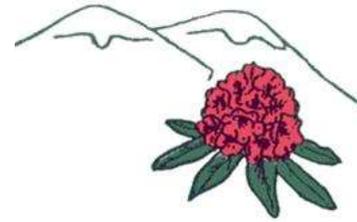


# THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH  
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**MARS  
P. O. Box 342  
Qualicum Beach, BC  
V9K 1S8  
www.marsrhodos.ca**

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**Christmas Party** - Executive

**Dollar Table** – Barbara Kulla

**Newsletter Editor** - Linda Derkach

**Garden Tour** – Sherry Thompson

**Truss Show** – Kathy & Guy Loyer

**Greeter** – Guy Loyer

**Historian** –

**Library** –

**Meeting Coordinator**-Tony Ansdell

**Membership** – Tony Ansdell

**Milner Gardens** - John England

**Plant Prizes** – Sherry Thompson

**Program Chair** – Glen Jamieson

**PR** - Marilyn Dawson

**Refreshments** –

**Goodies** – Jane Walker

**Species Garden** – Tony Ansdell

**Sunshine** – Judy Wood

**Webmaster** – Diane Henders

**Welcome** – Joanne Hamilton

**This Month:**

# Christmas Party



*A Christmas Village – Elaine Derkach*

**Jane and Ray Walker are once again our gracious hosts for the MARS Christmas Party.**

**This is great fun!**

**Don't miss it.**

**More details inside....**

**MARS Website**

**Check out our updated and exciting renewed website at [marsrhodos.ca](http://marsrhodos.ca)**

**MARS Meetings**

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

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday,  
January 9, 2019**



*Kalmia latifolia* (Mountain Laurel) is a reliable broad-leaved evergreen that shows off through the dark days of winter with pink buds opening to very long blooming, delicate white flowers. Great for Christmas arrangements! No problems, no pests, very hardy!

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## Upcoming Programs

- ❖ **Sunday, December 9**
  - **MARS Christmas Party**
- ❖ **Wednesday, January 9, 2019**
  - **MARS Members' Photo Night**
- ❖ **Wednesday, February 13**
  - **Special Movie Presentation:**  
*The Gardener*  
<https://vimeo.com/240237260>  
Check it out – you will want to see this!
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 13**
  - **Ole Jonny Larsen of Norway**  
*Plant Hunting: The Experience of an Amateur*
- ❖ **Wednesday, April 10**
  - **Circle of Knowledge**

### Membership Renewal

If you have not already renewed your membership in MARS, you can renew by going on line at [marsrhodos.ca](http://marsrhodos.ca) and clicking on the Membership page.

Or mail your cheque to:

**Membership, Mount Arrowsmith  
Rhododendron Society  
PO BOX 342**

**Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S8.**

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

## Activities and Events

- ❖ **Saturday, April 20, 2019**
  - **MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale, Parksville Curling Club**
- ❖ **Saturday, May 11 & Sunday, May 12**
  - **MARS Mother's Day Garden Tour**
- ❖ **May 15 to 18, 2019**
  - **ARS Spring Convention, Philadelphia**
- ❖ **June 18 and 19, 2019**
  - **MARS Bus Tour to Victoria**

### MARS Christmas Party

*You are invited!!*

**Sunday, December 9, 2018**

**Appies: 5 pm Dinner: 6 pm**

**Home of Jane and Ray Walker**

**824 San Malo Crescent, Parksville**

*This year features a Fun Auction with  
Auctioneer Extraordinaire David Landry.*

*Please bring....*

- **The potluck dish you signed up for**
- **A beverage of your choice**
- **Warm clothing, food and/or money for those less fortunate**
- **An item for the Silent Auction**

**Hope to see you there!**

**Note: When you arrive, please park right off the road and close together.**

# MARS Propagation:

## Update *from Sherry Thompson*

Following our propagation in Victoria last fall, our young rhododendrons suffered considerable losses after a very long, hot and dry summer. Spider mites and aphids conspired to weaken some plants so that we were left with about 250 plants out of the original 850 that were struck at Ken Webb's in Victoria. Survivors have now been potted up and are residing in protected shade and hopefully will survive the winter.



Madeleine logs each cutting and its location.



Ken nestles the prepared cuttings in the propagator.

Lucky for us, Ken Webb again welcomed us to propagate more plants in November. We gathered up a cutting preparation crew and were off to Victoria on November 10. Ken and Madeline again provided advice and assistance on preparing the cuttings and nestled all the cuttings into their propagator. They keep scrupulous records, which all of us neophyte propagators should emulate.

Thank you to everyone who dropped off cuttings!! Milner Gardens gave us permission to take some cuttings from their mature plants.



At the end of the day, our propagation crew smiling and hopeful that this batch of 500 seedlings will survive. Thanks to everyone who adventured off to Victoria on short notice.

Together our MARS propagation group hopes to grow lots of rhododendrons for our 2019 conference, and possibly eventually, for future raffles, door prizes, and our Truss Show.

