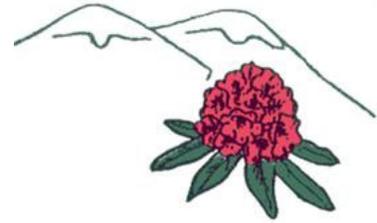


# THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH  
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

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<b>Christmas Party</b>	Maria Bieberstein
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<b>Editor</b>	Ann Robertson
<b>Garden Tour</b>	Linda Derkach
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<b>Oceanside Plant</b>	Barbara Kulla
<b>Photographs</b>	Susan Lightburn
<b>Program Chair</b>	Glen Jamieson
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<b>Refreshments</b>	Anne Gutsche
<b>Sunshine</b>	Maria Bieberstein
<b>Truss Show</b>	Al Bieberstein
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Susan Lightburn



**Cyclamen coum**

## Introduction to Cyclamen

By Bill Bischoff

**Wednesday  
February 11th  
New Location  
Rotary House**

**Corner of Fern and Beach  
(Where the Christmas  
Party was held)  
Usual Time Starts At 7.30pm**

**(More about Bill on page 4)**

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

### 11<sup>th</sup> March Meeting

**Panel discussion: bring your  
questions and concerns**

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**Cyclamen Ripandium**

## President's Message

“He who plants a garden, plants happiness”  
Chinese Proverb  
Commemorating Chinese New Year-  
the year of the Ox

Those of you who have made a tour of the alpine meadows on Mount Washington probably had as your guide Will Lemmon, unlocking before your eyes the secret wonders of that high plateau. Amongst other things Will is a wildflower botanist and one of the areas most delightful and industrious gardeners, known in particular for his leadership in the Milner Gardens & Woodland propagation program. Will is a great supporter of the ‘Green Ecological Movement’, from composting to recycling to seed collection. Unfortunately, Will suffered a stroke over a week ago and until yesterday had made no indication that he was still with us. Then he opened his eyes briefly and ‘hugged’ his constant companion, Nancy Whelan (she of ‘Williwaws’ fame in the Parksville Qualicum Beach News). On behalf of MARS I want to wish them positive karma from this point on. Get well Will - we need you! Seedy Saturday will be upon us in less than a week. We have a slate of volunteers - could use more - so let Marilyn know if you can help. This is a short commitment, but our presence at SS is well worth it in terms of making ourselves known in the community, promoting the genus rhododendron (our mandate) and occasionally enrolling new members.

Our regular meeting room in the Civic Centre not being available, the location for our February meeting has been changed to the Rotary Hall (where we held our last Christmas party) on Fern Rd in Qualicum Beach. Wednesday, 11th Feb at 7.30pm. See you there...

Now back once more to post snow and ice garden restoration... ... **John England**

## Stamps

>>>>>>



Souvenir sheet  
Bloc-feuillet  
403730145 \$ 1.08

## Members' Corner

Ken and Dorothy Gibson are inviting you and friends to visit their garden in Tofino in the Spring - just give them a phone call to arrange.  
# 250-725-3476

### More Sad news from our members

Velda Rhodes fell and broke her wrist.  
“We wish you a speedy recovery.”

A letter to share with you all from the Jeffersons.

“Hi MARS members,  
Just a note to let you know that our son-in-law, Daryl De Rooy has had to have a VAD- (mechanical heart) and later will get a heart transplant. He needs 24 hour care until he has the transplant, and then for several months after. Everett and I are moving to Vancouver to be his caregivers. My brother, Joe Klettke is living in our house in Nanoose Bay. Elaine is renting an apartment near the hospital, for the 3 of us to live in. Daryl will have to be one hour away from the hospital. I'm sure you will understand if we don't volunteer for garden sitting etc. this summer  
Love and Hugs.  
Pat & Everett

“We are thinking of you and your family at this demanding and difficult time.”

