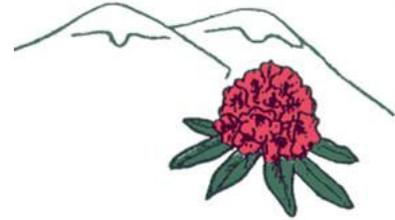


# THE RHODOVINE



## THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

MARS  
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[mars.rhodos.ca](http://mars.rhodos.ca)

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#### Bursary

#### Christmas Party

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**Newsletter Editor** Linda Derkach

#### Garden Tour

**Greeter** Velda Rhodes

**Historian** Cassy Lacouvee

**Library** Arlene Johnston

#### Meeting Coord

**Membership** Linda Derkach

**Milner Gardens** John England

**Plant Sale** Barbara Kulla

**Program Chair** Ann DeBrincat

**PR** Marilyn Dawson

**Refreshments** Anne Gutsche

**Sunshine** Judy McMaster

**Tickets** Sandra Hemsworth

**Truss Show**

**Ways & Means** Don Bridgen

### This Month

### Wednesday, November 10

**Ron Knight** is a keen garden photographer. His photographs have been published in the ARS Journal and in Gardens West magazine which featured Caron Gardens in their winter 2009 edition. **At our November meeting, Ron will present a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Digital Photography for Gardeners"**. He will discuss how your digital camera works, common garden photography pitfalls and composition hints. **Please remember to bring your digital camera to the meeting.**

Ron is a retired biology teacher and school administrator. He is a confirmed rhodoholic, past-president of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and a past-director for the ARS - BC Division. Ron is a busy guest speaker at garden clubs on the Sunshine Coast, Vancouver Island and the Mainland.

Over the last fifteen years, Ron and his wife Carla have created Caron Gardens at Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast. In this one-acre lakeside garden, they display over 500 different rhododendrons along with thousands of companion plants, host garden club tours, sell rhodos and teach a variety of gardening courses. More information can be found at the garden's website: [www3.telus.net/rcknight](http://www3.telus.net/rcknight)

**More from Ron on page 5...**

### MARS Meetings

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

### Next Meeting

10th November 2010



**Rhododendron 'Shilsonii'**  
in the garden of Joan and  
Mike Rich. More on this  
fabulous plant inside.....

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## President's Message

At our last meeting, we had a great presentation from Garth Wedemire which included many pictures taken during the visit to MARS by the PARS Chapter. The thing that struck me was that these were pictures of our own area as seen through the eyes of visitors. Maybe we take for granted where we live, but these pictures remind us of how lucky we are and how beautiful is the place where we live.

Garth also presented a tribute to Dot Gibson and Avril Wedemire. This was a great way to remember these now departed friends and was a touching and memorable presentation.

The next presentation will be from Ron Knight and will help everyone who would like to make the most of the abilities of their digital camera. He will show how to take better pictures and will give tips on making your pictures more attractive and interesting through good composition. Remember to bring your camera.

Also at the last meeting, the draw for the rhododendrons donated by Briggs Nursery was well received. Apparently the challenge has been renewed for 2010-2011, so bring in guests to test drive our club and some will join and help us to qualify for free rhododendrons next year.

Finally, for those who have not renewed their membership, we are approaching the last opportunity to renew before the ARS deadline. The November meeting is the last opportunity to renew at a full meeting, although Linda Derkach will accept renewals by mail up to the end of November.

Tony Ansdell  
President, MARS

**Important Reminder...**  
**Please bring \$30 to re-new**  
**your membership in MARS for**  
**2011.**

## Ask an Expert.....

*This month, we have a query raised at a recent Executive meeting....*

**Don:** I have noticed that on one of my big leaf rhododendrons, the new leaves are wrinkled and malformed as they unfold.

