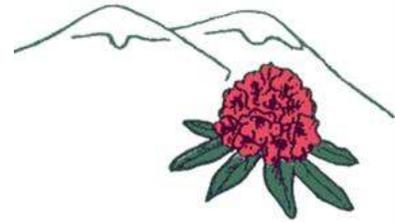


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

MARS
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Library – Donna deBoer

Meeting Coordinator- Tony Ansdell

Membership – Bert Harding

Milner Gardens - John England

Plant Sale – Marilyn Dawson

Program Chair - Ann DeBrincat

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments - Anne Gutsche

Sunshine - Judy McMaster

Door Prize - Sandra Hemsworth

Truss Show – Glen Jamieson

Ways & Means - Don Bridgen

This Month:

January's speaker will be MARS member Glen Jamieson. A former President of MARS, Glen is currently the ARS Journal Editor and as such, is promoting the ARS Photo Contest. To help us produce some awesome entries, he will be giving (with permission) Donald Hyatt's Power Point presentation Thoughts on Digital Photography: A Beginner's Guide. Don is from the Potomac Valley ARS Chapter and has contributed many articles to the Journal. Come on out, pick up a few tips and maybe a MARS garden will be a winner for all the other chapters to envy!



And speaking of great plant pics, *Rhododendron* 'Noble Mountain' is very impressive in the garden of Lorne and Cindy Hepting.

Photo by Lorne Hepting

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

11th January 2012



At our Christmas party, **Marilyn Dawson** was presented with the **ARS Bronze Medal** for her significant contributions to MARS – well done, Marilyn!!

Photo by Joanne Hamilton

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From Your President...

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you all had a good Christmas whether you visited family, had family visiting or had Christmas here with friends.

The Christmas Party was a great success with good attendance. A good time was had by all. At the party I thanked most people for their efforts in arranging the party but I forgot to thank the kitchen staff who were in the hall cleaning up when most had left. Thank you all!

Now that the New Year has begun, it is time for us to begin seriously planning for the MARS events for 2012.

Events we are working on are:

- **Rhododendron Show and Sale - April 21**
- **Spring Fling Plant Sale - May 5**
- **MARS Garden Tour - May 12 and 13.**

The Chairpersons and committees are in place and are well into planning. As the event dates approach, they will be calling for volunteers for many jobs. MARS members have responded well in the past and I'm sure you will all want to pitch in and help us put on the best events ever.

The first general meeting of 2012 is on January 11 so I hope you can all attend.

Tony

Membership Dues for 2012

**If you have not already renewed,
please remember to bring
your membership dues to
our January meeting
to keep your ARS Journal coming.**

And for those of us who sadly missed the Christmas party on December 10, here is the text from the Bronze Medal Certificate celebrating Marilyn Dawson...

The Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

Is Pleased to Present

The Bronze Medal

To

Marilyn Dawson

in recognition of her long and dedicated service to MARS. For many years she has been a dedicated Secretary and Director and has organized all publicity for MARS. She has been a driving force behind MARS' participation in Seedy Saturday and the Spring Fling sale. She has been on the Garden Tour Committee, the Truss Show Committee and the Christmas Party Committee. She has hosted many potluck celebrations and Directors' meetings and has had her garden on the Garden Tour. The awarding of this bronze medal is our way of saying thank you, for her service, dedication and enthusiasm for MARS.

The American Rhododendron Society
and
The Azalea Society of America
invite you to
**“Appalachian
Spring”**

May 4 –7, 2012

Asheville, North Carolina

In the Heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains
where native azaleas and rhododendrons burst
into bloom every spring!

Hosted by Southeastern Chapter, ARS
Vaseyi Chapter



We welcome you to be a part of this exciting joint Convention. First, fill out the convention registration form and mail it before **March 1, 2012**, to get the early registration discount. Be sure to let us know any special dietary needs, and be sure to note both your ARS membership and ASA membership if you belong to both societies.



Rhododendron vaseyi at Southern Highlands Reserve in North Carolina, site of the 2012 ARS Convention.

Photo by John Turner

Welcome Reception

Our welcome reception Friday afternoon will include several fabulous food stations, cash bar and live Mountain Music, all adjacent to the gigantic Plant Sale! Meet and greet old and new friends, mingle and have delicious heavy appetizers, more than enough to call it dinner. This social event is not to be missed!

Flower Show

The flower show will be open to the public on Saturday, while you're out on tour. The show entry rules with categories listed are on the convention web site, or we can mail them to you.

Photo Print Contest

You can also show off your best flowers, plants, gardens and natural landscapes through your photography talents. There are four categories, and of course, they all feature rhododendrons and/or azaleas. The entry form is on the convention web site, or we can mail it to you.

