

THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS
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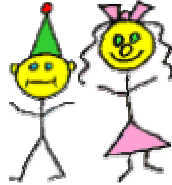
Refreshments Anne Gutsche

Sunshine Maria Bieberstein

Tickets Sandra Hemsworth

Truss Show Al Bieberstein

Ways & Means Don Bridgen



Wind up Party Pot luck Sunday 27th June

**4.30 pm or when you can get
there to..... at**

Marilyn Dawson's Home

**843 Woodridge Place,
Qualicum Beach
250-752-3694**

**Sad to say this is the last party of
the season but the good news is
there is always another season.
Come prepared for sun and fun
with a raincoat and sweater.**

**There will be ring toss and chatter
with all. This is a good time to meet
and greet your fellow Marshians.**

**Bring
a lucky pot to share,
your own beverage,
cutlery, plates, chair,
and a warm jacket.
Coffee and tea will be provided.**

**We will have fun, no matter what
the weather.**

MARS Meetings

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

**Next Meeting
September 8th**

**More information in the next
Magazine.**

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Sad news

**It is with sadness that we hear
that Avril Wedemire has
passed away after a valiant
struggle with cancer. Many
of us know Avril and Garth
Wedemire. Garth has often
given us talks and looks after
the MARS website. Our
thoughts and deepest
sympathy are with Garth and
his family at this time.**

President's Message. June 2010

Recently we walked through the 'Rhododendron Dell' in England's ancient Kew Botanical Gardens on a blustery, cold Spring day. I wondered if they cared about the condition of their plants as much as I do when it rains significantly during the blooming weeks? It is probably less personal for their gardeners, I decided, since the 'dell' represents only a small portion of the 132ha (326ac) garden – compare Milner Gardens 30ha/70ac - and one years' climatic conditions is just a drop in the life of these plants, most of which are well over a hundred years old!

On further examination I became aware of many of the same shortcomings in their 'dell' that we have at 409 Mill Rd! The rain soaked brown trusses look just like our rain soaked trusses - cause and effect, just the same. I also noticed, this time somewhat smugly, that they were missing more ID tags than the plants in our garden, but then I don't have any hundred year old plants! I also noticed that Kew gardeners are not as dedicated to deadheading as our club experts would have us do, but then most of their plants would require a cherry picker to perform that task!!

Despite any shortcomings of their genus rhododendron it was a wondrous place to visit and highly recommended.

On Sunday, 27 June, we will have our wind -up party. At that event I will officially hand over the club 'reins' to Annie Robertson, currently editor of the Rhodovine, a duty which she has performed magnificently. I ask that you give her the same wonderful support that I have received from all of you during the past three years of my watch. I take my leave knowing that the Club will have a strong executive for the 2010/2011 season, a Club in which Arlene and I will continue to be strong supporters.

Hope to see you all at Marilyn's...

John England

Slick slug control



Arion species of slug in Van Dusen Gardens.BC

From Carolyn Herriot's book *The Garden Path*

- Beer traps provide a perfect lure for slugs to get sozzled. They're easy to use, but they need regular emptying. *TIP:* If you don't want to share your favourite brew with slugs, make your own: 1 cup water to 1 tsp. sugar to 1/4 tsp. yeast. It's the yeast that attracts slugs, so why waste good beer?

There are many recommended ways of controlling your slugs, but I am winning the battle using Carolyn's yeast recipe above.



"125 year old rhododendron, this thing is really beautiful. It is about 25 ft high and 30 ft wide, it is in downtown Ladysmith." Mary Parker

MARS General Meeting

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, at 7:30 pm,
Wednesday May 12, 2010

MINUTES OF the April meeting were approved as published in the Rhodovine.

Refreshments: Provided by Carol Hansen and Sharon Kevis

Guests: Mazie Walsh, Gillian Walker, Ewen MacKinnen, Louise Martyn, Rosslyn Whitehead, Ken Jones, Keith and Ann Smith, Alan and Liz Murray

BUSINESS ARISING:

Proven Performers is a list of rhododendrons that do well in the MARS growing area. It was put together several years ago and needs updating. Members are asked to look over the list and add to it, or delete, if necessary.

Amended list should be returned to Marilyn Dawson by June 1st; email is: dawsom@shaw.ca

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from Diana Scott, President of the North Island Rhododendron Society thanks those Marsians who went on the tour of several gardens in the Courtenay area in late April. The entire day was organized by the NIRS.