**Ann:** All rhododendrons need water during the growing season, but big leaf types need even more because they are spurting out such a large amount of new plant material compared to their dwarf cousins. Most of that new growth is water – soft and floppy – until it grows into harder tissue. Heat waves at new leaf time are particularly brutal causing them to evaporate water from the large leaves faster than they can suck it up from their roots – thus causing wrinkled leaves. Also moisture in the soil is evaporating before it can get down to the roots and be useful to the plant. Scratch a test hole after watering to see how deeply the water has penetrated, and re-water if only the surface is damp. Rhododendrons do not like to sit in a pool of water so a well-drained soil with compost and mulch is best. They need moisture and air around the roots.

Once the leaves are wrinkled and gimpy, that's it - you are stuck with ugly foliage unless you prune it off. So... babysit your rhodies with the watering can as soon as the growth buds start to stretch.



*Rhododendron 'Cosmopolitan'*

## Five Favourites...

We travel south of Parksville to visit the garden of Joan and Mike Rich.



### 1. *Rhododendron campylogynum*

We enjoy the nodding little bell-shaped, pink to purple flowers on long stalks, the mass of flowers every year and the slow growth of the plant.



### 2. *R. schlippenbachii*

We love the beautiful, delicate flowers in pink or white tinged pink with a few brown spots. It flowers early and the flowers come out before the leaves making for a most lovely picture in the early spring garden. The leaves develop in attractive whorls of five. It is deciduous and thus hardy. I have seen *R. schlippenbachii* make an interesting hedge.



### 3. *Rhododendron 'Shilsonii'*

Every year this plant is covered with masses of dark red flowers in early spring. It has lovely mahogany-coloured smooth bark as *shilsonii* reaches tree size. It puts on a second show of colour with bright blue seed pods which hang for many weeks.



### 4. *R. yakushimanum 'Exbury'*

I like the fairly slow-growing mound-like form with small leaves, attractive in both small and large gardens. The flower colour – from rich rose red in bud-opening to pink and fading to white like apple blossom. It is very hardy and the weevils don't like it.



### 5. *Rhododendron 'Lem's Cameo'*

The wonderful apricot, creamy-coloured flowers are a definite eye catcher. It has shiny green leaves on a healthy plant.

## **Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society Meeting Minutes**

General Meeting held at the Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach, October 13, 2010 at 7:30 pm

MINUTES of the September meeting were approved as published in the Rhodovine.

**GUESTS:** Doug Kitts, Dorothy Griffin and Donna Harding

**NEW MEMBERS:** Marnie & Bob Baird, Ruth Vickers, Margot Moser

**Associate Member:** Doug Kitts

**REFRESHMENTS:** Judy McMaster and Judy Millicheap

**BUSINESS ARISING: 1.** President Tony Ansdell announced that Bert Harding had officially taken over the job of Treasurer as of Oct. 1.

**2.** A farewell potluck for Ann Robertson is scheduled for Oct. 27 at Marilyn Dawson's home at 843 Woodridge Place, Qualicum Beach. All members are welcome at 5 pm.

**3.** The Executive decided that all paid-up members at the October meeting are eligible to take part in the draw for 35 rhododendrons donated by Briggs Nursery in Elmo, Wash. The draw will be held after the speaker. Any remaining rhodos will go to paid-up members in absentia.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** BC Council of Garden Clubs Journal, September/October issue; also on line.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Linda Derkach said there were three new memberships signed up and several members had renewed. As editor of the Rhodovine, she encouraged members to send digital photos of their five favourite rhodos and tell why they are special.

**TREASURER:** Tony Ansdell gave his last report as Treasurer and said the club is in good financial shape. MARS has returned the \$1500 ARS grant because the propagation project at Milner, for which it was given, will be delayed for some time. The grant was kept in a separate account.

**PROGRAM:** Ann DeBrincat outlined upcoming programs. In November, Ron Knight from the Sunshine Coast will be talking about using the digital camera in the garden. The Christmas party is Dec. 1 and Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Garden in Washington is expected for the January meeting.

