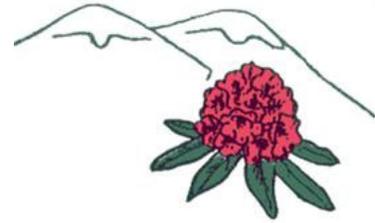


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

MARS
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Sunshine	Maria Bieberstein
Truss Show	Al Bieberstein
Ways & Means	Susan Lightburn
Christmas Party	Maria Bieberstein

Next meeting

Wednesday 10th September

Speaker

William J. McMillan is no stranger to many garden groups on the island. As curator of the rhododendron and hosta garden at the Pacific Horticulture College, he has lectured to garden clubs in Victoria and Duncan and given workshops to both Master Gardener and HCP College classes. His subject for MARS will be the basics of rhododendron growing.

A geologist with a long list of credits to his name, Mr. McMillan is Manager, Mapping and Resource Section for the B.C. Geological Survey Branch.

He is a Past President of the Victoria Rhododendron Society and has been propagating rhodos since 1999. As well as his duties with the VRS (chair of the annual Show and Sale) he is a volunteer at Abkhazi Garden for identifying rhododendrons there. In recent years he has made two trips to China to see rhodos and other plants in their native habitat.

An ARS Bronze Medal recipient, he was most recently co-organizer of the Species Studies workshops that took place last spring in Victoria and Qualicum Beach.

MARS Meetings

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
2nd Wednesday of the month
7:30 pm

9th October Meeting

Wednesday

Garth Wedemire of Fraser
Valley Rhododendron Society

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Membership

As of this year the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) would like our money earlier, that is November, in order for the club members to be registered.

Please bring your cheque for \$30, or money, to the meeting in September (made out to MARS). It can also be mailed or delivered to
Ann Robertson
455 Schley Place
Qualicum Beach
BC V9K 2L5

Photographs by Susan Lightburn

President's Message

District 1 Presidents' semi annual meeting was held in North Vancouver on Sunday, 24 August 2008. Accompanying your President were Treasurer Tony Ansdell, who gave the District financial report and Meeting Coordinator Art Lightburn, who described the very popular Vancouver Island Species Study course that was held last spring in Qualicum Beach and Victoria.

Perhaps the most important resolution passed at the meeting was an agreement to end the practice of variable memberships by the end of 2009. While this resolution will not impact on MARS, we only offer full ARS memberships, it will present significant changes for the Vancouver, Victoria and other District 1 chapters. I voted for the resolution because I believe that the choice is straightforward, if you wish to join an ARS chapter, MARS for example, then you become a member of the ARS, the membership category, 'Friends', which is not sanctioned by the ARS, should never have been instigated! No doubt you will hear more on this subject.

We left that meeting with an excellent power point presentation, highlighting some of the ARS roles entitled, "What the ARS does for you". We hope to show it to the membership as part of an educational session, sometime in the near future.

Did your gardens survive that blazing weather we had in July? My new garden required constant watering and since I was then watering manually it took a lot of our time! Looks like the heat is off and we can now look forward to the end of season garden nursery sales, Arrowsmith Greenhouses sale is underway as I write and the Milner Gardens & Woodland sale will occur in early October.

Dates to remember:- Seedy Saturday 7 Feb 09, Truss Show and Plant Sale 18 Apr 09, Oceanside Flower Show 25th & 26th 09(start potting up your spare plants for this event) and MARS Garden Tour 9th & 10th May 09.

Finally, a big hello to the new members of our executive; thank you for stepping up to the plate. Linda Derkach, vice president and Directors Velda Rhodes and Dan Swartz.

Remember, our September meeting is early, the 10th. See you at the Civic Centre 7.30pm.

John

Member's Corner



Time to Pot Up for Oceanside's Spring Fling

Hostas and a few maple seedlings are some of the plants already potted up for the Oceanside sale in Coombs in late April. It may seem early, but MARS members are encouraged to start potting when they clean up the garden this fall. There are usually perennials to divide and plants that need to be moved so why not just move them into a pot. That will give them time to get established, maybe even grow a bit, before next spring.

