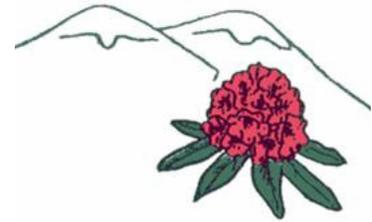


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**MARS
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MAY 2010

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Sunshine Maria Bieberstein

Tickets Sandra Hemsworth

Truss Show Al Bieberstein

Ways & Means Don Bridgen

This Month's Speaker

Don Martyn
Wednesday May 12th

Now that the truss show is over and we are all bored looking at seas of luxurious rhodo blooms, let's try something different. Fine, we still love the rhodos but possibly could use a tree to shade our babies. Don Martyn can tell us everything we want to know about magnolias. By the way, magnolias have awesome flowers too!



Saucer Magnolia
Steve Nix / About Forestry

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MARS Meetings

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



Honey Butter

GARDEN TOUR

8th - 9th May

For information please
contact: Linda Derkach 250-
752-3545

lindaderkach@shaw.ca

Garden tour

Pot Luck Party

9th May Sunday

Linda & Aleck's home.
1051 Surfside Drive
Qualicum Beach

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

Next Meeting
Wind up Party

26th June Pot Luck
Details later.

President's Message May 2010

By the time you receive your email copy of the Rhodovine - or snail mail in some cases - the MARS 2010 Mother's Day Garden Tour will be history. This event has been our major fund raiser for the past 19 years and its success rests upon the generous time donation on the part of all our members. When our membership was in the three figure range it was relatively easy to get sufficient volunteers but, as you are all aware, our membership has declined significantly since the millennium, typical of many garden and other social clubs throughout North America. This year we finally filled the volunteer roster for our Tour, but that didn't occur until the 'eleventh hour' in our preparations!

For 2011 I would like to suggest that unless we have a dramatic increase in membership serious consideration should be given to running a one day garden tour on Mother's Day. This would reduce the number of garden sitters by half. Now that we organize the tour geographically, the public would be able to visit all the gardens in one day. I suspect that there would be little reduction in revenue but a noticeable reduction in effort on the part of our membership.

A thought for your consideration - feedback please.

John England

EVENTS.



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



Thanks to Barbara and Marilyn who saved the day.

Oceanside Plant Sale.

The sale that almost wasn't

About two weeks before our perennial sale at Coombs, MARS got the word that the Oceanside sale was cancelled because of lack of vendors, but we would be able to sell our plants, because the speaker's forum was still intact. So it was with trepidation that Barbara Kulla, Marilyn Dawson and Ann Robertson set out plants in the barn on the Friday evening. Would all this be a waste of time? Saturday morning, Maria Bieberstein and Anne Gutsche added a huge pile of shrubs and perennials to the mix and the barn started to look interesting, despite the fact we were the only vendors. The Master Gardeners had a table in case anyone came by, but otherwise the place was empty. Despite our fears, people did come, following our signs all the way to the barn. The abbreviated weekend sale wasn't a huge success, but we did bring in about \$640, thanks to the volunteers who turned out to talk up the plants. "Everyone must have one of these in their garden" was a familiar refrain. Those people who dropped by, and who were disappointed about the cancelled event, went away happy. Barbara and Marilyn thank volunteers Maria Bieberstein, Ann Robertson, Anne Gutsche and John England for chatting up the customers and selling plants. In the circumstances, it was a job well done. Barbara and Marilyn saved the day.



MARS General Meeting

Wednesday April 14, 2010

MEETING AT: 7:30 pm. at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Minutes of the March meeting appeared in the Rhodovine. They were accepted as presented.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Details of the Courtenay-Comox garden tour have been finalized. Members will car pool by meeting at the Q.B. Civic Centre at 8 am on Tuesday April 27. Lunch is at the Black Fin Pub. Anyone who wants to go and not already on Mary Parker's list should leave their names with the executive tonight.