A letter from the organizers of George Fraser Day in Ucluelet thanks MARS for the extra donation to help finance the 10th anniversary celebrations on May 22.

A newsletter from the Cecil and Molly Smith garden of the Portland, Oregon chapter contains interesting background on their rhodos.

John England sent an e-mail to the mayor protesting the removal of signs days before both the Truss Show and the Garden Tour. It seems they contravened the new bylaws. The Mayor suggested places where the signs could be safely placed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Tony Ansdell reported the scholarship donation has been sent to VIU; that being the only out-of-the-ordinary expense this month. He included reports on our three fundraisers, Truss Show, Garden Tour and the Oceanside Sale, noting the financial results were somewhat better than last

year.

TRUSS SHOW:

Al and Maria Bieberstein thanked all the volunteers for their efforts in mounting another successful show. They then passed out trophies, the Novice winner being Joanne Hamilton. Best of Show, large leaf went to Judy Millicheap. Joan Rich, who won Best of Show, small leaf was unable to attend.

MEMBERSHIP:

Ann Robertson reported six new memberships: Ewen and Linda MacKinnen, Jim and Gillian Walker, Mazie and Albert Walsh, Ann and Keith Smith, Ken and Liliane Jones, Liz and Alan Murray.

PROGRAM:

Ann DeBrincat said she has several speakers lined up for the fall session, including Garth Wedemeyer, Ron Knight; possibly Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Wash. will be available in early 2011.

WAYS AND MEANS:

The door prize was Hachman's Belona; other prizes were R. UVic 924, R. Fragrantissima, R. Sunspray and two MARS glasses. Winners were Gillian Walsh, Judy Millicheap, Sandra Hemsworth, Joanne Hamilton and Al Bieberstein.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Annual General Meeting saw the following new slate elected: President, Ann Robertson; Vice President, Tony Ansdell; Treasurer, Tony Ansdell; Secretary, Marilyn Dawson. Directors are: Don Bridgen (one-year); Velda Rhodes, Ann DeBrincat and Linda Derkach (two-year terms). Directors – at - large are Joanne Hamilton and Maria Bieberstein (one-year).

GUEST SPEAKER: Don Martyn, who gardens at Yarrow on the Lower Mainland, gave a colorful presentation on magnolias, followed by a list of the plants that should do well in this area. They ranged from those that will eventually be 50-foot trees down to plants that might fit into the average smaller home garden.

MEETING ADJOURNED: At 9:40 pm

John England, President
Marilyn Dawson, Secretary

Proven Performers Update.

The American Rhododendron Society has asked its members to update their area proven performers list. This means the Rhododendrons that grow best in your garden. You can choose as many (no limits) or as few (1) as you like and come with your list to the party on the 27th June. You don't have to categorize them or even choose ones from the present list. Some of the rhodos on the list may not grow well for you or may not be available to purchase. Give YOUR list of names to Don Bridgen or email him at dabridgen@gmail.com.

Below is the list to be updated , it will give you an idea of what is needed.

Mount Arrowsmith Chapter Proven performers.

(Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island B.C.)

Elepidotes:

'Aloha'
'Anah Kruschke'
'Anna Rose Whitney'
'Blaney's Blue'
'Boule de Neige'
'Bow Bells'
'Catawbiense Album'
'Christmas Cheer'
'Countess of Derby'
'Cynthia'
'Elizabeth Rothschild'
'Fantastica'
'George's Delight'
'Grace Seabrook'
'Halfdan Lem'

'Hotei'
'Loder's White'
'Ken Janeck'
'Loderi King George' 'Marie Starks'
'Morning Magic'
'Mrs Tom H. Lowinsky'
'Nancy Evans'
'Olin O. Dobbs'
'Paprika Spiced'
'Scarlet Wonder'
'Scintillation'
'Teddy Bear'
'The H. Jean Marie de Montague'
'Tofino'

'Unique'
R. bureavii
R. pseudochrysanthum

Lepidotes:

'Bob's Blue'
'Dora Amateis'
'Ginny Gee'
'Snow Lady'
'Teal'
PJM group
R. augustinii

Deciduous Azaleas:

R. luteum

Evergreen Azaleas:

'Hino-crimson'



Teddy Bear photo by Garth Wedemire from <http://www.hirsutum.info>

EVENTS

Milner Gardens

Art & Photography in the Garden

July 17th & 18th

10:00am to 5:00pm (last entry at 4:30pm)

Meet, mingle and be inspired by local artists at work, painting, sketching, carving and photographing the beauty of this Artist's Garden. Bonsai, artists, potters, and live music. Artwork silent auction in support of the Gardens. Hand stamp allows re-entry Sunday. Tea Room opens early from 11:00am to 4:00pm for homemade soups and scones.

