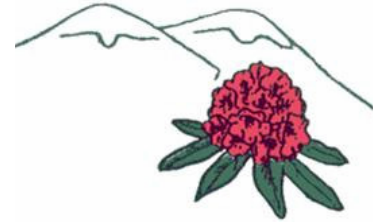


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

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

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APRIL 2010

2009/2010 Executive

President

752-6131 jaengland@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 Bridgen
723-3916 dabridgen@gmail.com
Velda Rhodes 752-3923
Dan Schwarz 752-3923
Ann Robertson
752-5997 annierobertson@shaw.ca

Directors at large

Maria Bieberstein
468-7252 abieberstein@telus.net

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

Tickets Sandra Hemsworth

Truss Show Al Bieberstein

Ways & Means Don Bridgen

This Month Wednesday April 14th

Our April meeting has not one but **TWO** presentations!

First, our Truss Show organizers, Al and Maria Bieberstein, will give us all their secrets for producing a Best in Show rhododendron. Or at least we hope they will...

Second, Melissa Noel, from the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (a registered non profit society) will be telling us what not to plant and what to watch out for and get rid of (in some cases very carefully). This might get scary! Seriously, though, she should have some helpful information for maintaining both our gardens and our native environment.

Mars Bus Tour

North Island Gardens
Tuesday 27th April 2010

Cost \$40 per person

Please bring a snack to share on the bus.

Depart QB Civic Center 8am
Gardens

#1 Dave and Marleen Crucq

#2 Dick and Pauline Bonney

Lunch at your own expense at the Black Fin Pub.

#3 Robert Argall

#4 Robert and Adela Smith

#5 Dave and Noni Godfrey

Return at QB CC by 6 PM.

Information contact, Mary Parker
250-754-1981

maryjparker99@shaw.ca

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

12th May 2010

Topic to be announced



Bonsai

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President's message

Our next regular meeting on 14th April will be the last chance to put the finishing touches on both the Truss Show and the Garden Tour for 2010. Organizers Al Bieberstein and Linda Derkach will be ensuring that they have sufficient volunteers signed up for these events which are, as you know, our principal sources of income for the club! When these two events were first held MARS had a membership close to three figures - today we are far from that number, so it is that everybody is required 'to put the show on'! The Truss Show is in fair shape, still could benefit from a few more volunteers, however, the Mother's Day Garden Tour is still in need of many hands. If you haven't already volunteered, please see Linda at the meeting - don't forget - anyone can 'sit a garden' - you can bring along your neighbour for example, one doesn't have to be a member of MARS!

May meeting will be our AGM at which time we elect our new executive. The following exec members have kindly signed on for another year - Marilyn Dawson (Secretary), Tony Ansdell (Treasurer) and Ann Robertson (Director/Rhodovine). A sincere thanks to all of you 'extendees'. However, candidates are required for the following positions, President (2yr term), two Directors (2yr term) and two Directors at Large (1yr term). That is a total of five new executive members. Unless all of these positions are filled your club will obviously be operating with an understaffed executive which means an increased workload for the other directors. So far I have been unable to persuade any club member to stand for election. Put simply, it is up to five of you from the general membership to step up to the plate to serve your club.

Easter Greetings to all MARS members, families and friends.

Happy planting. John England

Oceanside Plant Sale. 24th Saturday & 25th Sunday April

There's no doubt about it, April is a busy, busy month. There's your garden crying for attention, plus the MARS Rhodo Show and then the very next weekend, the Oceanside Sale, now billed as the Arrowsmith Farm and Garden Show. That's when MARS members look around their gardens and maybe their neighbour's and pot up whatever they can spare; perennials, shrubs, whatever.

Big sellers last year were trilliums grown from seed, seedling Japanese maples, lilies, particularly in colors other than orange, grasses and ground covers, all sorts of perennials. Herbs do not sell well.

