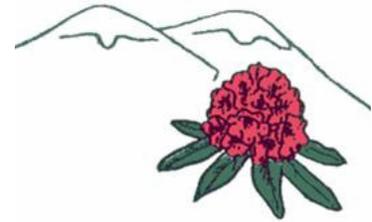


THE RHODOVINE

THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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MARS
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September, 2007

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September's speaker

Bernie Guyder

Although he holds a bronze medal from the North Island Rhododendron Society, Bernie Guyder's interests stretch well beyond the genus rhododendron. For more than 25 years he has been propagating alpine and rock garden plants, specializing in gentians and lewisias as a hobby. Bernie grew up in the east, taught electronics in the RCAF, retired and eventually went back to work this time in the grounds department of the Comox Valley school district. Over the years he's been a member of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, the Alpine Garden Club of B.C and the Comox Valley Horticultural Society, where he served on the executive.. Rock gardens and dwarf rhodos can work together; this is the subject of his talk which covers the various types of rock gardens and the requirements of plants suitable for them. To illustrate his lecture, he will show slides of dwarf rhodos and companion plants in the rock garden.

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday October 10th
Speaker to be announced

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Photographs by **Susan Lightburn**



Message from our President

The King is dead. Long live the King! You probably haven't thought of the change of MARS President in those terms but the proclamation proposes a stability for, say a country, or in this case the significant organization known as the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society.

I say significant because our erstwhile president, Ron McMaster, has steered the good ship MARS for the past two years, steered the club in a very positive direction in that I believe the organization is far more relevant in our communities than ever before. We are known throughout Oceanside not only for the Garden Tour and Truss Show, but also for supporting other initiatives such as Seedy Saturday, the Oceanside Garden Show and Communities in Bloom. I salute you, Ron and thank you for handing me a truly seaworthy vessel for my watch. For the record, besides being our Past President, Ron is also the Alternate Director and District Treasurer.

As I take over the Presidency, I see many exciting new opportunities opening up for our membership. Just returned from the District 1 Presidents semi annual meeting held in Vancouver, where I learned of several initiatives that will be developed starting in 2008, specifically in the rhododendron education field for those of you who strive for greater satisfaction from your gardens! More about that later.

Art Lightburn, our VP and Programme Chair has an interesting line-up of speakers booked for the new season.

I am blessed with a fine executive who will certainly guide me in the right direction, they are all experienced serving members; I am the new boy, the 'parachuted politician', so to speak! We will be looking for new directors next year- please consider volunteering for a position. Don't forget that we are one of the larger Chapters in District 1 with a voice to be heard; I am confident that with strong membership support we will enjoy a successful 2007/8 year.

Now back to the myriad gardening tasks... John England



Ron handed over of the gavel to John

Events

The American Rhododendron Society Western Regional Conference.

September 21-23, 2007

Newport ,Oregon.

Sponsored by District 4

Invites you to attend, everyone is invited, including non members.

Emphasis is on information you can use in your own garden!

Milner Gardens & Woodland

Annual Fall Plant Sale on Sept 29th & 30th from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Come check out the great discounts on heritage trees, shrubs and perennials propagated on site. Admission is by donation at Milner Gardens & Woodland which is located at 2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach.

Milner Christmas Magic. This family orientated festival of lights and music in the Garden is on daily from 5:30pm to 8:30 pm during the first three weeks of December. Admission is by donation at 2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach.

For more information call (250)-752-6153 or visit www.milnergardens.org <<http://www.milnergardens.org/>>

Mid Island Floral Art Club is very pleased to announce that award-winning Victoria floral designer, Bernice Cherney, will be demonstrating "International Design Styles" on Thursday, September 13, 2:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church Hall, Qualicum Beach.

Bernice won first place for her design under the title of "global warming" at the international floral design competition in the Canada Blooms show which was held earlier this year in Toronto. She has also competed in international events in Bermuda and Florida and is an accredited design judge in both Canada and the U.S.

Guests are most welcome (guest fee \$10).



Party fun or is this is serious.

June Pot Luck at Ron and Judy McMaster's beautiful home and garden. It was a cool day but great fun. Toss the bean bag monopolized the afternoon and evening pleasure. Barbara Kulla found all the plants and created a superb plant auction. Glen Jamison was presented with the Bronze award. Ron handed over the presidency to John England who has obligingly stepped into the roll for MARS. The pot luck was filled with many events not least of them the yummy food that everyone contributed and the wonderful setting.



Terry taking it easy at the pot luck.

Terry's Tips

- Prune both dead branches and those that may get winter damage.
- Treat with Epsom Salts any time of the year.
- Top mulch if required for winter protection.



Have a great Day.