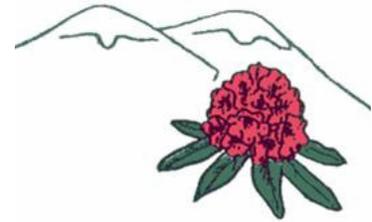


# THE RHODOVINE

## THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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MARS  
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November, 2007

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### Next Meeting Wednesday November 14th

For our second joint meeting of the year, MARS and Nanaimo Rhododendron club members will meet at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre at 7:30 on Nov. 14 to hear Peter Wharton, the curator of the David C. Lam Asian Garden at the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research in Vancouver. He has spent much of October travelling in northern Vietnam on just one of the many field trips he has been involved with in recent years. In an e-mail, he indicated he would have lots to talk about.

Peter earned a forestry degree from University College of North Wales, then trained as an arborist in Surrey before accepting a position at UBC's Faculty of Forestry in 1975 where he has conducted botanical research and taught such courses as garden design and woody plant materials among others. Today, according to a UBC website, his main interest is "the conservation of the bio-diverse forests of southern Yunnan and the border areas of Vietnam and Burma." He is known internationally through his work with such institutions as the Rhododendron Species Foundation, U.S. National Arboretum, the Wespelaar Arboretum in Belgium, the Kunming Institute of Botany and many others. As well, he is the co-author, along with Brent Hine and Douglas Justice of "The Jade Garden, New and Notable Plants from Asia", published by Timber Press.



### MARS Meetings

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

### December Party **Wednesday 5th December**

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### Photographs by Susan Lightburn



### Message from our President

Oct is not usually associated with picnics, at least not in this part of the world but we were recently invited to such an event at Stamp River Falls by good friends, both MARS and non MARS varieties. The day of the event the weather in QB was highly suspicious, rain showers and low cloud, so naturally I decided that weather expectations over the hump would cancel the whole affair. However, my stalwart friends never cancel such excursions. Fools, thought I! Imagine my surprise, instead of deteriorating weather as we approached Beaver Creek, at the point where the valley opens up to a beautiful panorama, there was even the promise of sunshine... the picnic was a great meeting place, new friends made, old friendships rejuvenated...nothing tastes like wieners burnt over open coals!

Point of this little story...carpe diem.



I hope that we will have a good turn out for our joint November meeting with the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society. In part, so that we may repay them for being such good hosts at the October meeting but also your executive believes that you will enjoy our distinguished speaker, Peter Wharton who, since 1975, has been the curator of the UBC Asian Gardens in Vancouver.

It promises to be a great evening, mark it on your calendar. 14th Nov 7.30pm Civic Centre.  
John England

### Events

#### Milner Christmas Magic

Nov 30 - Dec 2, Dec 7 - 9 and Dec 14 - 16. 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

A family oriented festival of lights and music in the Garden. Admission by donation.

#### “CLIMATE CHANGE AND MANAGING THE LANDSCAPE”

**RICHARD HEBDA PhD.**

Learn how climate change is studied and what impact the change might have on our landscape and in our gardens. Learn about strategies and ways in which you and your community can begin to adapt to new opportunities and challenges as climate change takes hold.

Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach hosted by the Qualicum Beach Garden Club

November 13, 2007 — 7:30 pm (Doors open at 7:00 pm) Fee: \$5.00 (QBGC free)

## Member's Corner



### Linda Derkach

Born in England - came to Victoria at age 4 - lived most of my life on the Island. Raised in Victoria, and then went to teach school in Port Alberni. Married to Al and raised 3 children in Port, lived in Nanaimo for a while. Worked on our summer home in Qualicum for many years, then remodeled our house and settled in Qualicum when we retired. I have been a teacher, School Trustee, then Executive Director of the Port Alberni Association for Community Living. Moved to Vancouver in 1995 to implement legislation at the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC. Enjoyed 7 years traveling the province and living in the West End and appreciating all that Vancouver has to offer.

Community Service: I sit on the Board of the Parksville - Qualicum Community Foundation and Family Net advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. I served many years on the Boards of BC Association for Community Living, Port Alberni ACL and the BC Association of Community Response Networks,

working to stop abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults in BC.

I am currently Master Planner for the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association, and am taking the Advanced Master Gardener Program in Vancouver.

Favorite Spring Plant: *Daphne odora* for its deliciously fragrant blooms that fill my garden in early spring

Favorite Summer Plant: *Hydrangea macrophylla* - I love the huge mophead blooms of brilliant blue that last for months and *Indigofera kirilowii* with its feathery leaves and lovely mauve/pink blossoms. Late summer and early fall I love my new "hot border" filled with yellow and orange blooms of *Rudbeckia* 'Herbstsonne', *Helenium* 'Moorheim Beauty', *Crocasmia* 'Lucifer' and 'Emily McKenzie', and *Helianthus* 'Lemon Queen'.

Overall: I love my many Rhododendrons which give my garden interest in the winter and structure all year.

My gardening challenge is wanting and having far more plants than my garden can accommodate, but planting and enjoying them anyway.

## Sunshine

If you are aware of any members who are either unwell or in hospital let Marie Bieberstein know 468-7252 [abieberstein@telus.net](mailto:abieberstein@telus.net)

## HELP WANTED

Can you help; a great way to get to know other club members is to get involved.

**Tour Director. We need someone to set up Tours to visit gardens, nurseries etc.**

**Refreshment Assistant. Barbara Kulla requires an assistant on a regular basis to help with set up and clean up of our refreshments before and after the monthly meeting. Please contact Barbara at 752-7369**

**Meeting Co-ordinator. On arrival at meeting to ensure all equipment and lighting is available and ready to use.**

## TIPS ON PHOTOGRAPHING RHODODENDRONS

Bill Heller

Seattle Rhododendron Society Chapter

### What are your Goals in Photographing Rhododendrons?

Do you want a record? Do you want true colors? Do you want a frameable picture? Do you want to capture a mood? Your photography can do all of this and more. We will start with some basics to help you obtain your goal.