2. A reminder that the Oceanside Sale takes place this weekend at the fairground. Most of the show has been cancelled, but MARS will be there from 10 am to 3 pm selling perennials and shrubs from members' gardens. Barbara Kulla and Marilyn Dawson are organizers and they are still receiving plants.

GUESTS: Gordon and Darlene Chilton

REFRESHMENTS: Anne Gutsche, Dougal and Shirley Meekison

CORRESPONDENCE: Notification from Qualicum Beach that the town is holding a garden design contest. Entries must be in by April 30; an invitation to George Fraser Day on May 22. MARS send extra funds to help with the 10th annual celebrations; acknowledgement of MARS as an associate member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and a reminder that our members get free admission by showing the MARS membership card.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Ansdell tabled the monthly financial report with no unusual expenses.

GARDEN TOUR: Linda Derkach urged members to sign up as sitters for the Garden Tour as there are still some empty spaces on the board. If necessary, get friends to help out. At the break, she and Arlene England will hand out flyers for members to pass around among their neighbours and friends.

WAYS AND MEANS: Door prize is R. Rosevallon. Other prizes include R. kesangiae, R. kiusianum 'Komo Kulshan'; R. davidsonianum 'Ruth Lyons'; MARS glasses.

Winners were: Ruth Harding, Rita Poole, Cassie Lacoupee, Donna DeBoer and Sandra Hemsworth **SUNSHINE:** Maria Bieberstein reports that Dot Gibson is recuperating in hospital and will be in rehab for awhile. Her foot was amputated after a serious fall at her home.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The annual windup pot luck will be held June 26, place to be announced later.

2. The last session of the Milner Gardens and Woodland speaker series has been cancelled for now because of Des Kennedy's ill health. It may be rescheduled for Sept. 28.

3. John England is selling tickets for Milner's raffle. The prize is a valuable Lee Valley package of garden goodies.

GUEST SPEAKERS: This was an informative evening. First, Melissa Noel from the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee stressed the importance of keeping invasive plants out of the garden. She urged members to ask local nurseries not to sell such invasives as periwinkle because of the danger caused to native species. Next up were Al and Maria Bieberstein who carried out an entertaining dialogue on preparing trusses for the upcoming Rhodo Show and Sale. They brought trusses from their garden of rhodos that could be entered in various categories and explained some of the terminology. What's a spray? A lax truss? A hammerhead? The evening ran long, but the larger-than-usual audience was obviously enjoying the performance. There were lots of questions in the workshop-like atmosphere.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 10:10 pm

John England, President
Marilyn Dawson, Secretary

Our Rhodo Show by Marilyn Dawson



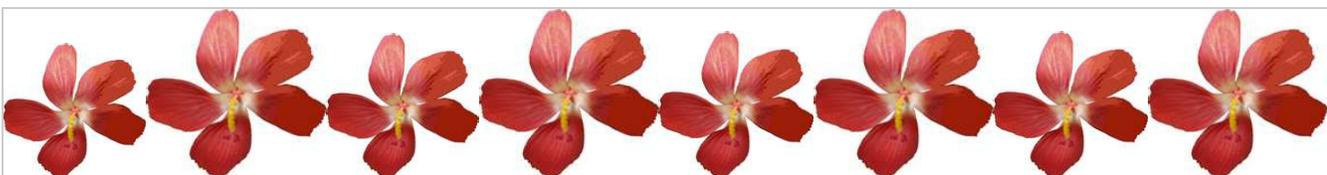
It takes a stretch of imagination to call the Parksville Curling Rink "pretty", but that's exactly what it was by the time the vendors were in place and the various tables were loaded with rhododendron blooms in an amazing range of colors. The April 17 2010 Rhodo Show was ready for business.

This year, the judges' table was a little different. The mild winter had brought a lot of early rhodos to bloom too early for the show, but there were others to fill their place, particularly in the category Colour Collection, which is wide-ranging, including creams, yellows and such non-reds as salmon and multi-colours. Ann de Brincat brought a number of her tender maddenii and fragrance filled the air.

