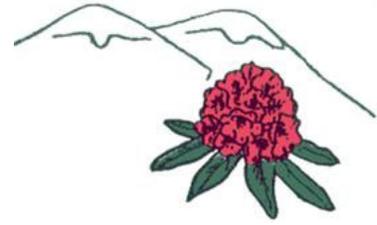


# THE RHODOVINE



## THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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#### Milner Gardens

John England

#### Oceanside Plant

Barbara Kulla

#### Photographs

Susan Lightburn

#### Program Chair

Glen Jamieson

#### PR

#### Refreshments

Anne Gutsche

#### Sunshine

Maria Bieberstein

#### Truss Show

Al Bieberstein

#### Ways & Means

Susan Lightburn



### Speaker for 8th April

Norma Senn recently retired from a 15 year stint as the Director of Agriculture Technology Department at the University College of the Fraser Valley (now the University of the Fraser Valley). Prior to becoming director, she was a full time instructor in the horticulture diploma and certificate programs at UCFV.

Norma moved to Victoria in the fall of 2008, hoping to have a true Zone 8 garden, however, this past winter seemed pretty much like a Zone 7 winter season, so she will be replanting the Phormiums, Eucalyptus and Hebes she inherited in her new garden. However, as a member of both the Victoria and Fraser South Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society and a confirmed "rhodoholic", she needed more space for Rhododendrons anyway, she is on the lookout for several of her favourite species and hybrids. The title of her talk is; "Walking in the Sasquatch's Footprints: a brief history of horticulture in the Pacific Northwest". This talk was originally presented at the 2006 fall ARS conference held at Harrison Hot Springs.

### MARS Meetings

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

### 13<sup>th</sup> May Meeting

Speaker to be announced.  
Annual General Meeting,  
We vote in our new executive.

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## President's Message

“When at last I took the time to look into the heart of a flower, it opened up a whole new world...as if a window had been opened to let in the sun.” Princess Grace of Monaco (1929-1982).

Well, the hearts of various early flowers are being opened to us by the slowly advancing Springtime...slow being the operative word. Nevertheless, we are being afforded this extra time to enable us to do all the garden repair jobs that winter left behind; lest we should feel ‘pressured’!

On Friday, 13th March 2009, Canada Post issued two new 54 cent stamps each featuring a rhododendron, ‘Mist Maiden’ and ‘Minas Maid’, both hybrids courtesy of the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre in Kentville, NS. While pleased to see our favourite genus in high profile I thought that it was disappointing that BC was not represented, being, as we are, the largest growing area for rhododendrons in Canada. You may remember, from our March meeting, that the Post Offices in Qualicum Beach and Parksville asked that our club be represented on the first issue day? I would like to thank those members who came out and did just that- it was a good PR day for MARS. A big Thank You to Maria Bieberstein, Kay Burgoyne, Skip Cockburn, Marilyn Dawson, Cassy LaCouvée, Barbara Kulla and Ann Robertson. Where were you guys when we needed you?

Once again, we are moving into high gear in preparation for our first and second fundraising events, both occurring in April - the one day Truss Show and Plant Sale in Parksville and the two day Oceanside Flower Show in Coombs. Both of these events require generous volunteering on your part. Support your Chapter and offer your services - far better than having our event organisers begging for your time!

See you at the Civic Centre, 8th April.

John England



Brant Geese Season At Parksville Beach



Millions of birds feast on record herring spawning in Oceanside



Herring Fishing At French Creek

## Members' Corner

Frank Allen sadly died recently, he was one of our MARS Charter members and will be remembered and missed by many of them.