Plant Sale

Come join us for our enormous plant sale. Thanks to the efforts of local chapter members and good friends in eight States, well over 3,000 plants are being brought along for the Plant Sale in which the collecting and hybridizing efforts of local area plants men will be highlighted. We have sought and are collecting the works of such notables as Gene Aromi, George Beasley, Tom Dodd, Velma Haag, James Harris, Don Johnson, Augie Kehr, Ben Morrison, Lonnie Player, Kelly Strickland, Earl Sommerville, James Todd and others. There are some Dexter hybrids as well.

Book Sale

We will have an assortment of both old, used and new garden-related books for sale. All will be offered at a discount from the list price, many by quite a bit. We will have only one or two of most of the titles, so it will be first come, first served.

Garden Tours

We have four fabulous days of tours planned for your enjoyment and wonder. We will be visiting a variety of beautiful gardens in Asheville and Hendersonville, North Carolina, and just across the border in Travelers Rest, South Carolina. Breakfasts and lunches are included in the prices for the Saturday, Sunday and Monday tours. Plus, we have provided, on the 2012 convention web site, descriptions, directions and maps of even more gardens, nurseries and other attractions for do-it-yourself tours both before and after the regular convention days.

Friday - Early Bird Tour Biltmore Estate

The Biltmore Estate gardens have a long and distinguished horticultural heritage that began with the construction of the Biltmore House, built in 1889 for George Washington Vanderbilt. It is the largest single family home in America at 175,000 square feet, 250 rooms, surrounded by the natural beauty of the mountains. The grounds of the 8,000 acre estate were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.



Azalea Garden at Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC

Photo by Marilyn Haynes

Did you know?

The Blue Ridge Parkway is one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the world with about 100 varieties of trees, 1,600 plant species, 54 mammal species, and 159 species of birds.

Editor: This is very much an abbreviated outline of convention activities and events. Lots more information about the 2012 ARS Convention in Asheville, North Carolina can be found on the ARS Website www.rhododendron.org

**Don't forget....
Seedy Saturday
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
Saturday, February 4**

Marilyn Dawson Honoured at MARS Christmas Party

The weather was perfect for a December day. No snow so folks from Port Alberni and beyond could get over the hump to attend the annual Christmas Mars Party at Rotary Hall. About 42 people brought a huge array of food, gifts for the silly exchange and something for the food bank. While George Despina played in the background guests mingled and ate so many varied and scrumptious appetizers, there was even some turkey left at the end of the evening and that hasn't happened in recent years.

Ann DeBrincat's home-grown turkeys were cooked to perfection and donated by Terry and Verna Richmond, complete with stuffing and gravy. John and Arlene England brought a ham.

The event was organized by Maria Bieberstein, Barbara Kulla and Marilyn Dawson who had great help setting up earlier in the day from Cassie LaCouvee, John England, Tony Ansdell, Bert and Ruth Harding and Kathy and Art Jones. Cleanup was equally swift with everyone pitching in to put tables and chairs away, sweep the floor and, of course, do dishes. A big thank you goes to all those helping hands.

Highlight of the evening was the awarding of the ARS Bronze Medal to Marilyn Dawson for her contribution to MARS over many years. Marilyn was completely surprised by the award when Tony made the announcement and in thanking the chapter said: "Maria lied. She said they were delaying the award until spring." Normally, the Executive is told of the award and sworn to secrecy before the presentation. And at the November meeting, Maria (other members of the committee were Kay Burgoyne and Vic Vickers) said they had been unable to meet and make a decision. Marilyn obviously

believed them, although other executive members were quietly told the truth. The whole charade brought a big laugh.

And so the evening ended with the food bank winning more donated food and the SOS getting \$90 or so from the raffle.

And finally - *from your Editor* - congratulations to Marilyn for her expertise and commitment to MARS – as Secretary, Garden Tour Publicist, work on the Rhododendron Show and Sale in April and our Spring Fling Plant Sale in the spring – year after year. Is there anything to which Marilyn does not contribute??? She has been a rock – always ready and willing to do whatever is needed. Congratulations to Marilyn on an ARS Bronze Medal well-deserved!!

Seeking Information on a Rhododendron?

Have you tried...

www.hirsutum.info

Great information and photos of many
rhododendrons

Do you have more gardening books than you need??

The MARS Library would be most grateful
for any contributions to its collection.

Please bring your surplus books
to our monthly meetings or
contact Donna DeBoer at 778-424-6699
or at busylady0849@gmail.com.

Coming Events....

Zdenek Zvolanek

Presented by
The Alpine Group of the Qualicum Beach
Garden Club

Date: Saturday, January 14

Time: 10:30 to 2:30 pm

Place: Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Admission by Donation

Zdenek Zvolanek (known as ZZ, pronounced ZeeZee) is a very famous Czech rock and crevice gardener, designer and builder. Paul Spriggs, who built the Nanoose Crevice Garden, trained under ZZ and it is Paul who is bringing ZZ to us.

There will be two presentations:

- In the morning **Golden West** (Plants from explorer Joyce Carruthers)
- In the afternoon **Beauty Slope** (Plants in my steppe rock garden all year round)
- There will be a break for lunch between talks.