*Photos: Linda Derkach*



## Mt Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

### General Meeting

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

November 14, 2018 at 7:30 pm

After a brief introduction from President Glen Jamieson, Geoff Ball, Executive Director of Milner Gardens and Woodland presented a history of the gardens dating from the 1920s when Gen. Noel Money bought the property for his mother and sister. A few years later, it became the summer property of Edmonton lawyer Ray Milner and his wife Rina. After she died in the 1950s, Ray married Veronica, a British artistic aristocrat who was the widow of the 28<sup>th</sup> Knight of Glin. And thus the property became known as Milner Gardens. Early photos showed the transition of the garden over the years from the very beginning up to Veronica's death in 1998. By then it had been acquired by Malaspina College, now Vancouver Island University. For those newcomers especially, unfamiliar with the background of the garden, Geoff explained how Milner and the Milner Gardens Foundation function under the umbrella of VIU. (MARS has been associated in various ways with the garden since its beginning, most currently in a partnership with the other island rhododendron chapters in the creation of the recently opened Greig Species Garden.)

After the break, Glen delivered a short educational talk on fertilizer and plants.

**ARS Fall Conference:** Linda said several people have stepped forward to take on jobs for the fall conference; Trish Marrion will work with Barbara Kulla on the silent auction; Sherry Thompson will look after the photo contest and Joanne Hamilton will work with a team to create centrepieces for the tables. She said the committee will approach various businesses for donations to help ease the cost and invited members to sponsor a speaker if they wish. The plant sale organized by Terry Richmond will be run by Guy Loyer and Rose Prufer.

**Other Business:** 1. Treasurer Ray Walker will research all the information on the "square" which will be used to facilitate credit card payments at future events.

2. The Species Advisory Committee met this month to plan next steps. A three-man crew have added to

the fence and a mulching bee is planned for later this month. Tony Ansdell has already applied to the ARS Endowment Fund for a grant to plant specific rhododendrons and companion plants.

3. Members were urged again to recommend gardens suitable for the 2019 Garden Tour and alert chair, Sherry Thompson.

4. Linda said the bus tour is a two-day trip to Victoria on June 18 and 19 and is expected to be more expensive than previous years. Bus costs have almost doubled. Room rates will be high also because of the timing.

5. Tony said most members have renewed with only a few outstanding. Some have not filled out the requested form giving MARs the right (or not) to publish a member's photo in the newsletter or on the web. He urged them to do so as a one-time-only gesture.

6. Greeter Guy Loyer urged members to think about assisting with coffee or library duties to help out John and Donna DeBoer.

7. The Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 9 at the home of Ray and Jane Walker. Marilyn said the dinner will be similar to last year with Qualicum Foods cooking the turkeys (donated by members) and the sides being provided, also by members, in an organized pot luck. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

8. Sherry Thompson told the group that 502 cuttings were taken to Victoria by a small crew for propagation in Ken Webb's equipment in hopes of having enough small table favors for the 2019 conference. Most of the earlier batch failed to make it through the summer.

9. Baked goods for this meeting were provided by John and Arlene England, Marlys Diamond, Karen Bennett and Marilyn Dawson.

10. The door prize was *Rhododendron* 'Hill's Bright Red' won by Tony Ansdell. Raffle items were: a fern, Christmas cactus. *Rhododendron* 'Eruption', *R.* 'Horizon Monarch', *R.* 'Cherries and Merlot'. Winners were: Louise Cotterill, Doug Kitts, Ray Walker and Sandra Rosang.

## Rhododendron Problems Explained

Glen Jamieson

### Why do rhododendrons have yellow leaves?

#### **Natural Senescence**

First, make sure that what you are seeing is not just leaf senescence – old leaves falling off at the end of their two or three year life. This happens just before winter or in summer drought.

#### **Cultivation and Care**

Yellow rhododendron leaves often represent the plant's expression of dissatisfaction with its care. Rhododendrons are picky about the soil and how much moisture they are getting. If you see your rhododendron leaves turning yellow, review each and every element of the plant's care.

#### **Good Drainage**

First, take a look at how well your soil drains. Rhododendrons don't do well in wet soil, and "wet feet" can cause leaves to turn yellow. Give the plant a deep drink, then watch how fast the water soaks into the soil. If your drainage is bad, transplant the shrub sooner rather than later to a location with well-drained soil.



#### **Soil Acidity**

Next, test your soil's acidity with a home pH tester. If your soil is alkaline, you've found one reason for rhododendron leaves turning yellow: mineral deficiency causing chlorosis.

Rhododendrons can take up too much calcium and not enough iron in alkaline soils. Chlorosis is very likely when the yellowing is mostly between the veins of new leaves. Transplanting the shrub to a raised bed might be the best and quickest solution to leaves turning yellow from chlorosis.