### **ALLEN, Frank W. (Senior)**

February 24, 2009 at his home in Long Lake Chateau in Nanaimo. Born in Edmonton, Alberta on Nov. 5th, 1916, Frank spent most of his young life around the coal mines of Wayneand Drumheller, Alberta. On May 5th, 1941! Frank married Nora Olosoff, and they were married for 61 years. He served 5 years in the Canadian Navy and after the war Frank and Nora moved to the Cherry Creek area of the Alberni Valley. There they commenced raising 3 sons, Frank (Cathy) of Nanaimo, Peter of Parksville and Tim of Qualicum. A Steam Engineer by trade, Frank worked for 30 years in the steam plant and Service Center of Somass Division in Port Alberni. Frank and Nora retired to Parksville and created a number of stunning gardens and were charter members of the Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society. Nora predeceased Frank in 2002. In 2005 Frank married Vera John and she predeceased him in 2007. Ever a family man, Frank was proud of his sons, his grandchildren, Connie, Jodi, Kari, Bernie and Frankie and !Jd, his great-grandchildren, Sean, Molly, Hannah, Aaron, Jack, Grace, Matthew and Evan. Frank always joked that "I'm Frank by name and Frank by nature". He had a cheery smile and greeting for everyone he met. He will be missed and forever loved by us all.



**Cilipenese**

**3', 5F, VE, 3/4/3**

## Oceanside Plant Sale

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

10 am to 3 pm Admission \$2.

**“The spring sale needs your cast-offs.”**

With the promise of better weather days ahead, MARS members are encouraged to look around their gardens and see what they can afford to part with for our table at the Oceanside Garden Show on April 25th and 26th. There are usually perennials to divide, plants that need to be moved and always a few volunteers. Neighbors are often good donor candidates; if they are getting rid of something because they don't like it, and it pots up easily, ask for it. Remember it's better to recycle than toss in the landfill. The Oceanside sale is different from the MARS rhododendron show on April 18 when vendors come from up and down the island. At the Coombs sale, held at the agricultural fairgrounds on Ford Road, we are the vendors and because of that we are able to keep our overhead low. This will be the third year of the sale and Chairman Barbara Kulla hopes that it's bigger and better than ever. Last year members brought in a huge assortment of plants, most of which were sold by Sunday afternoon. They included lilies, hostas, trilliums grown from seed, seedling maples, various perennials, grasses and much more. Herbs do not sell at all. Barbara says "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. If you need pots in the one to two gallon size or smaller, tell Barbara. Bring plants to the Coombs agricultural grounds on the Friday afternoon between 3 and 4 pm or on Saturday before 9:15am. The gates are closed to traffic soon afterward. If those times don't work, contact Barbara or Marilyn Dawson, by phone or e-mail for other solutions.

## Events

### Milner Gardens

#### Rhododendron Days at Milner Gardens

Apr 30 – May 10 10 am to 5 pm

Enjoy the named and labeled collection of Rhododendrons & other spring flowering plants through a series of weekend walk-talks or self-guided tours.

Tel: (250)752-8573

E-mail: [milnergardens@shaw.ca](mailto:milnergardens@shaw.ca)

Website: [www.milnergardens.org](http://www.milnergardens.org)

#### Milner Gardens 8th Annual Spring Plant Sale

On April 18th and 19th admission is by donation 10 am to 4 pm.

Revive your garden with a large selection of plants propagated from Milner's heritage garden. Master gardeners will help answer your plant questions or choose the right plant. Outdoor refreshments are available and the Tea Room will be open from 10 am to 4 pm serving soup, scones and tea. Sorry, Rhododendrons will not be available for sale until April 30, the start of Rhododendron Days. Members only early plant sale access is Friday April 17th from 5 to 7pm.

#### Easter Bunny Hunt - Saturday through Monday, April 11 to 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bring the children or grandchildren for a Kids' Easter Bunny Hunt taking place in the garden. At the Welcome & Interpretive Centre kids can pick up maps for clues to finding the bunnies in the garden, and then return the map to the Pool House Gift Shop to receive an Easter treat. In addition, keep your eyes open along the forest trails for interesting rabbit facts.



**R.hardyi.** Milner gardens 6', 0F, E-M, 3/2-3/3

### Mid Island Floral Art Club

"The Mid Island Floral Art Club will meet on Thursday April 9 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church Hall, 150 Village Way, Qualicum Beach. Workshop on topiary designs.