250-752-6153 or www.milnergardens.org

Mill Bay Garden Club

63rd Community Flower and Garden Show
Saturday June 12, 2010 - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Cobble Hill Hall, 2550 Watson Road,
Cobble Hill, BC

Admission: Adults/Seniors: \$2.00,

Children: no charge

Rotary Club's Pancake Breakfast
held 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

A Flower Show for everyone, plus plant sales, garden vendors, silent auction, strawberry tea. Flower Show Entries from the public and other Garden Clubs, garden associations, etc. welcome.

Flower show programs are available at Dinter's Nursery, Laughing Llama, Buckerfield's, and Mill Bay Thrifty Foods.

For further information, please contact
Brenda Dumont at me@brendadumont.com
250 743 1638

Mid Island Floral Art Club Exhibition

June 1st - 12th

Old School House

122 Fern Road West, Qualicum Beach.

250-752-6133

Editor's Corner

My daughter has been roasting in Ontario while we have had a long wet cold Spring. However everything is growing well, especially the weeds and the slugs are prolific in my garden. I thought that we might all need a reminder as to what Summer is all about.

Summer Sun by Robert Louis Stevenson

Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Through empty heaven with repose;
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull
To keep the shady parlour cool,
Yet he will find a chink or two
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic spider-clad
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;
And through the broken edge of tiles
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around
He bares to all the garden ground,
And sheds a warm and glittering look
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,
Round the bright air with footing true,
To please the child, to paint the rose,
The gardener of the World, he goes.

It has been a fun challenge for me, I think, to be the Rhodovine editor, especially since I am basically computer illiterate. Many thanks to Tony and Joyce Ansdell for all their help. Tony who willingly gave me his time, advice and help when I was having a computer panic attack and Joyce who proof read my copy, always presented to her at the last minute. Many thanks to all of you who sent me your contributions. Send all your stories, tips and photos to Linda Derkach for the September magazine as she is your new editor.

Garden Tour



Photos from Linda Derkach

A couple of months ago Ron Knight gave us a great talk on Rhodos in his garden with emphasis on dwarf rhodos. Here is another article on the subject. I feel so much better about not planting mine, it seems that we don't have to hurry or worry about all this rain.

Rhodos in pots

How often have you had no time to take a plant out of its pot and plant it in the ground? Why not leave it in a pot, perhaps a decorative one, for a few years to brighten the patio or balcony. Or use it to fill in an empty space in the garden, or to see if the plant is happy in a certain spot.

In his book "Rhododendrons" by John Street, many useful ideas are suggested, and I will quote some of them.

"Rhodos grow surprisingly well in containers, which can be used to good effect in a number of ways...The container can be plunged in the ground, giving the rhodo the appearance of a normal growing plant, but the container will protect the roots from any damaging infusion of lime (Mr. Street gardened in Britain). Rhodos in containers can also be brought into the house, where they can make an effective display, whether forced into flower early or allowed to flower normally.

Almost any container will do, but it is wise to avoid those made of cement or concrete, particularly if they are porous. Lime is again the reason, for if the roots were to penetrate the material, the plants might suffer. Because Rhodos are surface-rooting, it is better to choose containers that are short and fat rather than tall and thin; this allows room for the roots to spread and for the application of a mulch to feed them.

Good drainage is important. Container grown plants from garden centres should be repotted, placing concave crocks over the holes in the pots. Mr. Street recommended a well-mixed layer of coarse peat or leaf mold, loam, rotted cow manure and perlite. Leave enough space for watering at the top of the container.

Watering is the most important part of growing Rhodos in containers. During the growing and flowering period they need plenty of water (not to be waterlogged). Once the year's growth is made, they need much less water but must never be allowed to become dried out. They need to make next year's flower buds at this time, and if given too much water will make new leaf growth by growing through the flower bud. This new, soft growth will be vulnerable to an early autumn frost.

Rhodos may be forced into flower easily and even the protection of a cold greenhouse will bring them on a good two weeks ahead of their normal time. They should not be brought in under glass until they have suffered a slight frost in the open. They will then react more readily to the kinder conditions, and a little heat and regular sprays with warm water will make them flower even earlier. Shade will not be necessary until the sun becomes stronger in the spring."

N.I.R.S. September 2007

Have a great Summer

See you in September