### Tripod & Shutter release--*A real necessity to get good photos of Rhododendrons*

There are many advantages in using a Tripod:

- Adds stability to the shot
- You can focus better
- Composition improves
- It gives you time to set up your shot.

**Composition** You have the tools, now let's look at some technique. You have your camera and you've chosen your subject, *Rhododendrons - Of Course!* Use your tripod, especially when you begin. A tripod will give you more time to compose and get your picture right. You first need to decide what type of picture you're going to take, landscape, specimen plant, group of trusses, a single truss or just parts of a flower. In some gardens it is very difficult to know where to start, there is so much to take in. As you are coming in and are trying to decide, take some Landscapes to record where you've been. In a landscape there are a few things to consider. Do you want people in the picture or not? If the people are not moving too fast they can add a scale of size to a landscape. In most landscapes you want as much of the picture in focus as possible. This means you will want to use the smallest aperture, largest F-stop - F 16 to F 32 or such, to utilize the very center of your lens, its best and clearest part. When you are using a very small aperture, large F-stop, you are not letting much light in, so you will need a slow shutter speed. Take your time and really look at your subject through the lens, to see everything. What may have been just a fuzzy spot of color can become that unwanted distraction. Now that you see the distraction, either move to eliminate it or change your depth of field so it does not show up. In photographs you don't want to make the picture too cluttered, both in subject number and in major color number. In studying Great Art, you will notice that all great pictures have three basic colors and three or an odd number of subjects. Now this does not mean that you cannot have a bed of hundreds of flowers, groups of similar things count as a single object if they are of the same color scheme.

**Getting the Right Color** And now you want to get the color right on these rhododendrons you've chosen to shoot. The color palates in rhododendrons are very complex, any of you hybridizers can attest to that. Most of the colors are mixtures, so how and when you take the picture can and will make a difference.

For the best rendition of the true colors of a rhododendron, shoot your shots on an overcast day. The defused light coming through the clouds will give you a soft light where all of the colors show up, especially your pastel colors of which many of the rhododendrons are. On a bright sunny day, most of your colors will wash out. Most rhododendrons are shiny enough to reflect the bright sun and wash out or over expose your picture. So pick a nice cloudy day to get your colors right.

**Depth of Field** The Depth of Field is that portion of your picture that is in perfect focus. The general rule is that the smaller your F-Stop, F 1.2 or F 2, the smaller your depth of field. The larger your F-Stop, F22 or F32, the larger your depth of field. Increasing your depth of field is one of the main reasons for using a tripod. With a tripod you are able to use the larger F-Stops (smaller apertures) because the camera is now stable, and you are able to use the slower shutter speeds. The bad background in a picture, especially specialized pictures such

as rhododendron trusses, are the major cause of pictures turning out bad or unusable. When you're taking photographs, especially of rhododendrons, take a second look at the background. Remember the tripod gives you that additional second to check your backgrounds and make sure they fit the picture.

(Permission granted by Bill Heller. He is a member of the Seattle Rhododendron Society Chapter and the Chapter's Photography Study Group. This was a handout from a program Bill gave at a rhododendron conference a few years ago. )

## 2007 Rhododendron of the Year ARS Awards

### **Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Nancy Evans'**

R. 'Hotei' x R. 'Lem's Cameo'

Flower light yellow with some early orange shading on lobes and reverse, orange-red buds, hose-in-hose, openly funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 2-1/2" across. Held in ball-shaped trusses of 19 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves narrowly elliptic to elliptic, 4" long, glossy, medium green, bronze colored when new. Rounded, compact plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Hybridized by Brockenbrough.



Photo by Eleanor Philp



Photo by Stuart Imrie

### **Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Blaney's Blue'**

R. *augustinii* 'Tower Court' x R. 'Blue Diamond'

Flower inside light purple, outside strong violet, unmarked, funnel-shaped, wavy-edged lobes, 1-1/2" across. Lax truss holds 3 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, rounded base, 1" long, flat margins, glossy, dark yellowish green, changing to a bronze tone in winter. Grows to a height of 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant and bud hardy to at least -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Blaney.

**Evergreen Azalea: 'Mitsuki'**

R. 'Girard's Rose' sport

Flower white with numerous irregular streaks of light purple, openly funnel-shaped, 2-1/2" across. Flat inflorescence holds 2-3 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, margins up-curved, 1-1/8" long, dull green. Dense growth habit. Grows to a typical height of 2 ft in 10 yrs. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Grown from seed obtained by Higashi Nursery from Hiroshima, Japan.

**Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Blaney's Blue'**R. *augustinii* 'Tower Court' x R. 'Blue Diamond'

Flower inside light purple, outside strong violet, unmarked, funnel-shaped, wavy-edged lobes, 1-1/2" across. Lax truss holds 3 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, rounded base, 1" long, flat margins, glossy, dark yellowish green, changing to a bronze tone in winter. Grows to a height of 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant and bud hardy to at least -ve 5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Blaney.

**Editor's Corner.**

Please send your favorite garden photograph, recipe for the garden, or Rhodo story by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month to be included in the Rhodovine. Email [annierobertson@shaw.ca](mailto:annierobertson@shaw.ca)

The Rhodovine mailing is a very big expense for the club approximately \$1.00 per copy per month. If you have an email be sure to let us know so that we can cut down the printing and mailing costs. Many thanks for your consideration.



Happy crowd at Nanaimo joint meeting  
October 2007