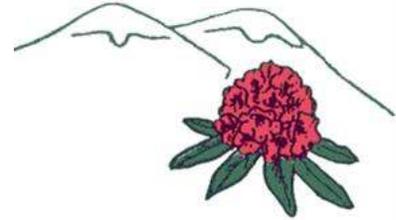


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH

MARS

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 342

Qualicum Beach. BC

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NOVEMBER 2015

2015/2016 Executive

President

Linda Derkach

752-3545 lindaderkach@shaw.ca

Vice-President

Glen Jamieson

248-5593 glenj02@yahoo.ca

Treasurer

Ray Walker

248-5138 rrjiffy@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

Kathy Loyer

738-0138 kathyloyer@shaw.ca

Maria Bieberstein

468-7252 abieberstein@telus.net

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

Sunshine – Maria Bieberstein

This Month:

Rhododendrons and Our Changing Climate

Al Murray

&

Terry Richmond

Growing Rhododendrons in Drier Conditions

Al and Terry will touch on all aspects of keeping our rhododendrons happy as climate conditions change.

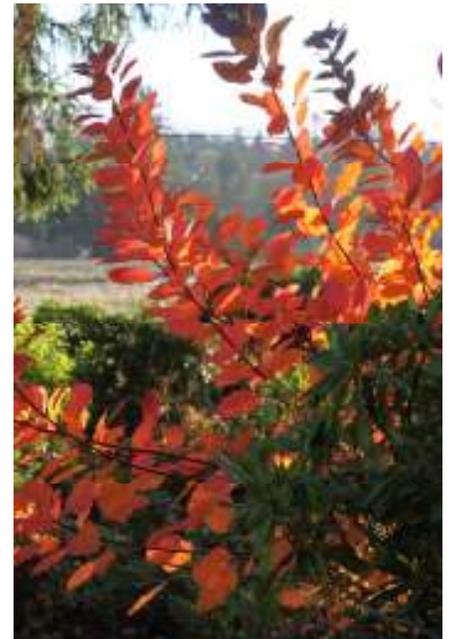
Come and learn how to keep your precious plants alive and well during the next drought.

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting:

**Thursday,
November 12**



Cotinus 'Grace' never fails to amaze and delight every autumn. And *Rhododendron* 'Cotton Candy' is a great companion here in the glow of the setting sun.

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Upcoming Programs...

❖ November 12

- *Al Murray and Terry
Richmond on Rhododendrons
and Our Changing Climate*

Dates to Remember...

❖ December 5, 2015

- *MARS Christmas Party*
- *Home of Jane & Ray Walker*

❖ Saturday, February 6, 2016

- *Qualicum Beach Seedy
Saturday*

❖ April 20 to 24, 2016

- *ARS Annual Convention*
- *Williamsburg, Virginia*

❖ April 23, 2016

- *MARS Rhododendron Show
and Sale*

❖ May 7 & 8, 2016

- *MARS 25th Annual Mother's
Day Garden Tour*

Membership Renewal

If you have not already renewed your membership in MARS, please see

Tony Ansdell

at our general meeting on **November 12.**

The deadline is looming to ensure you don't miss a copy of the

Journal of the

American Rhododendron Society.

Membership is still \$30 for one or two people. Cash or cheque is fine.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please mail your cheque before November 30

to: Membership, Mount Arrowsmith

Rhododendron Society

PO BOX 342

Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S8.

Williamsburg 2016



**A Joint Meeting of the
American Rhododendron Society
and the *Azalea Society of
America***

April 20-24, 2016

Amazing, Blazing Autumn...

Story and Photos: Linda Derkach

For many people, autumn is a favourite time of year. The heat and drought of summer is gone, things are slowing down, and the warm, golden glow of leaves as they turn brings us much pleasure from our gardens. And rhododendrons provide a very valuable service as a beautiful dark green foil for the gold, orange, red and purple of many deciduous plants and trees.



For Al and Maria Bieberstein this much-loved *Acer palmatum* 'Noto No Ito' – a threadleaf maple in all its autumn glory – is a standout in their garden. In fact, Japanese maples are an essential element in many fine gardens, and make excellent companions for rhododendrons – especially at this time of year.