**WAYS AND MEANS:** Don Bridgen described the draw prizes: Door prize was *R. 'Starbright Champagne'*. Other prizes were *R. 'Milton'* and *R. 'Julischka'* and the frog labels. Winners were Joan Rich, Cassie LaCouvee, Dan Schwarz and Don Bridgen.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Glen Jamieson, who attended the recent ARS Convention in Oregon, said the Species Foundation has opened a new conservatory for vireyas as part of its rhododendron collection. He mentioned also that Briggs Nursery is again offering a bundle of rhodos to any ARS chapter that increases its membership by 10 per cent during the period Sept. 1, 2010 to Aug. 31 2011.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Garth Wedemire gave an entertaining account of an exchange trip made by the Peace Arch Rhododendron Society to MARS two springs ago. His presentation, entitled From PARS to MARS set to music, was a trip down memory lane for those who participated in the exchange. After touring gardens in the Qualicum-Nanoose areas, the PARS group drove to Tofino and toured the garden of Ken and Dot Gibson. The presentation also paid tribute to two people who were in the photos, but died earlier this year, Dot Gibson and Avril Wedemire.

The last item of business for the night was a second draw, this time for the 35 rhododendrons that were donated by Briggs Nursery to MARS for increasing its membership by 10 per cent. Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

This is your Newsletter! Please send me your ideas and your digital photos!  
Do you have a question for our experts???  
[lindaderkach@shaw.ca](mailto:lindaderkach@shaw.ca)

## Christmas is Coming!!

The MARS

## Christmas Potluck Party

will be on

Wednesday, December 1 at 5:00 pm

at the Rotary Clubhouse in Qualicum Beach.

If you want to be part of the fun, be sure to bring an interestingly-wrapped present for the gift exchange - plus a Potluck dish, plates, cutlery, and beverage of your choice.



*Rhododendron* 'Ingrid Mehlquist' underplanted with *Cyclamen hederifolium* and *C. hederifolium* 'Silverleaf' in the spring. These Cyclamen now have beautiful magenta blooms to brighten the fall garden.

### Rhododendron Tip....

This is the best time of year to transplant your rhododendrons – the soil is moist – it's not too hot – and your rhodies will get a good start in the cool weather!

## A Message from Ron Knight...

I'm looking forward to speaking at your November meeting. On that evening, I'll have a selection of dwarf and low-growing rhododendrons for sale. All are in 2 gallon pots - nice bushy plants that were potted up last summer - for sale at \$20 each tax included. With all the rain we've had since mid-October, now is the perfect time to be planting rhodos.

The list below shows the hybrids and species that will be available at the meeting. If you'd like to see photos of these plants, visit either of these websites:

\*\* [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

\*\* [www.hirsutum.info](http://www.hirsutum.info)

I'll only be able to bring one or two of each variety. So if you really want a certain plant, please see me as soon as you arrive at the meeting. If you have any questions, feel free to email them to me before the meeting.

Cheers,  
Ron Knight

### HYBRIDS:

'Milton'  
'Ginny Gee'  
'Bob's Blue'  
'Yaku Prince'  
'Teddy Bear'  
'Snow Lady'  
'Lori Eischelser'  
'Grumpy'  
'Shrimp Girl'  
'Carmen'  
'Elizabeth Red Foliage'  
'Black Satin'  
'Hansel'  
'Medusa'  
'Starbright Champagne'  
'Girard's Variegatum' (Azalea)

### SPECIES:

*R. pseudochrysanthum*  
*R. keleticum*  
*R. impeditum*  
*R. pemakoense*

# Garden Journal

From your Newsletter Editor....

October – I love the garden at this time of year! In fact, our whole countryside is performing the most magical transformation – taking us from summer into winter with wind and sun and rain and swirling leaves of gold and orange and red!

I am grateful for the tiny but tough *Cyclamen hederifolium* in colours of pink, white and magenta – huge clusters of blooms peaking out from beneath my rhododendrons and delighting all who take the time to look. If you don't have any cyclamen in your garden, look for pots in the spring at plant sales and nurseries – plant under the drip line of your rhodies and you will be delighted by fall. And magically, they keep growing and spreading over the years – but are never invasive.