Judges this year were Chris Southwick and John Deniseger both of Nanaimo who named Joan Rich's schlippenbachii spray the Best in Show, small leaf. Judy Millicheap won Best in Show, large leaf with her Grace Seabrook. Popular Choice was Joan Rich's spray.

When it was all over, Chairman Al Bieberstein declared it a success. Sure there are things that can be improved on at future shows, but this year it all came together. He and Maria thanked the committee and the masses of volunteers who helped out literally from dawn to dusk, checking in registrants, selling raffle tickets, working as cashiers and setting up and taking down all those tables, to name a few of the chores. Remembering the lines at the cash registers last year, Al said the introduction of a cheques-only station was a great idea, and helped to ease the strain at the other registers. No big waits this year as shoppers seemed to be spread out over the morning, rather than pouring in all at once. Sales were up slightly over last year.

When it was all over, about 24 hardy souls drove out to Nanoose to wander around the Bieberstein garden and partake of a pot luck dinner, toasts and a lot of laughter.





Beautiful Trusses



Kwalicum School music makers



The money gang



*Many Thanks
to
all the Volunteers
that made this event
such a success*

All the hard workers having fun also.



List of winners in the 2010 Rhodo Show and Sale on April 17

Best in show, large leaf: R. Grace Seabrook, Judy Millicheap

Best in show, small leaf: R. schlippenbachii, Joan Rich

Popular Choice: Joan Rich, R. schlippenbachii

Blue Collection: 1. Al Bieberstein, R. Blaney's Blue; 2. Nita Looijen, R. augustinii; 3. Al Bieberstein, R. augustinii hobbie

Color collection: 1. Al Bieberstein, R. Moonstone; 2. Anne Gutsche, R. Cheer; 3. Anne Gutsche, R. Golden Genie

Foliage-large leaf: Ann DeBrincat, Rsutchuenense. No other entries

Foliage- small leaf: 1. Al Bieberstein, R Hansel; 2. Lorne Hepting, R. insigne; 3. Al Bieberstein, R. Goldflimmer

Hammerhead: Al Bieberstein, R. Mission Bells

Lax Truss: 1. Lorne Hepting, R. Trewithen's Orange, 2. Al Bieberstein, R. Maureen; 3. Lorne Hepting, R. Fred Robbins

Novice: Joanne Hamilton, R. PJM

R. Teddy Bear; 3. Judy Millicheap, R. davidsonianum 'Ruth Lyon'

Protected: 1. R. tyermanii; 2. R. edgeworthii; 3. R. Fragrantissimum. All won by Ann DeBrincat

Red: 1. Judy Millicheap, R. Grace Seabrook; 2. Al Bieberstein, R. Taurus; 3. Al Bieberstein, R. Rubicon

White: 1. Al Bieberstein, R. hyperythrum; 2. Judy Millicheap, R. Dora Amateis; 3. Joan Rich, R. Boddaerthanum

Species-large leaf: 1. Al Bieberstein, R. hyperythrum

Species-small leaf: 1. Judy Millicheap, R. augustinii; 2. Al Bieberstein, R. yungningense; 3. Joan Rich, R. schlippenbachii

Spray: 1. Joan Rich, R. schlippenbachii; 2. Nita Looijen, R. Patty Bee; 3. Joan Rich, R. augustinii

Entrants were: Joan Rich, Myrna Schebel, Lorne Hepting, Ruth Harding, Bill Burgoyne, Marilyn Dawson, Al Bieberstein, Judy Millicheap, Ann DeBrincat, Glen Jamieson, Anne Gutsche, Nita Looijen, Donna DeBoer, Joanne Hamilton and Ann Robertson

Comox Gardens by Ann Robertson

Mary Parker organized for the MARS members to go and visit gardens of the North Island Rhododendron Society. Many thanks to both Mary and all of those wonderful NIRS members who shared thier gardens , hospitality and time with us.