Acer palmatum 'Osakazuki' turns a brilliant red in autumn, here in the Loyer garden. This Japanese maple tolerates sun and heat, and can grow to 25 feet.



Acer 'Orange Dream' is a medium-sized bushy shrub to 15 feet with leaf colour varying in different seasons: yellow in spring, greenish in summer and orange/yellow in autumn. To add to this smorgasbord of fragrant colour, 'Orange Dream' can also produce red fruits from reddish/purple flowers.



Cotinus 'Grace' is a large shrub that never disappoints.

Cotinus (Smoke Bush) is a very desirable family of shrubs/small trees that works well in any garden, and especially with rhododendrons. Green, purple and gold are spring and summer colours, but in autumn they absolutely glow, bringing cheer on gray or sunny fall days. And most are deer resistant and quite drought tolerant. Cotinus can be pruned in early spring as the new buds start to form to keep it bushy and compact. Or it can be allowed to grow unrestricted producing large airy balls of flowers resembling puffs of smoke.



Kathy Loyer's lime green wheelbarrow holds flowers in summer, and now in autumn boasts the bounty from her garden. Some old tools and a rooster complete this outdoor decoration.



Cotinus coggygia 'Royal Purple' is probably the most commonly grown Smoke Bush. Through summer the leaves are a deep purple, turning a burnished amber and copper in fall.



A great favourite, *Cotinus coggygia* 'Golden Spirit' has lime green leaves in spring turning a golden yellow in summer and then pinky/orange in fall. At 7 feet high, 'Golden Spirit' will work well with most gardens and is worth seeking out in nurseries.



For more fall colour, the Fothergilla family is a good choice. *Fothergilla x intermedia* 'Mount Airy' has abundant white, honey-scented brush-like blooms followed by superb autumn colour of yellow, orange and scarlet. At 3 – 6 feet tall, it will earn its keep in a small or large garden.

Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner

Update from Marilyn Dawson

Now that Milner Gardens and Woodland is closed for the season, work can proceed on the Rhododendron Species Garden that will be situated in an area behind the gift shop. A work party cleared the area of small brush and debris in June so that larger trees can be felled this month. Five companies in the Nanaimo-Parksville area were asked for bids. Two estimates have been received and Executive Director Geoff Ball has decided to accept the lower bid for work to begin this month. The advisory committee had already approved the amount to be spent.

Anticipating questions about tree falling, Geoff has produced a large attractive sign describing the upcoming project as a garden for conservation, education and inspiration. It will hang in a conspicuous place for visitors, and can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Geoff has also applied for a grant from the federal government to be awarded in honour of the 150th anniversary of Canadian federation. It was to have been announced in September, but was postponed to after the election. Tony Ansdell will apply to the ARS for a grant in 2016 to help finance the new irrigation for the area.

From your President...

Linda Derkach

November Program

Our newsletter is a little late this month as we have had a last-minute change in our program.

Luckily, our own **Terry Richmond** and our good friend **Al Murray of Cowichan** are available to give us a very timely message about helping our rhododendrons and other plants through a drought. This is a program not to be missed. And is on.....

**Thursday, November 12 at
7:30 pm**

MARS Bus Trip

Your executive is hoping to plan a MARS Bus Tour to a new location in 2016 and again in 2017.

So please think about where you would like to travel with your fellow Martians (remember our bus trip of 2014 to Victoria and Saanich).

Some options we are tossing around are up north to Campbell River, a hop over to Salt Spring Island or out West to Tofino. Longer trips could be to Seattle and Whidbey or Bainbridge Islands, or to the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.

Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party this year will take on a whole new look at the home of Jane and Ray Walker. You are asked to bring only a potluck dish, a beverage and something for the food hamper....and please start knitting those scarves and mitts and warm hats for Manna.

See you all November 12.

ARS Sidney Convention:
Through the Eyes of Anne Gutsche



Primulas love a moist, shady spot.



Gorgeous blooms at Finnerty Gardens



Terry Richmond on tour.



Mike and Joan Rich enjoying the serenity



Chris Southwick at Dominion Brook Park.



