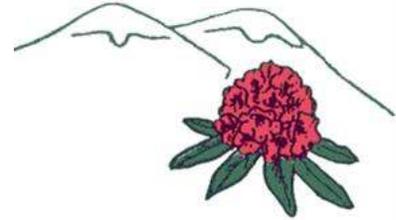


# THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH  
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

MARS  
P. O. Box 342  
Qualicum Beach. BC  
V9K 1S8

Volume 28, Issue 3

MARCH 2016

## 2015/2016 Executive

### President

Linda Derkach  
752-3545 [lindaderkach@shaw.ca](mailto:lindaderkach@shaw.ca)

### Vice-President

Glen Jamieson  
248-5593 [glenj02@yahoo.ca](mailto:glenj02@yahoo.ca)

### Treasurer

Ray Walker  
248-5138 [rrjiffy@shaw.ca](mailto:rrjiffy@shaw.ca)

### Secretary

Marilyn Dawson  
752-3694 [dawsom@shaw.ca](mailto:dawsom@shaw.ca)

### Past President

Tony Ansdell  
752-4475 [ansdella@shaw.ca](mailto:ansdella@shaw.ca)

### Directors

Don Bridgen  
723-3916 [dabridgen@gmail.com](mailto:dabridgen@gmail.com)

Ann DeBrincat  
724-5594 [darryl59ann@telus.net](mailto:darryl59ann@telus.net)

Kathy Loyer  
738-0138 [kathyloyer@shaw.ca](mailto:kathyloyer@shaw.ca)

Maria Bieberstein  
468-7252 [abieberstein@telus.net](mailto: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:

**Dr. Nancy Turner**  
Ethnobotanist

## Going Wild:

*Culturally Important Native  
Plants for Vancouver Island  
Gardens*



*Erythronium revolutum* is a BC native that grows happily in shade to full sun, usually blooming in mid to late spring. Soil with high organic content and good drainage is needed for this pink fawn lily to thrive. The corms formed part of the diet of indigenous peoples.

## MARS Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the  
month at 7:30 pm  
Qualicum Beach  
Civic Centre

## Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,  
March 2**



Hellebores make fine companions for rhododendrons. *Helleborus x nigercors* 'Honeyhill Joy' is an excellent performer. Tolerant of fairly dry shade, this cultivar has been free of Hellebore Leaf Spot.

## Inside.....

Activities..... Page 2  
Woodbury Rhododendrons. Page 3  
Events ..... Page 5  
Minutes..... Page 6

## Upcoming Programs...

### ❖ *Wednesday, March 2, 2016*

- *Nancy Turner, Ethnobotanist*
  - *Note Change of Date*

### ❖ *Thursday, April 14, 2016*

- *Bill Dumont on Gardens in England*
  - *Note Change of Date*

### ❖ *May 2016*

- *Bernie Guyader on The Small Rhododendrons*

## Dates to Remember...

### ❖ *April 23, 2016*

- *MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale*

### ❖ *April 20 to 24, 2016*

- *ARS Annual Convention Williamsburg, Virginia*

### ❖ *May 7 & 8, 2016*

- *MARS 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour*

### *From Your President...*

Our almost non-winter is gracefully turning to spring! *Rhododendron 'Cilpinense'* is smothered with glorious pink blossoms on my porch. And many spring flowers entice us into the garden. I am looking forward to seeing you all again on March 2 to learn about native plants in our gardens. Best Wishes, Linda

## Nancy Turner Ethnobotanist, UVic

An ethnobotanist whose research integrates the fields of botany and ecology with anthropology, geography and linguistics, Nancy is interested in the traditional knowledge systems and traditional land and resource management systems of Indigenous Peoples, particularly in western Canada.

Nancy has worked with First Nations elders and cultural specialists in northwestern North America for over 40 years, collaborating with Indigenous communities to help document, retain and promote their traditional knowledge of plants and habitats, including Indigenous foods, materials and medicines, as well as language and vocabulary relating to plants and environments.

A research grant awarded in 2011 allowed Nancy to participate more fully in community-based learning and research, especially as it pertains to critical issues facing Canadians today around the importance of sustaining biocultural diversity in an ever-changing world.

Nancy has much to share with us as we face a warming climate, lower precipitation and significant watering restrictions.