We went in cars instead of a bus .The morning started off with a quick tour of the Rhododendron garden behind the information building in Comox, in the rain of course.



Dave and Mary



John and Arlene and ?

#1 Dave and Marleen Crucq gave us a wonderful tour of their large garden with so many rhodies in bloom and plants Dave was propogating. Marleen and Dave provided us with a great spread of muffins and cake, tea, coffee etc. They are in the process of selling this home and garden which they created. Many of the club members were there to greet us and indeed came around on the tour with us.



Marilyn and Diane



Rhodies in the rain



Marie and Arlene

#2 Dick and Pauline Bonney have several acres also created by them over many years. So many interesting plants and an ongoing project.

Then on to lunch and a welcome warm up at the Black Fin Pub with all our good friends.



John



Terry and Carole

#3 Robert Argall also has many acres under cultivation with some incredible plantings of bulbs, several thousand added every fall. The beauty is added to with many pathways leading to a huge linden tree and pond. Herons nest in the tall trees accompanied by an eagle's nest.



#4 Robert and Adela Smith also have many acres under cultivation and propagate many rhodies. They only started to grow the rhodies about 7 years ago and have literally hundreds of them amongst the tall trees. Ah, so serene and beautiful. They gave us a plentiful supply of drinks to send us on our way.



Back row L to R

Ann DeBrincat, Terry Richmond, Don Bridgen, Glen Jamieson, Dorothy Jamieson, John England, Sharon Kevis, Marilyn Dawson, Judy Matwyko, (visiting sister of Carole Hanson) .

Middle row L to R

Sandra Hemsworth, Linda Derkach, Al Bieberstein, Ann Robertson, Arleen England, Carol Hanson.

Front Row L to R

Barbara Kulla, Maria Bieberstein, Mary Parker.

Missing from photo Moira Green(visitor)

Campbell River. Ann Gutsche, Joanne Hamilton and Krista Friede (visitor)

#5 Dave and Noni Godfrey were the final garden and extended us great hospitality with a great spread of goodies: cheese, crackers, wine, coffee and more. The back garden is on a slope with a pond and waterfall, a great deal of work and many blooming rhodies.

Wind Chill effects on Rhododendrons

by Alan Campbell

(Cowichan Valley Newsletter - March 07) copied from NIRS Dec 2009

An interesting discussion took place a number of weeks ago on an Internet chat group that concerns itself with the growing of rhododendrons. This rhodo forum has some 400 registered users with a wide range of knowledge and experience.

First, it was stated that Webster defines wind chill as “a still-air temperature that would have the same cooling effect on exposed human skin as a given combination of temperature and wind speed — also called chill factor, wind chill factor, and wind chill index.”

As plants do not feel, having no nerves to transmit impulses, to use the term wind chill in relation to plants is meaningless.

A posting from *Bruce Clyburn* of District 12 of the ARS in Nova Scotia revealed a different point of view. I, on the other hand, drift from the literal definition and interpret it as the combined effects of temperature and wind. Wind can increase the evaporation of soil moisture, thus speeding drying and making water harder for the plant to obtain. It also speeds evaporation of moisture from the plant’s leaves and bark. The faster the wind, the faster the moisture is lost. The next posting was by *Steve Henning* (“The Rhodyman”) of Pennsylvania in District 8. His comments give in-depth reasons how and why our gardens should be prepared for winter. You are correct, Bruce; the biology is entirely different. In humans, the body temperature should be near 98.6°F, and the wind chill is the effect of the environment to combat our body’s effort to keep that temperature. Also, our extremities are susceptible to frostbite, but our core is producing heat and trying to combat that. So the colder and the windier it is, the harder it is on the person.

In a plant everything is different. The plant has no body temperature, but must maintain cell

integrity, which it loses when the cells freeze (frostbite) or they are desiccated. The temperature at which cells freeze varies, depending on the variety and hardening of the plant.