The Oceanside sale is different from the MARS rhododendron show and sale when vendors come from up and down the island. At the Coombs sale, we are the vendors and because of that we are able to keep our overhead low. Chairman Barbara Kulla said last year members brought in a huge assortment of plants, most of which were sold by Sunday afternoon. They included lilies, hostas, seedling maples, various perennials and grasses.

Barbara says shoots of "out of the ordinary" perennials are especially welcome. Tag them with a permanent marker. Named plants bring a better price. "If each of us pots up half a dozen good plants, we will have a fine collection for the sale," she said.

Not all plants are showing greenery by April, but certainly there are many that are well advanced, including various lilies, poppies, succulents, spring flowering plants and some grasses.

If you need pots contact Barbara Kulla. 752-7369

Vireya Enthusiasts

Are you ready for a trip to Borneo

Dear vireya (and broad-minded temperate rhodo) enthusiasts: As many of you know, I was in Borneo last May (see my attached summary that has just been accepted by the ARS for publication), where I had the chance to climb Mt. Kinabalu. I made contacts there, and am now considering putting together a trip to explore further for vireyas in western Sabah, including Kinabalu and the Crocker Range, and as a side trip, possibly go into the Kinabatangan area of eastern Sabah, true jungle but where pigmy elephant, orangutan and proboscis monkeys all occur, as well as many unique birds and plants, and the coast, where the snorkelling on coral reefs is great. If any of you are interested, or know of people that are or might be interested in such a holiday next spring, please have them contact me and I'll start planning the trip in detail. Prices in Malaysia once one gets there are very reasonable, and Tony Lamb, co-author with George Argent of "Vireyas of Sabah", is interested in guiding us if he has enough advance notice.

Glen Jamieson, Ph.D.

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Pêches et Océans Canada | Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N7

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EVENTS

Milner Garden Fall Plant Sale

September 27th and 28th, 2008

10:00am to 4:00pm

Milner Gardens & Woodland

2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach.

Great discounts on heritage trees, shrubs and perennials propagated on site.

Master Gardeners and BC Fruit Growers will be on hand to offer advice.

Afternoon tea in the Tearoom, outdoor refreshments and hot dogs.

Admission by donation.

All proceeds support the Garden.

Members early access Sep 26th from 5 to 7 pm; membership card required for the early access sale.

250-752-6153 ~ or ~ www.milnergardens.org

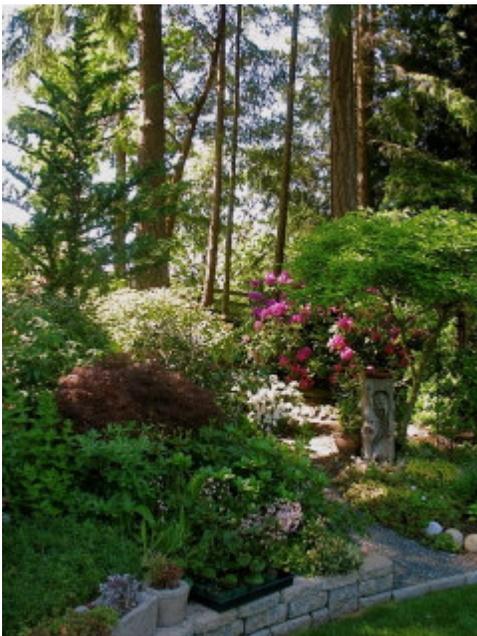
What a Party

Wonderful Garden.

Al and Marie once again gave us the pleasure of having our wind up party at their home. Such a gorgeous garden and great hosts.



Mary, Don and Anne examining the beautiful plant donations for the auction



Marilyn running the auction and Jim holding pepper plants



Ann and Sandra



Members of the executive Ann D, Ann R, Art, Marilyn, John, Tony, Marie. Missing, Velda and Dan.



Kay and Doug

Bean Bag toss is always a favorite.

“Come and get it”

Marie



Tony, Ruth and Joyce enjoying the pot luck

