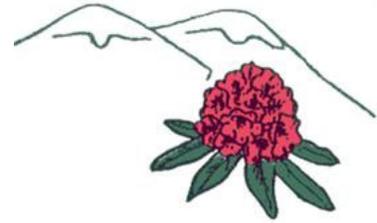


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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Sunshine	Maria Bieberstein
Truss Show	Al Bieberstein
Ways & Means	Susan Lightburn



Spring beauty comes out in spite of
our terrible winter.
R.moupinense
2', 0F, E-EM, 3/3/3

11th March Speakers

Discussion Panel

Terry Richmond, Paul Wurz,
and Harry Wright

Including such topics as;

- Getting Rhodos Ready for Spring
- Pruning
- Purchasing
- Planting
- Fertilizing
- Deadheading
- Grafting
- and much more.

Come prepared with
all your questions.

MARS Meetings

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

8th April Meeting

Speaker Norma Senn
Director of Agriculture
Technology

“Walking in the
Sasquatch’s Footprints”
A brief history of horticulture in
the Pacific Northwest.

Inside this Issue

President's Message	page 2
Seedy Saturday	page 3
Terry's Tips	page 3
Events	page 4
General Meeting	page 5
Members Corner	page 6



Winter Beauty

President's Message

“It is utterly forbidden to be half-hearted about gardening. You have got to love your garden whether you like it or not.”

W.C. Sellar- Garden Rubbish.

What a change in the weather this last week in February has brought! After weeks, nay months of dry, cold temperatures and residual snow, nature performed its miraculous Spring turnaround, late but welcome! You have probably already taken stock of your garden destruction- but read this note sent to me by Geraldine Babiy at Arrowsmith Greenhouses before acting.

“Believe it or not spring is just around the corner and we are ready to go for another season. It has been quite a winter, one that hasn't been very kind to our gardens. With this in mind here are some thoughts on what to do. Don't panic, nature has a way of surprising us when we think it is over for our favourite plant. If you have broken branches, prune them as close to the main stem or trunk as possible. Let them heal on their own without pruning paint or tar, but keep an eye open for insects or other infections in the wound. Splits are a real problem for some trees and shrubs. If you can, try and secure the split and leave it for a year before deciding if you need to sacrifice one side or the other.

Broadleaf evergreens took a real hammering in the snow and cold. If the leaves are brown or black they will not come back but it does not mean the shrub is dead. When you clip back the branches, as long as there is green wood the shrub may regenerate. If you cannot find any green wood the shrub is dead.

We have had a very dry winter. Keep an eye open for dry plants and water them when necessary.” Thanks for the advice, Geraldine.

In my February message I told you about our Milner Gardens friend Will Lemmon, the propagator...who had suffered a stroke in January. Thought you might like to read the latest news bulletin?

Thursday, February 19/09

“Yesterday was a fine, encouraging day, now that Will is fully back in the world of wakefulness... he shaved himself (electric razor/no mirror) and did a good job... told me the name of the day...did some reading - printed family/pet names on a pad which he could read...tried writing a bit - not too legible. We refuse to feed him now, so he has to fend for himself grocery-wise and does a fair job of it. Picture identification was pretty good, sometimes even with short comments... So ... there is hope that we'll get at least a good share of the old Will back with us. Hip, hip ... !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Nancy Whelan.”

Don't forget Milner Gardens & Woodland next captivating fundraiser “Ireland in Spring”, to be held in the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 7.30pm Tuesday, 17 March- St Patrick's Day. Admission \$10. See advertisement elsewhere in this edition of the Rhodovine.

John England



**Hard Working Executive.
Tony Ansdell, John England, Marilyn Dawson**

Seeds, yes, but so much more

There's more than seeds to Seedy Saturday as first timers found out. More than a few people who stopped at the MARS table on Feb. 7 wailed they hadn't brought money to spend and there was so much stuff to buy. MARS wasn't selling but there was a draw to enter for the rhododendron Nancy Evans, and it appeared people wanted to talk gardening and winter damage to volunteers who manned the table from 10 am to 3:30 pm.