There are at least four different scenarios:

1. When the ground is thawed and the air temperature is above freezing also, sap can flow and replenish the moisture lost from the leaves until the ground is desiccated. So here the effect is on the drying root zone. The severity depends on the moisture available. It causes drought damage, wind burn, sun burn and possibly death.
2. When the ground is frozen, but the air is warmer, the plant is very vulnerable to desiccation. The leaves are not curled up and the biological processes in the stem portion of the plant can occur. So a variety that will maintain dormancy under such conditions will do better. Those that don’t will suffer more. They will suffer even more depending upon the dryness of the air.
3. When the ground is frozen and the air is below freezing, the plant is better off until the temperature gets down to where some of the cells are freezing and being destroyed. So this depends how hardened off the plant is and on the variety also. The wind is not much of a factor here. It will make the desiccation worse, but most hardy varieties can cope. Varieties that can’t cope will suffer. Here moisture in the air has much less of an effect.
4. When the ground is thawed but the plant is frozen, the plant should be okay unless the temperature gets low enough to compromise cell structure. The wind is not much of a factor here either. So for plants it is complex and variety dependant. It is also dependant on how hardened-off the plant is. Hardening off means that cell tissue has adapted to cold weather and has maximum resistance to cold, wind and sun. This usually means the plant cells “bulk up” on chemicals that inhibit freezing and drop their moisture level to increase the concentration of chemicals in solution. (continued next page)

So the cold weather tolerance of a plant can vary considerably, depending on how well it has hardened off. Too much nitrogen fertilizer or freakish weather with warm spells can compromise a plant's ability to harden off. So can bacterial infections.

A human being burns food for energy and is a warm bodied creature with a thermostat, a large thermal mass and some clothing for insulation. A plant is a small cold bodied entity with no thermal heat source, very little stored heat because of very small thermal mass, and no insulation unless it has snow cover, leaves or some other protection. The difference between the cell temperature and the ambient temperature is negligible. The only protection consists of the dissolved chemicals in the cell that act like antifreeze and suppress the freezing point. The composition of these chemicals is what distinguishes a hardy plant from a tender plant or a hardened off plant from one that is not.

Steve Henning has his own Website at <http://rhodyman.net/rasite.html> and I recommend that everyone visit the site — it's just packed full of information. Also, if you care to visit the rhododendron group forum the address is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rhodo/>

Editors Corner by Ann

Just as I was marveling at this long and beautiful Spring, Winter returned with hail, wind and for some people, snow. My garden took a deep breath and then decided to keep on flowering. Nature is amazing.

This month there is a great deal of information to share, but for the future don't forget we need your input of articles you have read, photos, stories and garden happenings.

Happy Gardening



Dominion Brook Park

Dominion Brook Park is a unique 11 acre park on the Saanich Peninsula created by the Canadian Department of Agriculture as a public demonstration arboretum and ornamental garden. The land was cleared in 1912 and immediately readied for planting under the direction of W.T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, son of the world famous botanist, John Macoun.

Plant material was ordered from well known nurseries in Britain, France, Holland, Germany, Japan and the USA. Documents record delivery of a shipment of 60 different rhododendrons and ornamentals from the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University which included rhododendrons and other species grown from seed collected in Western China by renowned plant hunter, Ernest "Chinese" Wilson. There are survivors from this original planting.

Of the hundreds of species planted over the last 97 years, many have not survived but an amazing number have grown to maturity. Our pride and joy is the collection of mature conifers. The Society is fortunate in having detailed records including the original 1913 - 14 invoices which have revealed fascinating details about individual trees and shrubs.

Not only were the plant selections exciting, the layout of the park was masterly landscaped in the extensive variation of terrain which combines glades, dells and vistas with ponds and pools with extensive stonework and of course, Dominion Brook.

Go to the district of North Saanich web site for the full article.