Canada post will issue 2 rhododendron stamps, one featuring Rh Mist Maiden the other Rh Minas Maid. Photos for the stamps were taken in 2008 at Kentville, Nova Scotia. Dr.D.L.Craig was involved in introducing Canada Post stamp designers and photographers to the vast array of blooming rhododendrons in Kentville. A photo (of the stamps) associated with the announcement is attached. You could use one of the photos in the attached jpg for the newsletter. What a lovely, colourful stamp. Diane Pertson

**“We can look forward to these beauties”**



Snow Lady, 30", -5F, E, 3-4/4-5/4

### **MARS GENERAL MEETING:**

Wednesday, Jan 14, 2009

**MEETING AT: 7:30 pm.**

Minutes of the general meeting appeared in the Rhodovine and were accepted without change.

**GUESTS:** Guy and Kathy Loyer, Elke Schering, Jim and Margaret Cadwaladr, Nicola Lupton, Vicky Burton, Cindy and Lorne Hussey, Lloyd Gilmore, Joanne Hamilton.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Don Brigen, Linda Derkach and Barbara Kulla.

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

1. President John England reminded members that 2009 is the 20th anniversary of MARS as an ARS chapter and there would be a suitable celebration next fall. He asked for suggestions.
2. February 7 is Seedy Saturday and MARS will have a table at the QB Civic Centre where members will talk to visitors about the club. Volunteers for a one-or two-hour shift should call Marilyn Dawson at 752-3694.
3. The executive has written to District 1 Chairman Ron Knight about a letter sent by the ARS treasurer to members asking for donation on an annual basis. It was felt this was not appropriate.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. An e-mail from Craig Young acknowledging MARS request for a table at Seedy Saturday.

2. A program from the Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival in New Zealand to be held Oct. 30 to Nov. 8.

**PROGRAM:** Chair Glen Jamieson said the February speaker will be Bill Bischoff whose garden in Surrey boasts a well-known collection of hardy cyclamen and hardy orchids. The following month will be the ever-popular panel, subject to be announced later.

**TRUSS SHOW:** Chair Al Bieberstein said the committee is organized and working on the April 18 show.

**GARDEN TOUR:** Linda Derkach, as chair, said several gardens have already been selected and that she and Barbara Kulla would be looking at others in the Eaglecrest to Parksville area now that the snow has gone. The Garden Tour is on Mother's Day weekend.

**WAYS AND MEANS:** The door prize, Titian Beauty was won by new member Joanne Hamilton. Other prizes and their winners were: R. Medusa, Velda Rhodes; R. Jedax pachysanthun, donated by Lloyd Gilmore of Victoria, Dan Schwarz; R. Taurus, Kay Burgoyne; R. Red Eye, Linda Derkach. (The latter two plants were donated by Ken Webb of Victoria.) Susan Lightburn's designer cards were won by Vicky Burton.

**NEW BUSINESS:** John England introduced Jim and Margaret Cadwaladr, who recently returned from a tour of Ireland. Margaret will be making a presentation of their trip on March 17 for a special Milner Gardens fundraiser at QB Civic Centre. Jim is the former director of Milner.

### **Terry's Tips**

The topic on everyone's mind was what to do about damage from the heavy snowfall and Terry Richmond came to the rescue with a quick workshop on care of injured plants. This is not the time for major pruning, he said. Wait until March. Many damaged branches can be patched up as long as it's not sheared right off. The key to saving an injured branch is to make it totally immobile. Plastic wrap, duct tape or anything to splint the branch, wrap or tie it tightly. If the branch is huge it may need several screws to hold it together firmly. Not every effort to save a branch works, but it's always worth a try, he said.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Glen Jamieson provided members with a seldom seen view of northeast Malaysia. His focus was on Sabah in Borneo, particularly the diverse ecology of Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Southeast Asia. The area is a state-protected sanctuary of rare orchids and 26 species of rhododendrons and a popular climb for visitors. Because of bad weather, (the end of a cyclone) Glen didn't make it to the top, but he did notice that those who climbed later were so busy watching where they were putting their feet, they didn't notice some of the beautiful rare plants on the way up.