Also delightful in the garden – still – are the many varieties of *Hydrangea*. These wonderful shrubs bloom year after year with little attention except for correct pruning. They begin blooming soon after their *Rhododendron* companions have quit – and provide fabulous colour well into November.

But the piece de resistance is the brilliant performance of many deciduous plants. Especially thrilling are Japanese maples – *Acer palmatum* 'Osakasuki', *A. palmatum* 'Sango-Kaku' (Coral Bark Maple), *A. palmatum dissectum* 'Waterfall', *A. 'Sekka Yatsubusa'*, and *A. 'Shigitatsusawa'* to name a few. The stunning gold, orange, pink, maroon and red of these leaves are set off beautifully by the dark green evergreen leaves of our rhododendrons.

Also exceptional are the golden leaves of Hostas – just before they turn to mush. *Hydrangea petiolaris* (Climbing Hydrangea) is a glowing yellow climbing the fence, and I love the lime-golden leaves of *Cotinus* 'Golden Spirit'. And if you have a free moment, the drive through **Cathedral Grove to Port Alberni** is stunning thanks to our native *Acer macrophyllum*.



*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Ayesha'



*Rhododendron hirsutum* 'Flore Pleno' blooming in the June garden – a delightful surprise!! And a great rhododendron for a small garden. Look at those perfect, tiny leaves!



*Hydrangea macrophylla* – this one with serrated petals – loves a dappled spot! Hydrangeas are great companions for rhododendrons as they start blooming when most of our rhodies are done for the year.

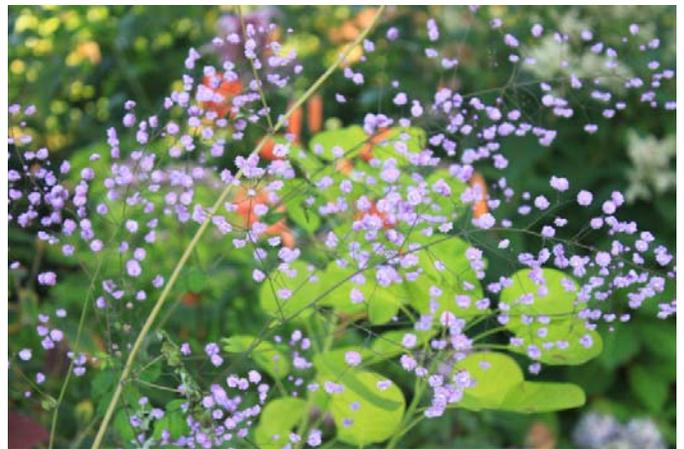
# THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH

## Words of Wisdom from your Fellow Martians...

- Make sure the garden is watered VERY well before hoses and irrigation systems are shut off for the winter. Dry plants cannot get water from the icy ground, and the wind and sun will evaporate water from the leaves, drying and burning them badly. **This is especially important for your rhododendrons.**
- Finish planting bulbs in your beds and outdoor pots.
- Cut your lawn to 2-3 inches; rake leaves and use lime if necessary.
- Discard leaves and spent annuals that show signs of disease.
- Cut back ugly-looking perennials to 3-4 inches, BUT leave ornamental grasses and plants with interesting seed heads for winter interest.
- Thoroughly water all your evergreens – especially broad-leafed evergreens – before the ground freezes or snow comes.
- Move half-hardy container plants into a cool greenhouse or cold frame or garage.
- Tie back roses to prevent wind damage. Mound soil at the base of roses to protect the graft, and discard all diseased leaves.
- Plant rye grass or other cover crop in veggie gardens to turn under in the early spring.
- Begin feeding the birds mixed seed and suet.



Well-behaved *Clematis jackmanii* in a large pot growing through an unknown Rhododendron



*Thalictrum delavayi* 'Hewitt's Double' showing off its delicate blossoms against *Cotinus* 'Golden Spirit'



In the shade garden – on a recent garden tour