More than 1850 people attended the event, and it seemed MARS volunteers spoke to everyone. At one point, around 11 o'clock all five volunteers were talking to individuals and handing out pamphlets about the club and the American Rhododendron Society and also bookmarks with MARS reminders about the Rhodo Show and Sale on April 18 and the Garden Tour on May 9 & 10.

"It was a record crowd and our volunteers were tremendous," said Marilyn Dawson who organized the MARS table with Barbara Kulla. "A great big thank you to Susan Lightburn, Dugall and Shirley Meekison, John and Arlene England and all those MARS members who stopped by to give their support. We handed out a lot of material. We were asked a lot about our upcoming events. It's encouraging that people remember us favorably."

Seedy Saturday exploits.



Our President John England and Barbara Kulla.



John and Arlene England answering questions.



Barbara Kulla and Arlene England

Terry's Tips for March

- Clean up and prune broken off stems.
- Repair and self graft damaged stems.
- Fertilize 2nd week of March before most early rhodos bloom and/or first 2 weeks May after most rhodos bloom.
- Transplant ideally in Oct /Nov but can be 1st March to 1st April after frost is over.

You will be able to pick Terry's brains at the panel discussion.



Lee's Scarlet trying to best the snow
4, -5F, VE, 3/3/3

Events

Ireland in Spring

A visit to Glin Castle and beyond. Come and join Jim & Margaret Cadwaladr for a photo tour of the towns and countryside of Ireland and Northern Ireland in spring, with stops at Glin Castle and gardens, Helen Dillon's garden and the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

For those familiar with Milner Gardens & Woodland, Veronica Milner lived at Glin from 1929 to 1954. Glin is currently the home of her son Desmond FitzGerald, 29th Knight of Glin.

Invitation to join Nanaimo Rhodo Club

N.R.S. Bus Tour to Tofino
Saturday, May 16th, 2009

This year, it's time to head west towards Port Alberni and Tofino. We've put together a great mixture of gardens, a visit to Stubbs Island, a nursery, and even a special stop at a local winery.

Cost: \$40.00 per person (includes wine tasting, tea and cheese)

Where do we meet? Chapters at Woodgrove parking lot – the bus will be leaving at 7:00 am. Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch. Sign up early so you don't miss out. Bring a friend...

ARS International Convention

April 30—May 3, 2009

Everett, Washington

Visit our web site for details .

<http://ars-2009-convention.org>

Mid Island Floral Art Club

Thursday March 12 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church Hall, 120 Village Way, Qualicum Beach. Demonstration on topiary designs. All welcome. Guest fee \$5. Info 250-248-2976.



Heading out-

This is our beautiful part of the world.

Nanaimo Horticultural Society

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday April 25th 9.30am-1.30pm

Country Club Center

Milner Gardens.

Milner Gardens and Woodland will offer MARS members its one-day annual membership bargain, \$15 for one, \$25 for family.

Centre for Continuing Studies' new calendar is on line, including the Milner Workshop series as well as other courses you may find interesting.

<http://www.mala.ca/ccs/courses/horticultureandgarden.asp>

Welcome

to our new members this year

Shirley and Dougal Meekison

Vicky Burton

Joanne Hamilton

Nita Looijen

If I have forgotten anyone please let me know.

Magazines Those members who have joined this year will not receive their winter ARS newsletter. Would any of you who have finished with your ARS magazine be willing to bring yours in to share? Many thanks .

MARS GENERAL MEETING

Wed. Feb. 11, 2009 Rotary House at 7:30 PM.

MINUTES of the January meeting appeared in the Rhodovine and were accepted as presented.

GUESTS: Vickie Burton

REFRESHMENTS: Carol Hanson, Sharon Kevis

BUSINESS ARISING: John England reported that MARS participation at Seedy Saturday was a great success as 1856 people passed by our table and entered the draw for R. Nancy Evans.