# Woodbury Rhododendrons:

## *Guided by an Artful Eye*

Story and Photos: Linda Derkach

*Following the New Zealand Rhododendron Society 2014 Conference, many of us enjoyed a three day tour of South Island Gardens. One of the gardens was that of our tour guide Joy O'Keefe and her husband Bernie in Woodbury near Geraldine, South Canterbury, NZ.*

*Part 1 of Woodbury Rhododendrons focuses on some of the creative combinations that turn a collection of plants into an exceptional garden.*

Next Month: The Rhododendrons of Woodbury



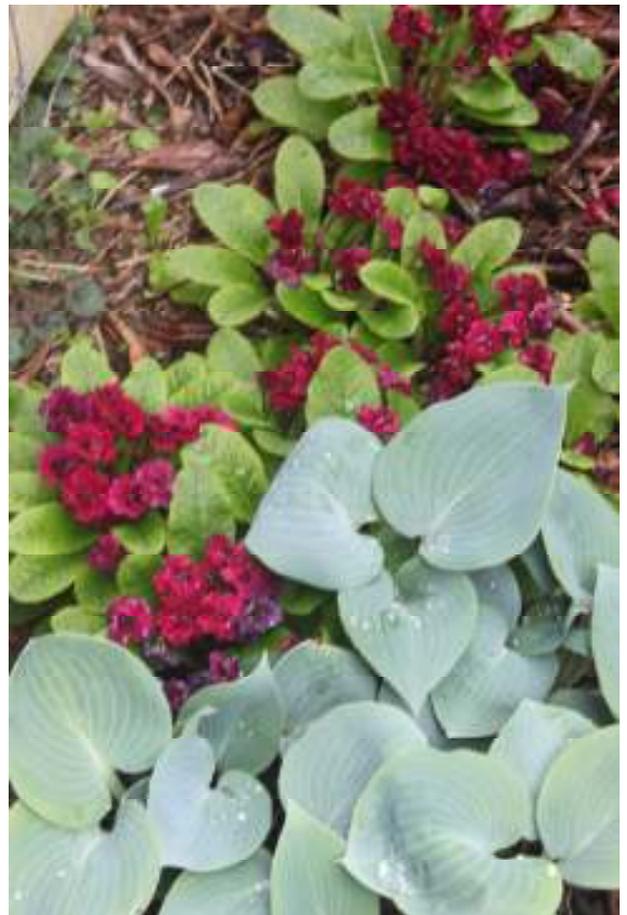
This purple rhododendron looks even more beautiful in combination with this golden/lime green heuchera – perhaps *Heuchera* 'Lime Rickey' or 'Lime Marmalade'?

Woodbury Rhododendrons is similar to other amazing gardens in New Zealand - created and cared for by a family of dedicated gardeners. Woodbury provides a home to 1,000 rhododendrons and hundreds of other horticultural treasures that together create a stunning masterpiece.

The garden surrounds the house, and includes a pond, maples, flowering cherries, cornus, clematis, roses, peonies, and many shade loving rhododendron companions.



*Rosa banksiae* 'Lutea' and a purple clematis create a winning combination and privacy hedge. This rose is one of my favourites - clusters of lovely yellow flowers cascade from a trellis or over the ground. This once-blooming rose has no thorns, no diseases and in a mild winter has been evergreen in my garden.



Here's a stunning combination of a small-leaved blue/green hosta underplanted with a luscious deep red primula. Here is one to try!



*Rhododendron pemakoense* with masses of pink flowers over tiny perfect leaves is even more beautiful framed by a purple heuchera – and there are many from which to choose. Blooming from March to May, it is a great choice for a rock garden.



Like us, New Zealanders have a love affair with Japanese Maples. This weeping, light green maple forms a subtle background for *Rhododendron* 'Gartendirekter Rieger'.



For many of us with dry shade, epimedium is a staple - evergreen all year, then bursting forth in late winter with delicate but tough early blooming flowers. At Woodbury, it is also a companion for rhododendrons along with Lady's Mantle and other shade lovers.



With its slightly milder climate than coastal BC, New Zealand gardens boast many gorgeous azaleas. This bright yellow beauty near the pond is accompanied by daffodils, epimedium, forget-me-not and a golden leafed berberis.



The pond at Woodbury is stunning with many great vistas and vignettes. Multi-coloured primula and iris mix here with weeping willows in the background.

# Time to Pot Up

Marilyn Dawson

Once again this April MARS will have its own table at the Rhododendron Show and Sale. Members are encouraged now to look around their gardens and see what can be divided. There may even be a plant or two that you no longer want. As long as it and the pot are in good condition, please bring it to the sale.

