gardens of Vancouver Island that are in the public domain. It will be for sale at the convention and will also be available for a 40% discount to rhododendron chapters that put in a large order.

Reminder...

Register soon for the 2015 ARS Convention

Fabulous gardens!

Outstanding speakers!

Fun and Camaraderie!

Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

General Meeting

March 11, 2015

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre at 7:30 pm

Refreshments: Provided by many chapter members

Draw prizes: Pink azalea, *Rhododendron* 'Aladdin', *R.* 'Elizabeth', *R.* 'Bert Larson', *R.* 'Cherries & Merlot'.
Winners were Arlene England, Joan Rich, Doug Kitts, John DeBoer of MARS and June Bouchard from Nanaimo RS.

About 65 - 70 people, many from Nanaimo and North Island RS turned out to hear Douglas Justice, associate director and curator of collections at the UBC Botanical Garden. His subject was biodiversity in the garden, not surprising as he is a well-known advocate of trees and natural ecosystems. Essentially, he said, a healthy garden attracts all sorts of creatures, some beneficial, some not, and some that are microscopic. He had some simple rules to achieve this garden:

- Plant what grows where it grows best.
- Use different materials in different habitats.
- Age matters. Keep some dead material to decay at its own rate and harbor a home for seedlings or beneficial creatures.
- Provide food diversity. Birds and insects are attracted to various surfaces. Plant to attract various birds, butterflies etc.
- Chickadees are worth attracting; they are very effective at eating scale insects.
- Reduce disturbance to the soil. Dense plantings and ground cover are important.
- Don't be too clean. Natural debris provides home to many beneficial insects..
- Provide water.
- Compost as much as possible.

President Linda Derkach thanked the speaker for his presentation and also thanked Anne Gutsch for coordinating the coffee table. A very short business meeting followed the break. Rather than a sign-up sheet for attendance, everyone was given a raffle ticket for the door prize as they entered; raffle prizes were sold at the usual price.

Garden Tour: Kathy Loyer said the gardens have been finalized and Gillian Walker and Mazie Walsh were canvassing for sitter sign-ups, particularly important this

year because many MARS members will be at the ARS convention in Sidney on May 9. The sign-up board will also be brought to the April meeting.

Rhododendron Show and Sale: Ray Walker also had a sign-up sheet for the annual sale at the Parksville Curling Club on April 25, with lots of slots to be filled. This year MARS will have its own table and members are encouraged to bring good looking plants for sale. The pot luck after the show will be at Ray's home in San Paniel at 5 pm.

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 pm

Wednesday April 15

Eaglecrest Garden Club

meets at 7:00 pm, in QB Civic Centre.

Kathy Claxton's topic:

Divide and Multiply Perennials

There will be a hands-on demonstration of how to increase your favourite plants.

All welcome. Non-members: \$2.00

Contact person: Marilyn: 752-2405

Saturday, April 25

Eaglecrest Garden Club

Annual Plant Sale

8:00 am to 12 noon

531 Yambury Road, Qualicum Beach

Master Gardeners on site.

**Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden
5th Anniversary Open House**

Saturday, April 25, 2015

10 am – 2 pm

Nanoose Place

2925 Northwest Bay Road

Nanoose Bay

Coffee – tea – Plant Sale

Everyone welcome!

Info? Elaine at 250-248-9568 or nuttalbay@shaw.ca

Facebook/Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden

New Zealand Paradise....

Maple Glen Garden and Nursery

Words and Photos: Linda Derkach

Imagine a place that has everything – exquisite plants, stunning views, lakes, brooks, exotic birds and wildlife in abundance – and you could be in 25 acre Maple Glen, the garden of the Davison family on the South Island of New Zealand. My first thoughts as the garden unfolded before us: great respect for the artistic eye that created this masterpiece, and total awe for the family whose labour of love keeps the garden looking effortlessly immaculate.

My travel notebook from October 19, 2014 reads: *Maple Glen – awesome!* That says it all...plus a very large number of photos from which it was very difficult to choose but a few to share this paradise.



Healthy, mature plants sweep down into the glen and up the next rise.

See more of this spectacular garden at
www.mapleglen.co.nz



Looking down the glen to one of many ponds, we see sheep grazing and just beyond a new creation of rhododendrons and trees sweeping up the hill.



Rhododendrons nestle around the edge of this small pond where black swans were nesting – and approaching us rather aggressively!



Rhododendrons and their companions congregate around this pond, joined by many Japanese maples, elms and birches starting to leaf out in the New Zealand spring.



Swathes of magnificent rhododendrons thrive on the hills and dales at Maple Glen.



New Zealand gardens and landscapes are mindful of the gardens and countryside of England and Scotland – with none so English or Scottish as this Bluebell Wood.



More ponds and stunning vistas!!
No words are necessary.



Hundreds of mature and fine-looking rhododendrons inhabit Maple Glen – this one perhaps is *Rhododendron* 'Paprika Spiced'.



This lovely combination of two fairly easy to grow rhododendrons is the creation of an artistic eye.



Everywhere in New Zealand trilliums abound. Thousands massed here at Maple Glen, along with many other woodland companions of rhododendrons.