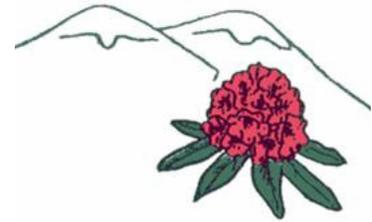


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS
P. O. Box 342
Qualicum Beach, BC
V9K 1S8
mars.rhodos.ca

Volume 21, Issue 10

December 2009

2009/2010 Executive

President

John England 752-6131

england@shaw.ca

Vice President

Ann DeBrincat 724-5594

darylhatch@shaw.ca

Secretary

Marilyn Dawson 752-3694

dawsom@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Tony Ansdell 752-4475

ansdella@shaw.ca

Directors

Don Brigden 723-3916

Velda Rhodes 752-3923

Dan Schwarz 752-3923

Ann Robertson 752-5997

annierobertson@shaw.ca

Directors at large

Maria Bieberstein 468-7252

Bursary Glen Jamieson

Christmas Party Maria Bieberstein

Dollar Table Cassy LaCouvee

Editor Ann Robertson

Garden Tour Linda Derkach

Greeter Velda Rhodes

Historian Cassy Lacouvee

Library Arlene Johnston

Meeting Coord

Membership Ann Robertson

Milner Gardens John England

Oceanside Plant Barbara Kulla

Program Chair Ann DeBrincat

PR Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments Anne Gutsche

Sunshine Maria Bieberstein

Truss Show Al Bieberstein

Ways & Means

*Christmas Party
Wednesday
December 9th at 5.30pm
Rotary Hall on the corner of
Fern and Beach.
Pot luck with the turkey, mashed
potatoes, gravy and dressing
supplied by Jerry Richmond and
Ann De Brincat.
Coffee tea supplied
Members should bring a
dish to share
eg side, appies, desserts
modest gift
something for the Food Bank.
There will be fun, sing song and
entertainment*



MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

13th January 2010

Topic to be announced

Inside this Issue

Presidents Message page 2
Minutes page 3
Events page 4
Members Corner page 5
Editors Corner page 6



President's message

MARS is one of nine Chapters in District 1 of the ARS. Each District has a Director, Alternate Director and District Treasurer; the term of office is three years.

The position of Director and Alternate rotates between the Island and the Mainland Chapters. At this time Ron Knight (VRS) is our Director and Tony Ansdell (MARS) the District Treasurer. The Alternate position has been vacant since Ron McMaster (MARS) resigned last summer for personal reasons.

So it is my great pleasure to publicly announce and thank Mary Parker for volunteering once again for accepting the position of Alternate Director effective immediately. Since Ron Knight will be stepping down in March 2010, Mary will take over the helm of District 1 at that time - a steep learning curve for her!

Mary is no stranger to the ARS: she has been a member of MARS since 1990 and was appointed a Director in 1991. Since then she has filled many MARS positions, social director/tour organizer 92-93; program chair 94 and member of the Valhalla Committee; MARS representative on the planning committee and banquet organizer for the ARS Western Conference in Parksville in 95.

She was MARS President for two years 1995-97 and again in 2003-5. When she lived in QB she opened her beautiful garden to our club on several occasions (a practice that I would like to see us re-instate).

It should be no surprise then that Mary was awarded the Bronze Medal for her outstanding work and dedication to the club. Becoming District Director is just another feather in her hat. Well done Mary Parker.

We hope to see you all at the Christmas Party on 9 Dec, starting at 5.30pm.

Arlene and I wish all members and friends a Merry and Blessed Christmas. See you in January.

John England



Mary J. Parker's Bio

Joined Mars early 1990s. First mention in secretary's file is Nov. 1991 when she became a director and continued as such for many years. 1992-3 Social director and tour organizer; member of the Valhalla Committee 1994 Social director and program chair; member of the Planning committee for the 1995 ARS Western Conference in Qualicum Beach 1995. Involved in many aspects of the ARS Conference in Parksville, especially banquet organizer.

