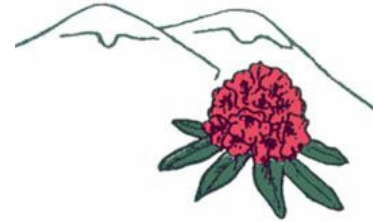


THE RHODOVINE

**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS
P. O. Box 342
Qualicum Beach, BC
V9K 1S8
mars.rhodos.ca



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2006/2007 Executive

President

Ron McMaster 954-3210
Email: rjmcmaster@shaw.ca

Vice-President

Art Lightburn 468-7516
Email: slightbu@shaw.ca

Secretary

Ann DeBrincat 724-5594
Email: darrylhatch@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Tony Ansdell 752-4475
Email: ansdella@shaw.ca

Directors

Maria Bieberstein 468-7252
Email: aeb@shaw.ca

Marilyn Dawson 752-3694
Email: dawsom@shaw.ca

Bert Harding 752-3923
Email: ruber@shaw.ca

Ann Robertson 752-5997
Email: annierobertson@shaw.ca

Program Chair Art Lightburn

Meeting Coord

Greeter Maria Bieberstein

Ways & Means Susan Lightburn

Library Judy McMaster

Refreshments Barbara Kulla

Dollar Table Cassy Lacouvee

Truss Show Bert Harding

Garden Tour Art Lightburn

Bus Tours Ron McMaster

Christmas Party Maria Bieberstein

PR Marilyn Dawson

Sunshine Person Maria Bieberstein

Bursary Judy McMaster

Membership

Bert Harding 752-3923
Email: ruber@shaw.ca

Newsletter Editor

Ann Robertson 752-5997
Email: annierobertson@shaw.ca



April Speakers

Carol Dancer, the Garden Advisor at Government House Gardens in Victoria literally knows Canada from the ground up. She has gardened from St. Johns Nfld. to Victoria, and as she says, several gardens in between.

She will incorporate a brief history of the Government House Gardens in her talk and through her slide presentation, show a year in the gardens. Carol is a member of the Friends of the Gardens at UBC. She is also on the advisory board at Finnerty Gardens at the University of Victoria as well as being a volunteer at Government House Gardens.

MARS member Joan Rich, a frequent prize winner at the annual rhododendron show, will talk about preparing trusses for the upcoming event on April 21. Last year, her R. macabeaenum took Best in Show.

MARS Meetings

Second Wednesday of the Month
7:30 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

May Meeting

Wednesday, May 9th, 2007

Speaker

Glen Jamieson

Subject

Exploring
For
Plants in China

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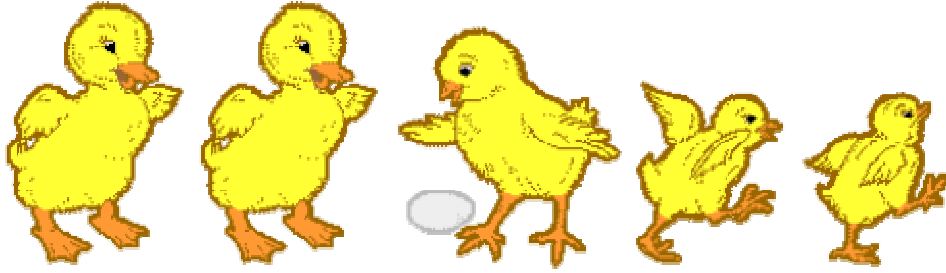
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President's Message

Not much time to prepare an appropriate President's message this month. The job I got talked into for a couple of months last summer is now in its ninth month and it's keeping me very busy. The other big job that I have is now much bigger than I anticipated as well, which probably is the same for a many of you. That is getting our yard back into shape after all those storms this winter. I am about to take my 13th truck load of debris to the dump and there will be a few more yet. We had a lot more damage than we expected

Happy Gardening, now that spring might really be here.

Ron McMaster

President

Executive Motion

Members will be asked to vote at our next meeting on this motion put forward by Judy McMaster.

"I move that MARS offer a \$500 award to a student residing in District 69 or 70 and who is enrolled in the Horticulture Technician program at Malaspina University-College. The student must have demonstrated academic achievement and proficiency in the field. Financial need may also be considered. The award is to be managed and administered by Malaspina's Scholarship and Awards Committee"

EVENTS

Vancouver Island Species Study

All five Vancouver Island rhododendron clubs have named representatives and alternates to a steering committee to organize a species study session on Vancouver Island. The committee will be starting discussions on the content of these sessions in the near future.