He thanked those volunteers who came out to assist at the table.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Marianne Hodges of Milner Gardens and Woodland e-mailed thanks for MARS being a seed depot for its children's program at Seedy Saturday on Feb. 7. The January/February issue of The Bulletin from B.C. Council of Garden Clubs will be put in the library.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Ansdell reported MARS has more than \$5,000 in its account, plus \$1500 grant from the ARS.

GARDEN TOUR: In Linda Derkach's absence, Barbara Kulla reported that a good number of gardens have been selected in the Eaglecrest-to-west-Parksville area and most vendors have agreed to sell tickets again this year.

TRUSS SHOW: Al Bieberstein said with two months to go, the committee is in good shape.

There will be two new classes this year, Protection (for non-hardy plants) and Species, small leaf.

WAYS & MEANS: Susan Lightburn introduced the plants for the door prize and other draws. They were R. japonicum, R. pachysanthum x R. makinoi and R. Carmen, both donated by the Victoria Propagation Club, R. Buttermint and R. Blewbury. As well, the guest speaker brought a selection of succulents and perennials for draw purposes, so many members went home with plants.

PROGRAM: Glen Jamieson, our New Program Chair said next month's meeting will feature the popular panel, with guests Harry Wright, Paul Wurz and Terry Richmond on rhodos and their care and other garden subjects.

SUNSHINE: Maria Bieberstein had sent a card to Velda Rhodes who has broken her wrist.

Velda came to the meeting and handled the sign-ins with a hand that's improving daily, she said. Maria will be calling Pat Jefferson, who reported they will be unable to volunteer this spring, because their son-in-law is awaiting a heart transplant and they are going to be in Vancouver to assist the family. MARS sends best wishes for a speedy recovery.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. John England urged members to consider running for the executive as there will be several vacancies this year. The election is in May.

2. He also asked for a couple of volunteers to organize the 20th anniversary dinner which will take place later this year. There have been discussions at the executive level, where and when, but no decisions have been made.

3. At the March meeting, Milner Gardens and Woodland will offer MARS members its one-day annual membership bargain, \$15 for one, \$25 for family. If Milner director Geoff Ball is unable to attend, Tony Ansdell will fill in.

GUEST SPEAKER: Bill Bischoff, whose Surrey garden has won several awards, calls the hardy cyclamen an underused companion plant to rhododendrons and hopes to generate more interest in it. He and his wife Carla brought several trays of a wide range of species and subspecies, some of which he offered for sale to members. His presentation included a good deal of information on the geographical background of these plants of which there are 16 hardy forms that grow in the lower mainland, blooming in late summer, fall or winter. He also brought several pages of written text, one copy of which will be in the library.

Essentially Mediterranean plants, cyclamen are generally dormant during the summer, come to life in the cooler weather and bloom in autumn, winter or spring, depending on the species. They are very tolerant of different soils.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9:50 pm

John England, President

Marilyn Dawson, Secretary



It is coffee time, past member Nita Looijen who has rejoined MARS is talking to Bill Burgoyne.

Members Corner

Some of you may have seen these photos before but they are worth repeating to remind us of our successes. The events at this time of year are not all about making money but fellow gardeners working and playing together.

Truss Show

Saturday 18th April



Al and Marie Bieberstein admiring the red rhodo trusses in 2008

This is our busy time of the year and perhaps the most fun: look at the faces of our workers above. Al is organizing the truss show this year.

We need every one of you to come and join the fun, no knowledge or experience is necessary they are hands on fun days.

Oceanside Plant Sale

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April



Marilyn Dawson and Barbara Kulla setting up the plant table. 2008

Save your plants as you tidy your garden and we can sell them potted up. Talk to Barbara.

Garden Tour

9th -10th May Saturday and Sunday

MARS members sit at gardens and get to meet many garden enthusiasts coming out to enjoy other peoples beautiful gardens .

These events might seem a long way off, put them in your calendar and sign up on the volunteer sheets. We can guaranteed you a fun day.

The truss show and garden tour are followed by a pot luck party to which all are welcome even if you are unable to assist with the days activities, the more the merrier.

This is your chance to get to know other club members and help our club to have another successful year.