1995-7 President and tour organizer 97-98 Past President (one year) and social committee chair, and tour organizer. Garden on West Crescent on MARS Garden Tour May 2000 rejoined after a sojourn in Kelowna; took on social committee and scholarship jobs 2001-02 social director and scholarship 2003 director and member of the Bronze medal committee

2003-5 President for second time 2005-06 Past President



MARS General Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009

MINUTES of the October meeting appeared in the Rhodovine. They were approved without change.

GUESTS: Earl Daneluk, Ginny Fearing

REFRESHMENTS: Barbara Kulla, Marilyn Dawson

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. John England told the gathering MARS still needs a meeting coordinator, a backup for the coffee break and committee members for the 2010 Garden Tour.

2. The Christmas Party is on Dec. 9 at 5:30 pm at the Rotary Hall on Fern and Beach. It's pot luck with the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and dressing supplied by Terry Richmond and Ann DeBrincat. Members should bring a dish to share, a modest gift and something for the Food Bank.

3. MARS will have a table in Seedy Saturday on Feb. 6, 2010 at the Q.B. Civic Centre. Volunteers will be needed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The Town of Qualicum Beach has notified MARS by letter that it is time to renew (if that is our wish) the contract allowing two benches with plaques to remain at Valhalla. The cost is \$1800 per bench for an eight-year period. John England explained he will be meeting with town officials; our records indicate the benches belong to MARS. Mary Parker suggested that the plaques be removed and placed in an appropriate place.

2. BC Council of Gardens sent its latest issue
TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Ansdell reported no unusual expenses and that our finances were in good shape. In answer to a question, he said the grant from the ARS for propagation purposes is in a special MARS account and cannot be used for general purposes.

MEMBERSHIP: Tony Ansdell reported in Ann Robertson's absence that membership fees were due by the end of the month to ensure that members will get the Journal in the New Year.

TRUSS SHOW: Maria Bieberstein said Bert Harding has joined the committee which will be meeting soon.

SUNSHINE: Maria Bieberstein has sent a card to Dot Gibson, wishing her a speedy recovery from her broken leg. She was still in Nanaimo General Hospital after a nasty fall.

WAYS AND MEANS: Don Bridgen described the prizes for the raffle. The door prize was Hansel; other Ken Webb donations were: Taurus and R. latoucheae. Wolfgang Ruff donated Goldflimmer that he had layered and Hilda Pearce had given huge plant labels. Winners were: Eddie Liedke, Wolfgang Ruff, Harold Fearing, Velda Rhodes and Joanne Hamilton. In the workshop, Joyce Ansdell won the rhodo cutting and Bertina von Conruhds won the pot of seeds.

After the business session, members gathered around tables and took part in a propagation workshop and demonstration. Harold Fearing, President of the Fraser South Chapter provided seeds and cuttings and led the group in a planting session. Retired from UBC, Mr. Fearing and his wife Ginny operate Fearing's Farm Nursery in Abbotsford, which specializes in rare and exotic rhododendrons and azaleas, mostly species. It was interesting to note that he won R. latoucheae, a species that he said he did not have. Most of his plants are grown from seed, which in the main come from the ARS seed exchange, the Rhododendron Species Foundation or from the Royal Horticultural Society seed list. Mr. Fearing also brought fact sheets to accompany the demonstration, Rhodies 101 on how to start them from seed and how to take cuttings. All those who participated took home pots of seeds and cuttings.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:35

John England, President
Marilyn Dawson, Secretary





EVENTS

The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference. April 9 – 11, 2010

The conference is almost half full now and December is the last month for members to register at the discounted rate of \$130. Seats in Douglas Justice's level 2 classes are filling up very fast. There are still lots of spaces available in level 1 classes for your newer members. Please encourage them to attend as this is probably the only rhododendron conference that will ever offer a full weekend of classes designed especially for novice rhododendron gardeners. Full information at www.rhodos.ca

Milner Christmas Magic

Dec 4 - 6, Dec 11 – 13, Dec 17 - 21.

5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

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

Admission by donation.

Santa will be here!

The Gardens will be lit up with thousands of Christmas lights. Musicians will entertain in the Milner House, decorated in old fashioned Christmas splendour. Guess the number of teddy bears in the gardener's cottage to win a prize or bid on silent auction items. Gift shops and tea room will be open. Although the Gardens are lit up we suggest you bring a flashlight.