For more information phone Art at 468-7516

Milner Gardens Spring Plant Sale & Festival

April 21st & 22nd, Milner Gardens and Woodland, 2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach
10:00am to 4:00pm

Add a piece of this Heritage Garden to your own garden. A large selection of propagated material will be offered for sale. The festival also features various gardening demonstrations and advice, live music and afternoon tea.

Master Gardeners

Watch for the Master Gardeners who will be volunteering their time at many of the garden centers over the next few months, mostly on Saturdays and Sundays. They will be available to share their knowledge with us and answer questions. We will also see them at our own Truss show and plant sale.

Mars Members

Welcome to our new member Jab Kellett

Born and raised in U.K, mother English, father Canadian. Spent most of my life in UK, but finally persuaded my husband to retire to Canada four years ago. No children, 1 miniature schnauzer (Max), now 11 years old. Originally trained to teach English, then retrained for Personnel Management, came to Canada to spend time with family, went back to UK, got married, then assisted husband in running his business. In 1990 started learning bookbinding and book conservation, and worked as self-employed bookbinder. In 1996 started publishing and making miniature books, which turned into an occupation, and now takes up most of my time. (Further info, see website www.dewaldenpress.net) Have always been very interested in gardening, but previous gardens were on chalk, so am delighted to be able to grow acid loving plants, especially Rhodos.

#1 Garden issue - thin sandy soil and the azalea galls on my Nol's Variegata azalea

Favourite Plant: Spring - **Snow Lady**, which I can see from my bedroom window and cheers me.
Summer - Magnolia Grandiflora - just love those huge blooms.



Best regards,
Jan Kellett

R.Snow Lady (leucaspisXciliatum) 30", -5F, E, 3-4/4-5/4.

The right name was picked for this plant. In flower it might remind you of new fallen snow. It's soft, fuzzy green leaves dress it like a real lady. Flowers well in deep shade. Much appreciated because it buds easily and blooms early. (Information from Greer's Guidebook)

Don't forget our new venture, the Oceanside plant sale at Coombs.

MARS is planning to participate again in the Oceanside Garden Show in Coombs on April 28 and 29, selling plants and Garden Tour tickets as well as handing out information. Kay Burgoyne will be one of the guest speakers.

Barbara Kulla and Marilyn Dawson are spearheading MARS' contribution, but they need your help. Members are asked to look around their garden and see what they can divide and pot up for the sale.

Completed forms can be handed in at the April meeting, where there will be more information about delivery of donations. If you need pots, or can donate pots, let us know; if you need help with the potting, be sure to speak up.

GARDEN TOUR May 2007

The garden tour arrangements are progressing well, with thirteen very good gardens selected by Maria Bieberstein and Marilyn Dawson. The area covered this year is from East Qualicum to San Paniel. The garden sitter sign-up board will be passed around at the upcoming meeting, so please pick a garden. We also need two more volunteers for the phone reminder the night before the tour.

Art Lightburn. Tour Chair

TRUSS SHOW

CATEGORIES FOR APRIL 21 2007 TRUSS COMPETITION

COLOUR COLLECTION

LAX TRUSS

PINK

BLUE

RED

WHITE

SPECIES

SPRAY

FOLIAGE

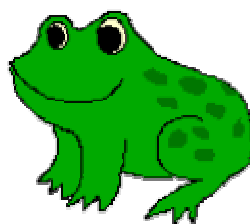
NOVICE

HAMMERHEAD

BEST IN SHOW -SMALL LEAF

BEST IN SHOW - LARGE LEAF

POPULAR CHOICE



Truss Show

Truss Show Regulations

1. Eligibility

- Exhibits will be accepted from members of MARS and non-members in the area.
- All members of a household will be considered to be 1 exhibitor.

2. Entries

- All entries shall have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 6 months and primarily cared for by the exhibitor.
- Only 1 entry of each name in each category per exhibitor
- *R. macabeaenum*, however could be entered in the species category as well as in the appropriate color category
- Extra blooms are encouraged and will be for display only
- All entries should be taken from plants grown without artificial protection
- Special exhibition table for *Vireyas*, *Madenii* and other tender *Rhodos*.

3. Definitions

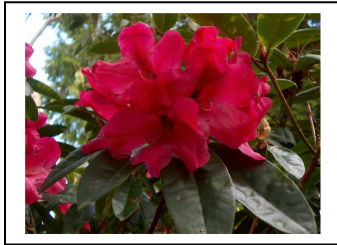
- Species: Botanically identified plants originating from seeds or cuttings
- Hybrid: Plants resulting from crossbreeding of more than one species, Hybrid or combination thereof.
- Truss: a single rachis. i.e. all florets coming from one bud
- Spray: Multi-stems emerging from a single stem
- Hammerhead: Truss with multiple rachis emanating from a single terminal.