Podophyllum (May Apple)



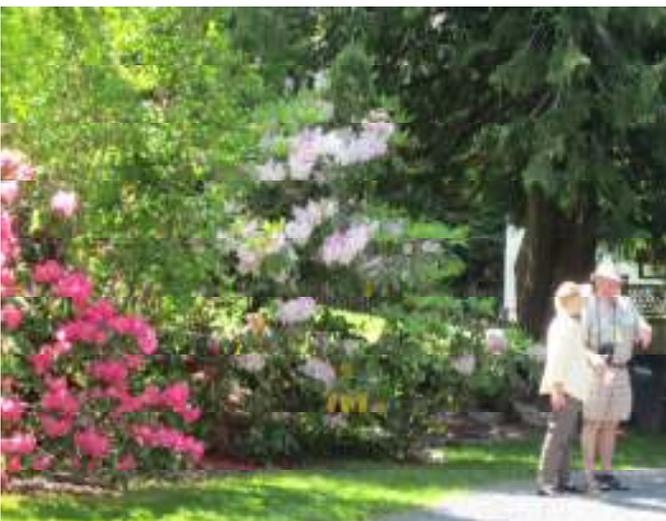
A beautifully landscaped scene



Bright Angel Water Garden in the Cowichan Valley



An inviting path...



Doug Kitts - deep in conversation...



Photographer Anne Gutsche at Dominion Brook Park near Sidney.

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society
General Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2015 at 7:30 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

The evening began with Show and Tell. Glen Jamieson brought a bucket of colorful offerings, Maria Bieberstein showed a bloom from *Rhododendron* 'Looking Glass' and Valerie Melanson described her pot of fall blooming gentians.

The meeting was chaired by Tony Ansdell in the absence of Linda Derkach, and he started what may become a tradition in asking members to turn and shake hands with the person next to them, or nearby. It is even better if that person seems to be a stranger. Then introductions are in order.

Guest speaker for the evening was Program Chair and Vice President, Glen Jamieson who gave an extensive presentation on his recent trip to Sikkim. It was a fascinating travelogue of mountainous terrain, of trekking up and down slippery slopes. This was spring; flowers were blooming, the narrow, rocky roads were clogged with traffic and eventually, in the high altitude trekkers had to pause and catch their breath from time to time. In many respects it was another example of the intrepid plant hunter's trip from hell, complete with landslide and leeches. Glen imparted one bit of information that every gardener, male or female, needs to know: for a sure-fire deterrent to leeches wear pantyhose. Apparently they can't get through the material to dine.

Besides the difficulties, there was also beauty and Glen showed countless photos of

rhododendrons and colorful companion plants that grow in the area.

Business: 1. Garden Tour Chair Kathy Loyer said next spring's tour will be MARS' 25th anniversary and the committee is open to ideas on ways to enhance the event. She is also looking for gardens in Qualicum Beach, Parksville or Coombs that would be worth considering.

2. John DeBoer has offered to take over making coffee for the meeting. Tony thanked John profusely on behalf of the club and asked that members take turns learning the ropes in case of emergency.