#### **Planted Too Deeply?**

Another reason for yellow rhododendron leaves

might be the way that you planted the shrub. Rhododendrons should be planted with the root ball just at the soil surface. If you can't feel the root ball in the soil, you have planted it too deeply. Best to replant at the proper level.

#### **Adequate Food and Water**

Lack of water or food may also cause leaves to turn yellow. Give the plant fertilizer in late May to June and at the same time, give it a good drink. If it perks up, you may have found the problem?

### Preventing Winter Damage

Cold injury in rhododendrons is caused by too much water evaporating from the leaves without anything to replace it. When cold, drying winds blow across leaf surfaces they take a lot of moisture with them.

Unfortunately, in the winter, it's not uncommon for this to happen when the ground is frozen solid, limiting how much water can be brought up into the plant. Without adequate water levels in their cells, the tips and even entire leaves of rhododendrons will wither and die.

Rhododendrons attempt to protect themselves from winter dehydration by curling their leaves, allowing them to hang down. This mechanism is often effective, but there are also things one can do to help protect rhododendrons from winter damage.

Because rhododendrons root much more shallowly than many other plants, it's important to keep a thick layer of mulch over this delicate system. Ten cm (four inches) of an organic mulch like wood chips or pine needles is often adequate protection from the cold. It'll also slow water evaporation from the ground, helping your plant stay hydrated.

Make sure to give your plants a long, deep drink on warmer days so they have a chance to recover from cold snaps – not usually a problem on Vancouver Island.

A windbreak made from burlap, lattice or a snow fence can help slow drying winds, but if your plant is already planted in a protected area, it should be safe enough from winter damage.

# Japan:

## More Than Exquisite Gardens...

Photos: Karen Bennett and Kel Roberts

MARS members Karen and Kel recently returned from a memorable trip to Japan. From ancient temples to natural beauty, modern and traditional dress, Japan has much to wow international visitors. Here are a few of their outstanding photos to share with you.



**Homage to Buddha**



**Iconic Mt. Fujiyama**



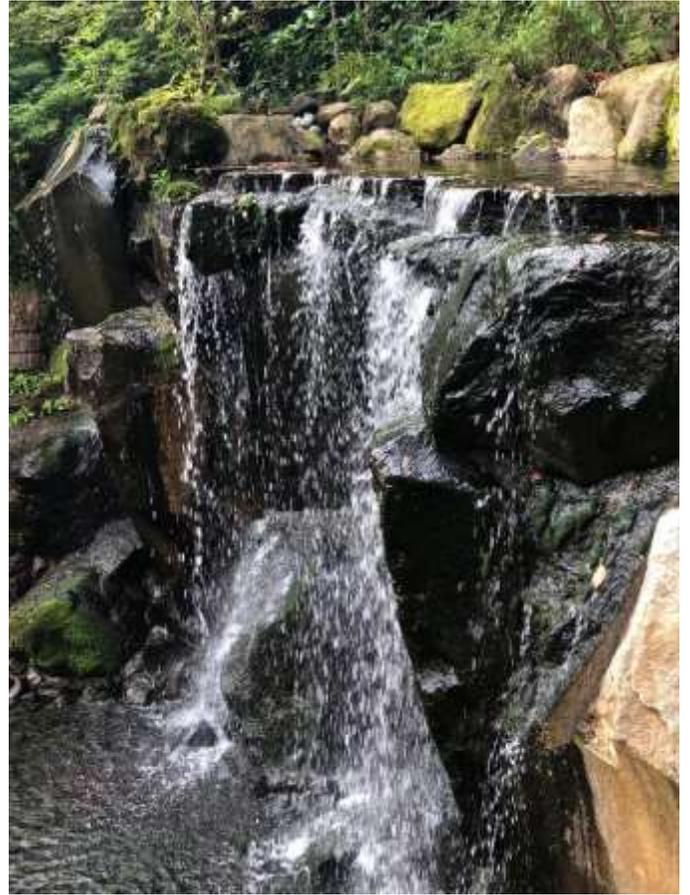
**Pagoda at Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto**



**Red Tori Gates form a path up the mountain behind a temple.**



**A typical tourist activity – rent a traditional Japanese kimono, with all the trimmings, for the day.**



**Waterfall in the hills of Hakone that is famous for its hot springs, south of Tokyo.**



**This 100 year old clematis resides at the Hamarikyu Garden in Tokyo.**



**A toddler in traditional costume for an annual celebration for 3, 5 and 7 year olds.**



**Macaques in a sanctuary in Kyoto**



**Kinkaku-ji (the Golden Pavilion), originally built as a retirement villa for Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, and upon his death converted to a Buddhist temple. Circa late 1390's**

## **Greig Rhododendron Species Garden – Work Bee**

*From Sherry Thompson*



**Marilyn, Sherry, John and June snuggling our species rhododendrons in for the winter with a deep blanket of mulch. Almost half of a huge load of mulch was moved and raked by noon. A good way to warm up and stay fit!!**



*Photos: Sherry Thompson and Glen Jamieson*