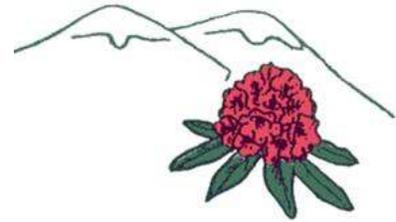


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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

Volume 24, Issue 5

MAY 2012

2011/2012 Executive

President

Tony Ansdell
752-4475 ansdella@shaw.ca

Vice-President

Ken Jones
586-5002 casper6@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Bert Harding
752-3923 ruber@shaw.ca

Secretary

Marilyn Dawson
752-3694 dawsom@shaw.ca

Past President

John England
752-6131 jaengland@shaw.ca

Directors

Don Bridgen
723-3916 dabridgen@gmail.com

Velda Rhodes

724-2480

Linda Derkach

752-3545 линдa@shaw.ca

Ann DeBrincat

724-5594 darrylhatch@shaw.ca

Director at large

Maria Bieberstein
468-7252 abieberstein@telus.net

Bursary – Tony Ansdell

Christmas Party

Dollar Table - Cassy LaCouvee

Newsletter Editor - Linda Derkach

Garden Tour – Ken Jones

Greeter - Velda Rhodes

Historian - Cassy Lacouvee

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 – Maria Bieberstein

Door Prize - Sandra Hemsworth

Truss Show – Glen Jamieson

Ways & Means - Don Bridgen

Please Note:

**Our Meeting This Month is
on Thursday, May 10 – not
Wednesday**

Our speakers for May are
Ken and Madeleine Webb
of the Victoria RS.

They will share their experience at
the German Rhododendron
Convention in Bremen, Germany
in May of 2010. Madeleine is a
good photographer and they are
well known rhododendron
propagators.



Rhododendron 'Grace Seabrook'
won the coveted Best in Show Large
Leaf. This superb bloom, grown by Judy
Millicheap, triumphed over some stiff
competition.

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting
Thursday
May 10, 2012



Rhododendron 'Ink Spot'
grown by Glen Jamieson won
the Popular Choice Award at
our Rhododendron Show and
Sale on Saturday, April 21
Congratulations, Glen!

Inside This Issue:

President's Message.....	Page 2
Events	Page 2
Spring Fling, ARS	Page 3
Library, Truss Show.....	Page 4
Truss Show	Page 5
Minutes	Page 6
Open Gardens.....	Page 7

From Your President...

I am writing this one day after the Plant Sale and Truss Show. Before this event, I asked for volunteers to make the event successful. You responded yesterday more than I ever expected. As a result, the event was one of the best we have had. A giant THANK YOU! to all who participated and worked so hard to achieve this success. I have not seen the financial result yet but all indications are that this will return much more than last year - another indication of success. I was particularly impressed by the way all the volunteers worked so hard and so willingly. The presence of the Tae Kwon Do club members was great and who can forget the rooster and chicken that provided background sound to the event.

The pot luck after the event was great. Many thanks to Marilyn Dawson for hosting. Glen took the opportunity to review the day and get feedback on what could be done to make next year even better. The only disappointment was that many of the volunteers were not able to attend and enjoy the camaraderie and good times that happened.

Now we can look forward to the Garden Tour. At this point, most of the garden-sitting spots are filled even though we have more gardens than usual. Please contact Linda Derkach or Ken Jones if you are able to be a spare in case someone can't make it. I have reserved warm sunny days for the Garden Tour, so we can all look forward to a couple of enjoyable days of interacting with the public or, as I like to call them, potential MARS members.

Tony

The Editors reserve the right to edit submissions to the newsletter for purposes of consistency, clarity and space restrictions.

Important Events and Dates to Remember

Members' Open Gardens

On **May 5**, you are welcome to tour the gardens of:

- *Lorne and Cindy Hepting
- *John and Arlene England

MARS Spring Fling

Sale of perennial plants from members' gardens

Saturday, May 5
Qualicum Beach Community Hall

MARS Garden Tour

A self-guided tour of 14 beautiful gardens in the Qualicum Beach area

Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13

Please take some time to distribute the handbills you received at the April meeting to your friends and neighbours.

MARS Trip to Tofino Cancelled



MARS members Joan Rich, Terry Richmond and Lorne Hepting chat about rhododendrons and other fascinating topics...no doubt!!

MARS Swing into Spring: Spring Fling May 5

MARS members bringing plants to Spring Fling on Saturday May 5 should try to arrive early before the Farmers' Market is in full swing in Veterans' Way. Vehicles will not be allowed into the area once the market opens.

Late arrivals would be best to park in the church lot next door and use the back door and ramp into the Community Hall. If delivering plants to the hall on Saturday is impossible, email Barbara Kulla at bkulla@shaw.ca or Marilyn Dawson at dawsom@shaw.ca and they will try to arrange pickup before May 5.

Plants should be neat and tidy, all the ravages of winter cleaned up and pots should be clean. Large items should be wrapped in burlap or potted up securely and should be delivered by 8 am for ease of movement.

We will need volunteers for all facets of the sale. We need help setting up tables at 7 am, and bringing in plants; we will need sales people for two-hour shifts. And we will need a cleanup crew. It's not heavy work so much as it is labor intensive over shorts bursts of time.

So if you haven't already done it, there is still time to pot up a few plants, name them if possible and organize delivery.