3. There is a slight change in logging-on to the MARS website: It is now just www.marsrhodos.ca without the extra dot.

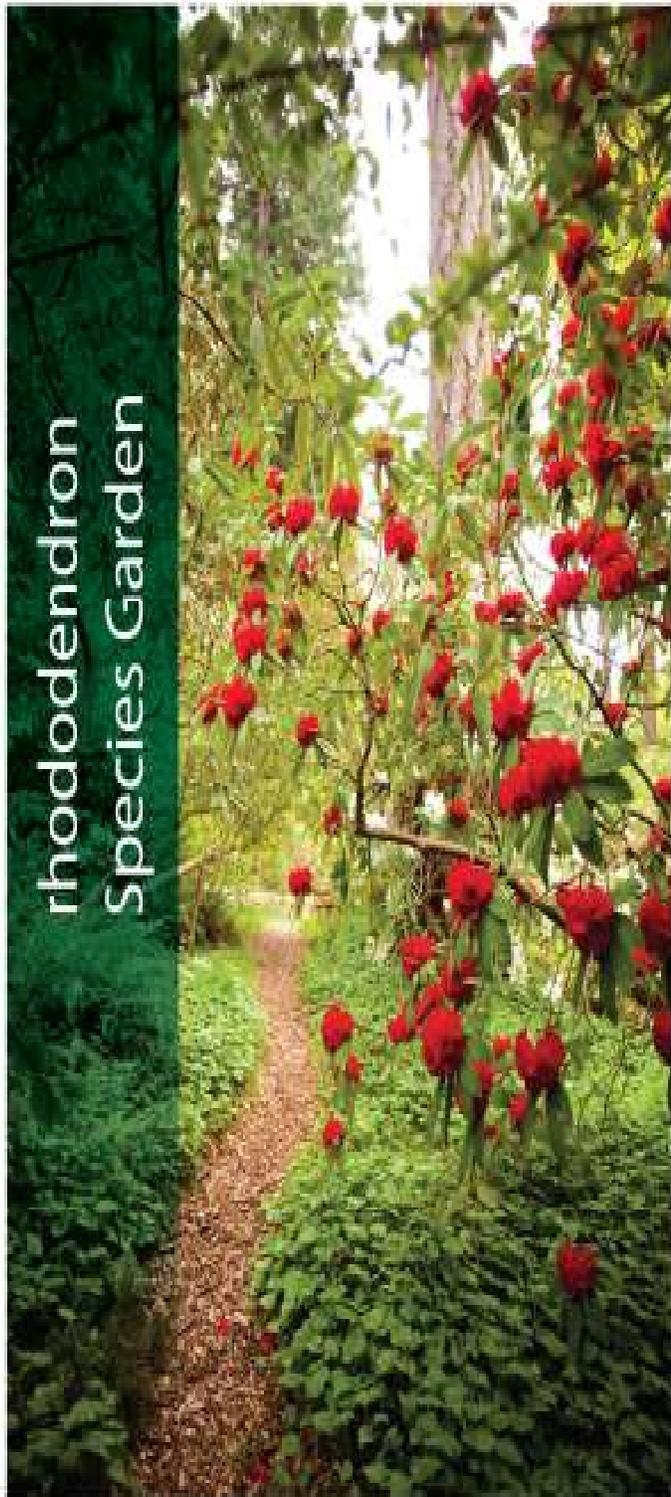
4. There are still a few copies left of the Mary Greig book and Ian Efford's book on the public rhododendron gardens on Vancouver Island. Both are suitable Christmas presents.

5. The Christmas Party this year will be at the home of Ray and Jane Walker in San Pareil on Saturday, December 5. Rotary Hall, our venue for many years was not available on any weekend in early December. Cutlery, plates and glasses will be rented; members can sign up for a pot luck dish at the next meeting.

There will be no gift exchange, but there will be a raffle, foodbank and Manna Ministry donations.

Door Prizes etc: The door prize was an azalea, 'Girard's Hot Shot'; other plants for the draw were a vine maple, *Rhododendron* 'Honey Butter' and *R.* 'Silver Skies'. Winners were Marilyn Dawson, Maria Bieberstein, Kathy Loyer and Mazie Walsh.

Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens: Moving Forward



The ground is being prepared...

Vancouver Island University's Milner Gardens & Woodland and The District 1 Vancouver Island chapters of the American Rhododendron Society are excited to be partnering to create a Rhododendron Species Garden in this area over the next few years.

for conservation

Preserving the old growth trees that were left after this area was logged years ago, this garden will highlight the tremendous diversity found within the genus *Rhododendron*, while contributing to the conservation of species threatened by habitat loss in the wild.

for education

Featuring the parent species of many of the heritage hybrid rhododendrons already here, the species garden will show visitors how plants in their home gardens are related to wild species. It will also provide a valuable opportunity for students from Vancouver Island University's Horticulture Technician program to understand how new hybrid species are developed.

for inspiration

Imagine: A world of rhododendrons from the slopes of the Himalayas, the mountains of eastern Europe, and across North America, including species only recently introduced to horticulture, all nestled into this serene woodland setting.

Stay tuned to find out how you can support this new garden.