Popular sellers are such companion plants as Japanese maple seedlings, trilliums grown from seed, succulents, ferns and all sorts of perennials. Of course rhododendrons and azaleas are always welcome. Perhaps you have too many reds in the garden or you hate pink. Bring it to the sale; it will find a home.

All plants should be in clean pots, trimmed of dead leaves and broken twigs. For more information, talk to Barbara Kulla, Maria Bieberstein or Marilyn Dawson.



This magnificent variegated Ligustrum and its Cotoneaster companion is an attractive feature all year round in the garden of Anne and George Gutsche.

Photo: Anne Gutsche

## Mid Island Floral Art Club

Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 1:30  
Stephens United Church Hall  
150 Village Way, Qualicum Beach

Demonstration for this meeting is

## Contemporary Landscape

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

## The Eaglecrest Garden Club

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 7:00 pm

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Everyone welcome

Non-members: \$3.00

## Efficient Watering

Presented by:

**Lauren Fegan of Water Smart (RDN)** speaking on the need and the benefits of efficient watering and

**Kevin Luterbach of Iritex** speaking on the options available with the nuts and bolts of irrigation.

Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society  
General Meeting  
Held at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre  
February 10, 2016 at 7:30 pm  
Minutes

Guests and new members were welcomed by Vice President Glen Jamieson, acting for President Linda Derkach. Maria Bieberstein showed cuttings of plants blooming in her garden, including *Rhododendron dauricum*, *R. lutescens*, Daphne and two beautiful hellebores. Barbara Kulla's *R. 'Olive'*, an early-blooming mauve rhododendron, was also on display.

The panel of Terry Richmond, Maria Bieberstein and Paul Wurz of Hidden Acres in Campbell River got down to business discussing a myriad of issues involving rhododendrons. Glen as moderator asked the questions at first, and each panelist answered in turn. As well, MARS members peppered them with questions. They ranged over a variety of subjects, from selecting plants and rhododendron information to soil preparation, fertilizing and container gardening.

**BUSINESS:**

**Seedy Saturday:** Marilyn Dawson said more than 2,800 people turned up at the Civic Centre for Seedy Saturday and MARS volunteers sold a few rhododendrons and companion plants. Information about the club and the upcoming speaker on March 2, Nancy Turner, was handed out. Working the table in shifts were Maria Bieberstein, Glen Jamieson, Doug Kitts, Guy and Kathy Loyer, Joanne Hamilton, Tony Ansdell and Marilyn Dawson.

**Truss Show:** Ray Walker explained how the April 23 rhododendron show and sale works. Many vendors will be present selling rhododendrons, companion plants and other plants. It is a good place for people to talk with experts to learn about their purchases. MARS will again have a table where members will be selling their own plants. It's a good fundraiser for the club. Ken Webb has again agreed to contribute some plants for the show, which requires a great deal of volunteer help for the day.

**Garden Tour:** Kathy Loyer said the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Garden Tour is special with value-added events at some of the 13 gardens. At the March meeting, she urged members to be ready to sign up as sitters for the two-day Mother's Day Weekend event.

**OTHER BUSINESS: 1.** Glen Jamieson read a letter of thanks from Donna DeBoer for the chapter's donation to her care while she undergoes cancer treatment in Victoria. She said she has almost finished her treatment.

2. After a show of hands, members chose Thursday, May 19 for the one-day tour of Salt Spring Island. More details will follow.

3. Tony Ansdell said the Species Garden is preparing for the next phase at Milner Gardens and Woodland. He asked for names of those willing to help at work parties in conjunction with the Milner volunteers. The first one is expected sometime in March. The Species project is a combined venture of the island ARS chapters, Milner Gardens and Vancouver Island University.

4. The deadline for Bill Dumont's fall tour of New Zealand has been extended to February 29. Dumont is with the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:55 pm

**Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society  
Spring Show and Sale 2016**

Cadboro Bay United Church  
2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria, BC  
Friday, April 8 from 1 pm to 8 pm  
Saturday, April 9 from 9 am to 3 pm

This is a well-established juried show, featuring wonderful rock and alpine garden plants.

As well as show entries, there will be commercial and member plant sales, seed sales, displays, door prizes, and refreshments.

Admission by donation.

Information available at:

Website: [www.virags.ca](http://www.virags.ca),

Email: [virags.news@gmail.com](mailto:virags.news@gmail.com)