Golf cart shuttle available for those with mobility issues.

Christmas luncheons on Dec 12th and 17th at 12:30. For reservations or more information, please contact Carol at carol.milnergardens@shaw.ca
<<mailto:carol.milnergardens@shaw.ca>>



2010 World Tulip Summit

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival in collaboration with the Northwest Agriculture Business Center and Washington State University will host the World Tulip Summit in April 2010.

The Summit will take place during the festivities of the annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. The Summit days will be filled with presentations from renowned gardeners, growers, festival chairs, professors of horticulture and other industry experts with information on best practices in their field of study.

Complete Summit details including agenda and registration can be found online at www.2010worldtulipsummit.com. Highlights of the program include tours of Washington bulb tulip production facility and guest speakers such as local gardening guru Ciscoe Morris. Save \$200 off the cost of a full summit delegate when you register during December 2009. Contact Jake Fowler for registration details.

Feel free to contact me directly with any questions you might have about this unique event at ;- info@2010worldtulipsummit.com
Jake Fowler (360) 336-3727.

www.AgBizCenter.org



Members Corner.

Oceanside Plant Sale

Who was it said “when the going gets tough, the tough get going?” So, all you tough gardeners out there, who need something to think about instead of the rain, turn your minds to spring and the Oceanside sale. April 26 and 27 may seem a long way off, but look around the garden and see what can be potted up now or later. Note the plants that need dividing and the ones that didn’t perform the way you wanted them to. Maybe someone else will find the right spot for them.

This past summer, the prolonged drought and sunny weather (remember the sun?) prompted a lot of shrubs and perennials to set seed; some of those seedlings may be just the right size for the sale by next spring.

Barbara Kulla, who is spearheading the Oceanside Sale with help from Marilyn Dawson, is eager to know if members would be interested in forming a potting committee. There may be members or their neighbors or friends who have plants, but not the energy or the health to pot them up. A potting party could help out. She said there is interest these days in xeriscape and plant hardiness. Perhaps a committee could label perennials, particularly less common ones, so that shoppers can tell at a glance their cold tolerance and whether they can withstand long, dry periods. Anyone who is interested in helping

with this venture can e-mail Barbara at bkulla@shaw.ca or telephone 250-752-7369

SEEDS

For Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group members.

The 2009 Seed List has been revised and updated and may be viewed online here until the 2010 list is available. Older seed and herbaceous/short viability items are available at reduced prices.

The order form can be downloaded

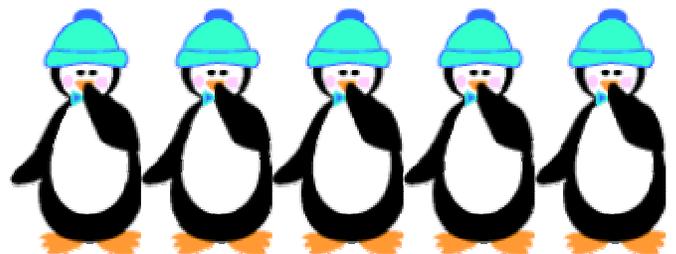
<http://www.rhodogroup-rhs.org>

Please note that our new Seed Convenor is: Chip Lima, 11 Robert Bruce Court, Larbert, Stirlingshire, UK, FK5 4HP
RCMseedlist@googlemail.com

Best wishes from the Seed Exchange team .



Yes, this is our Mary again telling Santa (Glen) what a good girl she has been all year.



Editor's Corner



American Robin on a Weeping Holly Tree

The American Robin is a beautiful member of the Thrush family, I wonder why we always have the European Robin, who is an Old World Flycatcher, on our North American cards.



Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

From The Third Booke of Ayres
(First verse)

Now winter nights enlarge
The number of their houres,
And clouds their stormes discharge
Upon the ayrie towres;
Let now the chimneys blaze
And cups o'erflow with wine,
Let well-tun'd words amaze
With harmonie divine.
Now yellow waxen lights
Shall waite on hunny Love
While youthful Revels, Masks, and Courtly sights
Sleepes leaden spels remove.

Wishing you all

Seasons Greetings

and