This was Glen's first trip to the area and he didn't know what specifically to look for. Now that he does, he wants to go back perhaps in 2010 as a tour guide.



**Glen Jamieson**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9:50 pm**

## Events

### **Antiques in the Garden**

**Feb 15 Milner Gardens 10:00 – 3:00**

**Appraisals by fee and sales of treasures.**

**Admission donations support Milner**

On February 15th Milner Gardens is holding an Antiques In The Garden day. If you have ever wondered about the value of some of your treasures here's the chance to find out.

We will have a team of appraisers with expertise in china, silver, art, collectables and books, who will be happy to talk to you about your pieces. The price for the appraisal is \$10 for the first item and \$5 for each additional item. There is no need to register for the appraisals - just come. And there is more! If you would like to turn any of your collectables into cash we are also having a sale. It will be a good opportunity to clear out some of the extra china or linens or other things your kids say they don't want. Or maybe you are thinking ahead to downsizing. Your items just need to be priced and brought down to Milner Gardens the day before the sale. We'll sell them for you and split the proceeds 50/50 with you. Please keep in mind it is not a garage sale.

To participate in the sale please phone John or Arlene England at 250-752-6131 or email them [jaengland@shaw.ca](mailto:jaengland@shaw.ca) for more information.



**“The little plant with diamonds on her leaves.”**

**From Ron and Judy McMaster**



**Cyclamen - persicum**

### **Introduction to Cyclamen presentation**

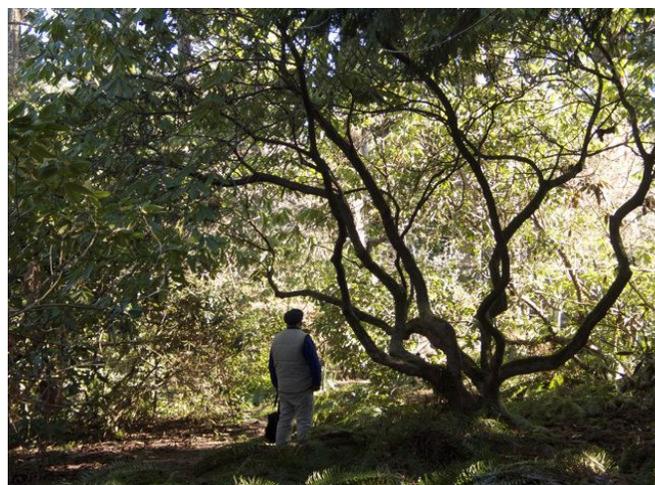
**By Bill Bischoff**

“My wife Carla & I moved from Hamilton, Ontario, where we lived for over 20 years and raised our two daughters, to "sunny" Surrey some 20 years ago. In Hamilton we were members of the Royal Botanical Orchard Societies. We also loved gardening, as well as growing Orchids, indoors and outdoors. From the City of Hamilton we received several prizes for the best garden in our district. A former co-worker of Carla's showed us some Cyclamen plants she had brought back to Canada when she had visited relatives in Austria. It must have been *Cyclamen purpurascens*. I knew this plant as "Alpen Veilchen", "Alpine Violet". What I did not know, was that it was not a Violet at all. Somehow the thought got lodged in my mind to grow them in our garden. Several years later, we had moved to BC and were members of the Alpine Garden Society in Vancouver, someone brought *Cyclamen purpurascens* corms to a meeting. These plants were from then Czechoslovakia. We bought several of them. There were no culture sheets with these plants, so I had to get some information from the library. It was a surprise to learn that they were distantly related to Primulas - I can't remember exactly how, but we became members of the Cyclamen Society in England and have remained ever since. (Excellent newsletters and free seeds.) Our collection has grown over the years so that

there is no part in our garden where there are no Cyclamen plants. Some were planted deliberately, others self seeded. Of the 22 available species, we successfully grow and bloom 18 as out-door plants. Of the numerous leaf variants we have many and are still getting more when and where they become available. Hardy Cyclamen are unfortunately very much under-rated as companion plants for, especially, shady places. From full sun to deep shade, there is a species that will fill any spot in a garden. Flowers can be expected from mid January until December, right up to Christmas. All species are winter ever-green, except *Cyclamen repandum* and *Cyclamen peloponnesiacum*.