All welcome. Guest fee \$5. Info 250-248-2976

**Remember to call first and plan a visit to Ken and Dot's garden.**

**See photos below of this years blooming.**



**R.strigillosum** 4', 5F, E, 5/4/3-4



**R.ririei** y5', -5F, VE, 3/3/3

**MARS GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

**MEETING AT:**

7:30 pm. at Civic Centre, Qualicum Beach

**MINUTES:** Appeared in the Rhodovine and were approved.

**GUESTS:** Lynn Wurz, Paul Wurz, Gwen Wright, Harry Wright and Master Gardeners, Heather Crossohn, Karen Unruh, Angela Einarson and Richard Kuhn

**REFRESHMENTS:** Ann Gutsche

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

1. John England reminded the members that this was our 20th anniversary year and that we are planning some sort of evening to celebrate the occasion. Bert Harding said he and his wife Ruth will chair the event.

2. Brenda Moore is still searching for the next executive.

3. Milner Gardens and Woodland will be renewing memberships at this meeting with a special rate, Geoff Ball in attendance.

4. As a symbol of our 20th year in business, Glen Jamieson suggested we introduce a new rhododendron called Mount Arrowsmith. Art Lightburn is now talking to propagators in search of a suitable red, white red and white.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** none

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Tony Ansdell reported a healthy bank account to meet the demands of the upcoming Rhodo Show and Garden Tour with no unusual expenses.

**PROGRAM:** Speaker for next month's program is Norma Senn, past president of Fraser South Rhododendron Society and until recently, a director of the Dept. of Agriculture in Abbotsford. She will be giving a brief history of horticulture in the Pacific Northwest.

**TRUSS SHOW:** Al Bieberstein, this year's chair, urged members to sign up for the various jobs on the volunteer board at the back of the room. He said those operating the cash registers will be given a short refresher course. At the April meeting, he will give instructions on how to prepare a truss for the show.

**GARDEN TOUR:** Linda Derkach urged members to sign up for sitting duties for the

Mother's Day Tour. Shifts are 10-1 and 1-4 pm Saturday and Sunday followed by a potluck for all.

**WAYS AND MEANS:** The door prize was won by Brenda Moore. Other winners were Dan Schwarz, Sandra Hemsworth, Linda Derkach and Al Bieberstein.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. John England reminded members there is only one more meeting before MARS' three major fund raisers, the Truss Show on April 18th, the Oceanside Plant Sale April 25th and 26th and the Mothers' Day Weekend Garden Tour on May 9th and 10th.

2. He said the Nanaimo Chapter has organized a tour to the West Coast and there are still openings for interested MARS members.

3. The Post Office launched a new rhododendron stamp and sought volunteers from MARS to introduce it to the public. Several members offered to help.

4. John also reminded the audience that Milner Gardens was presenting a special Irish night on March 17th, at 7 pm with Jim and Margaret Cadwaladr talking about their trip to Ireland.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Paul Wurz, Terry Richmond and Harry Wright, all three propagators well known to MARS members, participated in a panel discussion on rhododendrons and their care, particularly after this tough winter. There was lots of advice. The rhodo's worst enemy is wind; weevils don't like water and they don't fly, so keep the base of the plant clean; don't give up too soon, even if the plant appears dead; know where your cold spots in your garden are and plant accordingly. As they talked, questions kept coming from the audience which kept them busy past the witching hour, but no one was going home.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9.45 pm**

John England, President

Marilyn Dawson, Secretary

## Garden Tour

9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> May Saturday and Sunday

### Garden Tour Needs Your Help

Please remember that the MARS Garden Tour is one of our major fundraisers for the year - and we need your help. We have 14 wonderful gardens in the Qualicum and Parksville area - concentrated geographically for ease of driving. At our April meeting, we need you to sign up Garden Sitters for a number of spaces still vacant. Don't forget that garden sitters get a free ticket for the tour. We also have some smaller but important jobs; distributing posters to advertise the tour and phoning to remind sitters just a few days prior to the tour. Please think about taking on one of these jobs so that no one person has too much to do.

The celebration for everyone, the traditional pot luck dinner following the tour on Sunday at 5:00 pm at the home of Al and Linda Derkach, 1051 Surfside Drive in Qualicum Beach.

All members are welcome even if you were not able to participate in the days' activities, we would love to have everyone together.