4. Exhibitors

- Shall make an effort to identify the exhibits
- Entries will be accepted from 7:00 to 8:45 am at the Parksville Curling Club
- Entries and ribbons may be removed from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

5. Preparation of Trusses

- Blooms should be selected when they are at the peak of their development
- Trusses should be cut from well watered plants during the coolest part of the day
- Trusses 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
- Prepare the cut end of the truss or spray so that water is taken up readily
- Use suitable containers to retain water during transportation to the show
- The use of chemical additives to preserve bloom freshness is approved.



“Lord Roberts”

(Photographed Susan Lightburn)

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Show

Guide for Participants -Both club members and non members may enter

Entry of Trusses will take place on from 7:00 am to 8.45 am

Entering Trusses for the Rhododendron Show is a four-step process:

1) Register

When you enter the curling club, go to the registration table and speak to a registrar.

You will be assigned a competitor number and given a number of dots with your number on them, one for each Truss you are entering. Go

Go to the Labeling Table and give them your list of Truss names.

You can enter as many trusses as you wish in one category but they must be of different names

2) Put Trusses in bottles.

The Registrars will direct you to a table to work on. Nearby is a table with bottles and corks. Take one bottle for each Truss, put one of your dots on the bottom of each bottle (Don't turn the bottle over, it's full of water), put a Truss into each bottle using the corks to secure the Truss if you need to.

3) Label Trusses

Leave your Trusses on the Work Table and go to the Labeling Table. There, you will be given a label for each Truss on your list.

Take your Trusses and labels to the Holding Tables at the exhibition level.

4) Position Trusses in their categories

Take your Trusses, one or two at a time, from the Holding Table and place them in the appropriate categories. Put the labels on a stand in front of each Truss. All categories will be clearly labeled.

There will be people available to help you choose the correct category for your Trusses. Entries in the wrong category (such as a white rhodo in the Red Category) will not be judged.

Return to the Holding Table and get your next Trusses. Repeat until all your Trusses are in place.

All Trusses must be in place by 8:45 am so that judging can start on time. Trusses that are not in position by 8:45 am will be for exhibition only

Please bring as many extra trusses for the exhibition table as you can.

Morsels from MARS

Terry's Tips

- Fertilize from now until mid May.
- Time to prune when new growth appears.

Who am I?



Beautiful spring rhodo that has lost its name. Submitted by our new member Jan Kellett.

Do you have any burning questions or ideas to share with our members?

Qualicum Garden Club has invited our members to join them in any of their bus tours this year. This includes trips to gardens in Victoria, Cambell River and Cowichan. If interested find out more at our meeting.

Happy Easter

Happy Easter

Happy Easter

Photographs by Sue Lightburn

Rhodos and Trillium

Grown in Art and Sue Lightburn's Garden
Information "Greer's Guidebook"**R. 'Harry Carter'**

(strigillusum X sutchuenese)

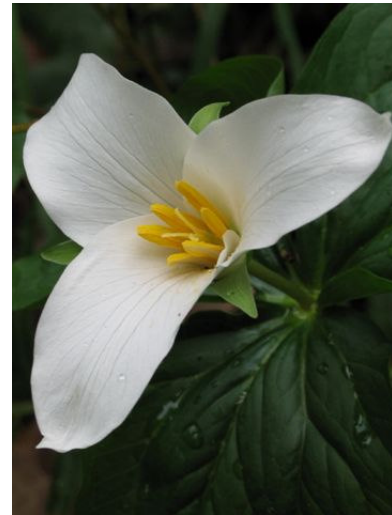
5', O°F, E, 3-4/3-4/3-4.

Olive green leaves have the bristly appearance of *R. strigillusum*. Plant is covered in the early spring with medium pink flowers. The branching is upright and sturdy, a combination of the best of both parents.

R. mucronulatum

5', -15F, VE, 3-4/3/3

This deciduous, open and upright shrub is a real winter spirit lifter, with flowers appearing well ahead of the leaves and long before any other hint of spring has shown. Lance shaped leaves, to 4" long, are scaly on both sides. Widely funnel-shaped flowers, to about 1.75" bloom singly along branches in between leaf clusters and are orchid pink to rose-purple.

**"Trillium"****R. lutescens** (becoming yellow)

s. and s.s. Triflorum

6', 5F, EM, 4/3/3-4

Habit is upright and open, with bright red new growth making a real display. Medium sized leaves, from dullish dark green to a lovely bronze red are oblong or lance shaped. Leaf tops have a few scales, undersides are paler. Flowers, to 1.5" long, are wide funnel form and range in colour from soft primrose yellow, or deeper, to a clear bright yellow. They are spotted light green. Bloom occurs either at branch ends or scattered along branches between leafves in trusses of 3-6.