Barbara Kulla, who is spearheading the Oceanside Sale with help from Marilyn Dawson, says the need is for lots of plants of various sizes and volunteers to help out at the two-day sale. Anyone who can spend an hour or two on either day from 10 am to 3 pm, let Barbara (250-752-7369) or Marilyn (250-752-3694) know. Plants are all color-coded for price; all that has to be done is smile and sell.

Plants can be brought to the Coombs Fairground on Friday afternoon, around 3 pm or early Saturday morning. If that is impossible, they can be delivered to either Marilyn or Barbara and failing that, they can be brought to the general meeting On April 14. This is our one function where the overhead is really low, so most of our earnings go to MARS to carry on its educational work.



Bonsai

MARS General Meeting

Wednesday, May 13th, 2010 7:30 pm. at
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Minutes of the general meeting appeared in the Rhodovine and were approved.

REFRESHMENTS: Ruth Harding, Cassie Lacouvee, Marilyn Dawson

GUESTS: Harry and Gwen Wright, Dave and Noni Godfrey, Gloria Callison Lutz

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Guest speaker Ron Knight donated a CD, Rhodos of Great Foliage to the MARS library.
2. George Fraser Day in Ucluelet is May 22 this year, the same day that Stubbs Island is open to the public for two days.
3. John England reported that Oyster Bay Nursery is closing and has a big sale of rhodos.
4. John reminded members of upcoming talks at the Q.B. Civic Centre, sponsored by Milner Gardens and Woodland. The final one is on April 29 and features well-known gardener and speaker Des Kennedy. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Australian Rhodo Society, Victoria branch, celebrates 50 years of the society's existence and 50 years of the national rhodo gardens with a conference Oct. 17 to Oct. 20 in the Dandenong ranges outside Melbourne. One of the speakers is rhodophile and author Ken Cox from Scotland. The BC Garden Council of which MARS is a member plans to put out an email edition of The Bulletin in the near future. Anyone interested in getting it should see Marilyn Dawson.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Ansdell reported a healthy bank account with no unusual expenses.

SUNSHINE: MARS sent condolences to Ann DeBrincat and Darryl Hatch on the death of Darryl's father. Maria Bieberstein said she would send another card to Dot Gibson who is in

hospital in Tofino, after being transferred from Nanaimo. John England mentioned that both Judy McMaster and Sandra Hemsworth are awaiting surgery

WAYS AND MEANS: The door prize was R. Dopey. Other prizes were two bags of perlite, R. Olive, R. PJM, R. Beauty of Littleworth, frog labels and a kit to keep deer away. Winners were Skip Cockburn, Judy McMaster, Val Rhodes, Maria Bieberstein, Marilyn Dawson, Doug Cockburn and Joanne Hamilton.

TRUSS SHOW: Maria Bieberstein said plans for the April 17 show are well in hand, but she stressed the need for volunteers who are familiar with cash registers. There will be training for those interested. She also asked for other volunteers to sign the board for all the little jobs that need doing on that Saturday, anything from working the registration desk to selling door prize tickets to helping customers with their purchases.

GARDEN TOUR: Linda Derkach also had a sign-up board in need of sitters for 12 stops on the Garden Tour on Mother's Day Weekend, May 8 & 9. Sitters get free tickets to the tour.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Ron Knight, well-known to MARS members as outgoing District 1 Chairman of the American Rhododendron Society and frequent visitor, gave a presentation on dwarf rhodos that are suitable for small gardens or containers. He included photos from his own beautiful property, Caron Gardens on Pender Harbour, and at times engaged the audience in talking about some of the pictures. The so-called dwarfs may grow to 3 feet in 10 years, but he reminded his listeners that they don't stop growing at that point, so gardeners should plant accordingly.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9.35 pm
John England, President
Marilyn Dawson, Secretary

EVENTS

George Fraser Day

As a result of world acclaimed work in hybridizing rhododendrons, Mr. Fraser was posthumously awarded the American Rhododendron Society's Pioneer Achievement Award in 1991. He is the only non American to ever receive this prestigious award.
Information from Nona Godfrey.