Our Garden was awarded several times by the City of Surrey and some 10 year ago was published in "Gardens West", on the front page and 3 more pages inside. We also were part of a fund-raiser event, where we had some 250 visitors in one afternoon. In addition, Carla cultivates tropical Orchids in 2 green-houses (one warm and the other cool). I grow several hardy Orchids throughout our garden, in shade and some in full sun. Many of our Orchids have been awarded by the "American Orchid Society". The rest I will tell you at your meeting. Best regards, and happy growing, Bill

P.S. to the best of my knowledge, Cyclamen are deer safe, rabbit safe.”



**Art Lightburn amidst the Rhodos  
at Milner Gardens**

## “What causes the leaves on my rhododendron to have brown tips?”

asks a distressed gardener.

The questioner should not feel especially concerned, as this is a common complaint; it is not often a life-threatening condition. There are four main causes for plants having brown tips to their leaves:

- lack of water at the roots
- sun burn,
- fertilizer burn
- frozen tissue.

The first is the most likely. Rhododendrons need 25 mm of water per week in spring, summer, and fall. To check whether a plant has adequate root moisture, dig down just outside the drip line to a depth of 25 cm; the soil should be moist for the complete depth of the hole. When using automated irrigation, it is a good idea to place tin cans in the irrigated area and measure the amount of water being dispersed. It should accumulate to about 25 mm over a week.

Some allowance should be made for evaporation in the container.

Other rhododendrons show their thirst by curling their leaves. They do this to reduce the area of the exposed underside of the leaf where the transpiration of water takes place. Others do not. I think it is fair to say that the ones that do not curl their leaves come from very moist summer climates where they have no need for this defensive strategy. Some rhododendrons are just unable to pump enough water to keep their leaves turgid. The old saw that says “the bigger the leaf, the more the shade” is something that every grower should keep in mind. After all, the reason a plant has big leaves is so that it can catch every photon of light and keep up its productivity.

My experience is that many yellow-flowered rhododendrons do not like the hot afternoon summer sun. Paul Wurz, who recently spoke to our clubs, mentioned that he found several of the yellow-flowered plants did well when given a lot of light. Further, if that situation had really good air movement, the plant was not as liable to become infected with powdery mildew. The lesson we can take from this is that rhododendrons should be sited to receive as much light as possible and we should not be slow about moving them around—they are very portable. More light also gives a heavier bud set. Rhododendrons are not begonias; they are not gross feeders; however, they do like a constant supply of nourishment. Slow release fertilizers are safest. The general fertilizer that I use most frequently is 10–8–6. This is coated with a resin so it releases its nutrients

slowly. The resin dissolves more rapidly with warmer soil temperatures, but this is a good arrangement as the plants’ need for food doubles with every 10°C rise in temperature. I did hear of a very unhappy outcome when using a 10–8–6 fertilizer that was coated with an inferior resin that had no lasting effect at all. The plants OD’ed and their leaves went brown at the edges.

The amount of antifreeze that a rhododendron has in its system varies with the variety. Leaf tissue can suffer cell damage from becoming frozen. Many of us remember February 1989.

January had been fairly mild and the sap was running in many plants. At our place (near Elk Lake outside Victoria) the temperature went down to about –9°C with a strong northeast wind. Some foliage was desiccated and froze. The big leaf species such as *macabeanum* had lots of brown edges. Some of the even more tender ones just gave up the ghost. The moral in all of this is, just don’t be too blue about the odd brown leaf. With a little thought and effort most browning can be prevented.

Rhodoteller January 2009



**Happy Valentines Day**