### Editors Corner

Spring is still cold and more to come. As I clean up, repair and prune (with the help of the knowledge of the club experts) I am getting excited about the garden. We can however remain hopeful as we see all the lovely flowers starting to show signs of green and even flowers blooming. For all of us who are Rhodoholics and can't wait, Arrowsmith Greenhouse has hundreds of new and beautiful Rhodos all grown in Canada. Then we can have another splendid day to browse and no doubt find a reason to get just a few more of those rhodos that WE NEED. Once again this is the season to both work and play with your club members.

HAPPY EASTER



Coral Glow





## Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Show

**Guide for Participants - Both club members and non-members may enter most categories.**

**The novice category is open to MARS members only.**

**Entering Trusses for the Rhododendron Show is a four-step process:**

**Entry of Trusses will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April from 7:00 am to 8.45 am**

### **1) Register**

**When you enter the curling club, go to the Registration Table. You will be assigned a competitor number and given a number of dots with your number on them, one for each Truss you are entering.**

**Go to the Labelling Table with your list of Truss names.**

**You can enter as many trusses as you wish in one category but they must be of different names.**

### **2) Put Trusses in bottles**

**Nearby is a table with bottles and corks. Take one bottle for each Truss, put one of your dots on the bottom of each bottle (Don't turn the bottle over, it's full of water), put a Truss into each bottle using the corks to secure it Truss if necessary.**

### **3) Label Trusses**

**Leave your Trusses on the Work Table and go to the Labelling Table, to pick up your labels. Take your Trusses and labels to the Holding Tables. Feel free to ask for help.**

### **4) Position Trusses in their categories**

**From the Holding Table, trusses will be taken to the Judging area and placed in the appropriate category. The Label is placed on a stand in front of each Truss. All categories are clearly labelled. Someone will be available to help in choosing the correct category. Entries in the wrong category (such as a white and red rhodo in the Red Category) will not be judged.**

**All Trusses must be in place by 8:45 am so that judging can start on time.**

**Trusses that are not in position by 8:45 am will be for exhibition only.**

**Please bring as many extra trusses for the exhibition table as you can.**

## 1. Eligibility

Exhibits in most categories will be accepted from members of MARS and non-members in the area. Note the Novice category is open only to new MARS members (three years or less).

.All members of a household will be considered to be 1 exhibitor.

## 2. Entries

- All entries shall have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 6 months and primarily cared for by the competitor.
- Only 1 entry of each name in each category per exhibitor. In other words, *R. macabeantum*, for example could be entered in the species category as well as in the appropriate color category. Extra blooms are encouraged and will be for display only.
- All entries should be taken from plants grown without artificial protection, except for the category Protected, which is for the non-hardy.

## 3. Definitions

- 1) **Species:** Botanically identified plants originating from seeds or cuttings
- 2) **Hybrid:** Plants resulting from crossbreeding of more than one species, hybrid, or combination thereof.
- 3) **Truss:** a single rachis. i.e. all florets coming from one bud.
- 4) **Spray:** Multi-stems emerging from a single stem.
- 5) **Hammerhead:** Truss with multiple rachis emanating from a single terminal.
- 6) **Special exhibition table** for extra blooms and Unknowns to provide colour to the area.

## 4. Exhibitors

- Shall make an effort to identify the exhibits.
- Entries will be accepted from 7:00 to 8:45 am at the Parksville Curling Club.
- Entries and ribbons may be removed at 2:00 pm.

## 5. Preparation of Trusses

- Blooms should be selected when they are at the peak of their development.
- Trusses should be cut from well watered plants during the coolest part of the day.
- Trusses should be carefully groomed. Damaged or dead twigs, leaves, bud scales and flower pips should be removed.
- Cleaning or washing of leaves is advised but no artificial polishing is allowed.
- Prepare the cut end of the truss or spray so that water is taken up readily.
- Use suitable containers to retain water during transportation to the show. The use of chemical additives to preserve bloom freshness is approved.

## 6. Categories for Trusses

Best In Show, large leaf; Best in Show, small leaf; Blue Collection; Colour Collection: Foliage, large leaf; Foliage, small leaf; Hammerhead; Lax Truss; Novice; Pink; Red; White; Species, large leaf; Species; small leaf; Spray; Popular choice; Protected.

There are ribbons for each category and trophies for the two Best in Shows, Hammerhead and Novice.