“To: Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society
You are cordially invited to this special event. We are pleased to present MARS with an honorary award in appreciation of your acclaimed support of the George Fraser Project over the years. This will be presented at the Grand Opening of the George Fraser Community Room. We hope someone from your Society is available to accept this award. Please RSVP to contact below. Thank you in advance for your consideration to attend. Kind Regards, Wanda McAvoy”
Chair, George Fraser Committee
Wanda McAvoy PO Box 152, Ucluelet BC, V0R 3A0 Ph: 250-726-7459 Fax: 250-726-7449
wmcavoy@telus.net

Milner Gardens 9th Annual Spring Plant Sale

On April 17th and 18th admission is by donation for the 9th Annual Spring Plant Sale from 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 29th, the start of Rhododendron Days. Members only early access plant sale is Friday April 16th from 5 to 7 pm. Please show your membership card.
FMI 250-752-6153 www.milnergardens.org

The Nanaimo Horticultural Society

Annual Spring Plant Sale

Sat. April 24th

Country Club Centre in Nanaimo, 3200 19A, from 9:30 to 1.30pm

Editors Corner

Last Month we were fortunate to have Ron Knight give us an inspiring talk on dwarf Rhodos some of which were in his wonderful garden. The bonsais in this magazine have definitely won the award for Small.



This next few weeks are the busiest of the year for our club and certainly a great deal of fun

GardenTour information please contact:

Linda Derkach 250-752-3545

lindaderkach@shaw.ca

And don't forget your reward at the Post Garden tour Pot Luck Party at Linda & Aleck's home.

1051 Surfside Drive Qualicum Beach

Coffee and tea provided.

Bring something to share to eat, your own drinks, cutlery, plates, chair, and a warm jacket.

[Hirsutum.info](http://www.hirsutum.info) --- [A great new website with rhododendron pictures](http://www.hirsutum.info)

On Saturday, February 20th of this year, I received an email from David Godfrey of the North Island Chapter. Some of the contents of the email are reproduced below:

I have been communicating with Herman Van Ree in Holland, the webmaster of the rhodo database website www.hirsutum.info and sent photos on behalf of Harry (Wright). I am now just completing sending all of Ken's (Ken Gibson's) photos (480 total) They are big files (2 to 3 MB each) so have been limiting them to 3 per email. It is taking 163 emails to get them all to him (Herman van Ree).

.... We have also exchanged information about each other, and I have Herman's permission to share this information with you. (I have actually pieced together information from several emails.) He and Marjo plan to revisit Vancouver Island in spring 2011, as they were here last August (2009) but missed the beauty of the rhodos.

The links to view his house and property are....

website home page: www.huize-zandbergen.nl

house: www.huize-zandbergen.nl/tuin/index.html

property: www.huizezandbergen.nl/huis/index.html

Well, thanks to David, I had a look at both the "Hirsutum Project" website and Herman's website which is in Dutch but because it is mostly pictures it was easy to get around and enjoyable. The "Hirsutum Project" was started on June 3, 2009.

As stated on the website --- The goal of the project is to collect as much information and as many photos as possible concerning rhododendrons. This includes *species*, hybrids, azaleas, vireyas and azaleodendrons. I am amazed how quickly this website has grown. Eight of the twenty-six contributors of photographs are from Canada. There are over 2,850 photos of hybrids and 1,850 photos of species already in this large database. As an example, there are eight photos of 'Hotei' from four contributors.

With this website and database, we get an overview of the spread of rhododendrons worldwide. This website and the data that it contains, may help to 'find' cultivars previously thought to be extinct. Participate in this 10 year project of the Members of the Nederlandse Rhododendron Vereniging (Dutch chapter of the ARS).