You can find more about Beauty Slope and Joyce Carruthers by Googling the [Scottish Rock Garden Club](#) and scrolling down to [The International Rock Gardener](#) – go to:

- March 2010 for Joyce Carruthers description of the Beauty Slope.
- April 2010 for plants and flowers of the Beauty Slope. (Also includes Mt. St. George, Stone Mountain, BC and ZZ building a crevice garden at Montreal Botanic Garden)
- October 2010 for the announcement of Joyce's tragic death and her articles on North America.

Please reply to June Strandberg at normjune@shaw.ca to reserve a space.
Seating is limited.

ARS Western Regional Conference

September 21 to 23, 2012

Coast Bastion Inn
Nanaimo, BC

More information coming soon.

Mark your calendar for this major conference that is so conveniently close to home.

MARS Rhododendron

Show and Sale

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Spring Fling Plant Sale

Saturday, May 5

**MARS Mothers' Day
Garden Tour
Saturday - May 12 and
Sunday, May 13.**

Please put these dates in your calendar. More information to follow in the coming months.

Garden Journal

...From your Newsletter Editor

It is rather bleak on this first day of January...except for the magnificent Trumpeter Swans with their teen-agers on a leisurely Sunday cruise....so these memories of wonderful gardens at the 2011 convention of the ARS in Vancouver, Washington are a welcome diversion.



Lan Su, the Portland Classical Chinese Garden in downtown Portland is a welcome oasis amid the noise and clatter of a busy city. It takes up just one city block and embodies all that the Song dynasty required of a garden four centuries earlier.



Just 20 years old, Lan Su is the result of Portland becoming a sister city with Suzhou, China located on the Yangtze River. Artisans of the highest caliber from Suzhou constructed Lan Su and stocked it with native Chinese flora. With the citizens of Portland, they have created a delightful sanctuary using all the important elements of an authentic Chinese garden.



The architectural leaves of *Podophyllum pleanthum* create an interesting foil for the deep maroon seedpods hanging beneath.



Beautiful specimens of *Acer palmatum* are used artistically throughout the garden.

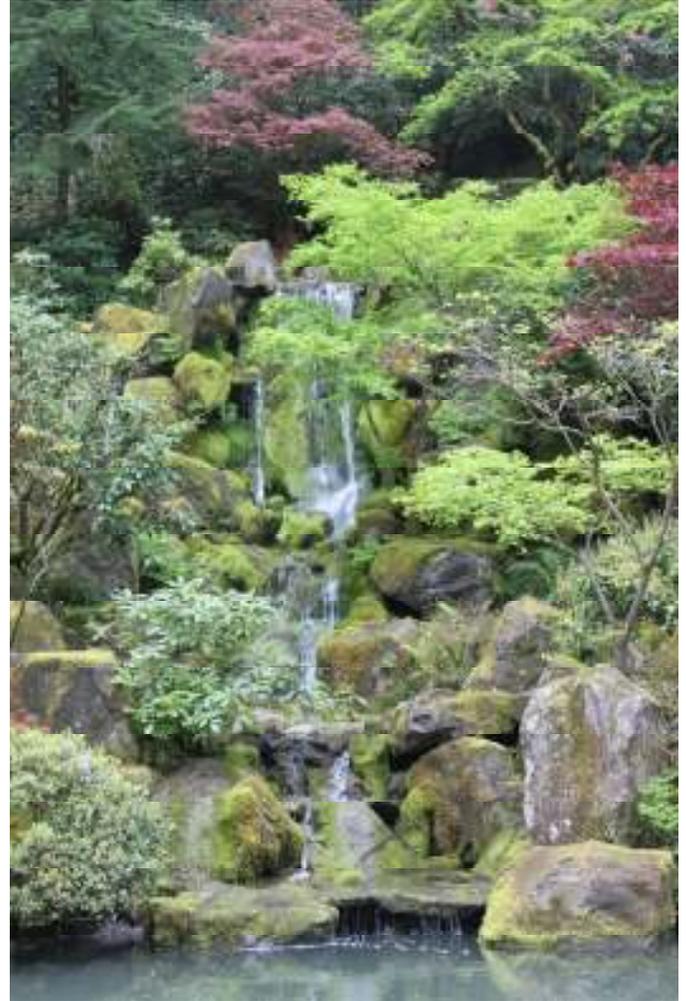


This pittosporum is thriving in a protected nook in the garden.

By contrast, the **Portland Japanese Garden** located atop Washington Park covers many acres. This garden offers exquisite views, perfectly pruned trees and shrubs, and many opportunities for meditation, contemplation and solitude.



A pink-leaved *Acer palmatum* is situated perfectly to show off its graceful form and colour.



Rocks, waterfalls and ponds abound in the Japanese Garden – here with Japanese maples and rhododendrons strategically placed to create a scene of stunning beauty.



This bridge in the Japanese garden offers a panoramic view for those with time to linger.