Don't miss out on this exciting new website www.hirsutum.info --- you can set up your own virtual garden in the "Your garden" section. After adding your plants, you will be able to see pictures of your virtual garden.

By Garth Wedemire, Fraser Valley Chapter, ARS --- March 29, 2010

Hirsutum.info: About Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Vireyas; a virtual arboretum

Why www.hirsutum.info?

Rhododendron *hirsutum* was the first rhododendron to be classified and named. It was discovered in the 16th century by a Flemish botanist, Charles l'Ecluse, who later became called Clusius.

The purpose of this website is to give an overview (photos and information) of as many rhododendron species and cultivars (hybrids) as possible.

A virtual botanical garden. A virtual arboretum.

An online database with information and pictures.

Everyone can help to build this database. Just send pictures of your rhododendrons.

See the list of [contributors](#) to the Hirsutum-project.

Absolutely non-commercial, no banners or advertising here!

Photo Gallery

Rhododendron species (1246)
Rhododendron hybrids (8823)
Azaleas (3893)
Azaleodendrons (89)
Vireyas (912)

Rhododendron community

Plant Identification (1)
For hybridisers
Your garden
Rhododendrons worldwide
Various overviews

General Information

Basic information
Taxonomy
Bloomtime
Useful links
Contact



Rhododendron *hirsutum*

Rhodo-finder by name:

enter at least 3 characters

Rhodo-finder by color:

purple



10th Annual George Fraser Day & Heritage Fair
Saturday, May 22, 2010
Ucluelet Community Centre
500 Matterson Drive, Ucluelet BC
10:30 am - 4:00 pm

10:30 - 11:30am

Grand Opening of George Fraser Community Room
Honorary Award Presentations
Bench Unveiling in Dedication to 'Coombs Old Time Fiddlers'

11:30am - 3:30pm

Guided bus tours to GFraser Memorial Park, Fraser gardens & historical sites
to include photo-ops with heritage 'R. Fraseri' rhododendron

Noon - 2pm

Bistro Lunch

1 - 4pm

Heritage Fair

Historical exhibits • Live music by 'Coombs Old Time Fiddlers' • Silent Auction
Wheelbarrow decorating contest • Door prizes • Aquarium display
Plant sale • Raffle • Kids activities • Power point slideshows & MORE...

Heritage Fair \$2; Children 7yrs/under Free • Bus Tour \$10 • Bistro Lunch \$5

OR Purchase one \$15 ticket for Heritage Fair, Bus tour & Bistro lunch

\$15 Tickets available in advance & on May 22 at 10 am

Evening Dance 9pm-1am with Live Music by 'Celtic Chaos'
(Scottish Ceilidh Performance)

(19+Yrs Venue) Tickets: \$10 Advance/\$15 At the door

All dance proceeds supporting Ucluelet's future Aquarium and Museum

Hosted by: George Fraser Committee • Ucluelet & Area Historical Society • District of Ucluelet
For more information and advance ticket purchases please contact Wanda McAvoy
wmcavoy@ucluelet.ca 250-726-7772 Ext 225

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Show
Saturday 17th April
Regulations and Procedures for Truss Show

This addendum provides information for Participants in the annual MARS Rhodo Show and Plant Sale.

On the reverse side are details of how and when to enter your Trusses, i.e. rhodo blooms.

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. macabeum*, 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) There will be a 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.

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.

Entry of Trusses takes place from 7:00 am to 8.45 am.

Categories

Red, Pink, White, Blue Collection, Colour Collection, Foliage large leaf, Foliage small leaf, Lax Truss, Spray, Species large leaf, Species small leaf, Hammerhead, Novice, Protected (such as madenii and vireyas that need winter protection).

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

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 labeled.

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.

Post Truss show and Plant sale Pot Luck Party

Marie & Al Bieberstien's home 3060 Anchor Way Nanoose Bay,

Coffee and tea provided. Bring something to share to eat, your own drinks, cutlery, plates, chair, and a warm jacket.