**ARS Western Fall
Regional Conference,
Nanaimo, B.C.**

**RHODOS IN PARADISE -
DESTINATION
VANCOUVER ISLAND**

September 21 - 23, 2012

**For full details:
Check out our brand new website
at <http://arsnanaimo2012.ca/>**

**Registration is open now!
We encourage you to register early!**

Volunteers Needed

It never hurts to plan ahead. The web site for the **ARS Fall Conference in Nanaimo** is up and ready to take registrations from those who plan to attend the Sept. 21-23 sessions in the Coast Bastion Hotel.

MARS is managing the plant sale as its contribution to the Nanaimo chapter. Cowichan Valley is organizing the silent auction and a local wine tour. North Island has offered to help with the registration chores.

There is a need for a great many volunteers. **At our May meeting a roster of volunteer jobs will be passed around for members to sign.** The Plant Sale will need cashiers and volunteers to aid shoppers over the three-day period as well as people to unload the vehicles. Other areas include registration, ticket takers for bus tours and introduction of speakers. Shifts are not long... but very important!

MARS Library

Musings from your Librarian Donna deBoer

I would like to welcome you all to our library. We have some great new books in our library - treasures of information to help answer your questions from rhododendrons to insect control and other garden information.

One such treasure is:
The Rhododendron Species, by H.H. Davidian.

Did you ever wonder about the significance of leaf shapes and sizes of the flowers and what it all means? Here is an introduction for the beginner and for the more learned gardener. This book answers questions from hardiness zones to species and varieties - a splendid book to read and learn new things you might not know or to refresh your memory and inspire you. Rediscover the excitement of a most wonderful shrub.

Enjoy this delightful book with each page giving you new insight into rhododendrons and azaleas

Another treasure is Better Homes and Gardens New Complete Guide to Gardening by Susan A. Roth.

Learn new ideas for landscaping along with challenges you might face as you plan a new and special design for your yard. There are ideas for coping with poor soil and how to make changes that will make your plants soar and grow better and more beautiful.

What are you looking for? Maybe a new water garden or rock garden or perhaps you want ideas on how to attract birds or butterflies to your garden. You just might find ideas that will say to you – yes - that is what I can do. Feel that excitement of making your garden a show place you can enjoy. Explore the different trees and shrubs that will make you say 'aaahhh' as you see your ideas come to life. Come read and get excited about the creative ideas you will find. There is always something new to learn.

Come and browse through your library!!

MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale Stirs Spring Plant Fever

Once again, the MARS Show and Sale attracted hundreds to the Parksville Arena to snap up bargains and rarities for local gardens.

Our mild winter and warmish spring weather foretold a bumper crop of trusses – and the competition was fierce!



Our judges had a monumental task – choosing from so many fabulous blooms to declare a winner.



The judges ponder.....shoppers line up for choice plants





MARS member Ken Jones is the winner of a beautifully planted basket, here with Bert Harding and Tony Ansdell.



Here is the lucky winner of the beautiful hand-made bench and planter crafted by Al Bieberstein



Outstanding trusses earned ribbons for many different categories of bloom.

And the winners are...

The sun shone, the crowds came out and carts filled up quickly as the Rhododendron Show and Sale got under way at the Parksville Curling Club Saturday. Final tallies are not yet complete, but everyone seemed to think it was a successful show. Certainly there were a record number of entries to keep the judges busy. Here are the results:

Best in Show, Large Leaf: Judy Millicheap for *R. 'Grace Seabrook'* Best in Show, Small Leaf: Al Bieberstein for *R. roxieanum*.

Blue Collection: 1. Judy Millicheap, *R. 'Starry Night'*: 2. Linda Derkach, *R. 'Black Satin'* 3. Glen Jamieson, *R. 'Muncaster Mist'*

Yellow: 1. Joan Cavers, *R. 'Cream Crest'* 2. Joan Cavers, *R. 'Patty Bee'* 3. Marilyn Dawson, *R. 'Mary Fleming'*

Foliage: 1. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Hansel'* 2. Lorne Hepting, *R. 'Insigne'* 3. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Goldflimmer'*

Hammerhead: Ken Jones, *R. impeditum*

Lax Truss: 1. Lorne Hepting, *R. 'Fred Robbins'* 2. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Maureen'* 3. Joan Rich, *R. 'Ibex'*

Novice: Donna DeBoer, *R. 'Taurus'*

Pink: 1. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Maureen'* 2. Lorne Hepting, *R. 'Maureen'* 3. Glen Jamieson, *R. 'Ink Spot'*

Tender: 1. Ann DeBrincat, *R. 'Tyermanii'* 2. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Elsie Frye'* 3. Glen Jamieson, *R. 'Sweet Wendy'*

Red: 1. Judy Millicheap, *R. 'Grace Seabrook'* 2. Joan Cavers, *R. 'Etta Burrows'* 3. Lorne Hepting, *R. 'Fred Robbins'*

White: 1. Joan Rich, *R. 'Boddaertianum'* 2. Betty Allisop, *R. 'Unique'* 3. Marilyn Dawson, *R. 'Cheer'*

Species, small leaf:

1. Al Bieberstein, *R. roxieanum*
2. Al Bieberstein, *R. chamaethomsonii*
3. Joan Rich, *R. schlippenbachii*

Spray: 1. Judy Millicheap, *R. 'Starry Night'* 2. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Bob's Blue'* 3. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Mary Fleming'*

Popular Choice: Glen Jamieson, *R. 'Ink Spot'*

Judges were: Chris Southwick, John Denisiger and Art Lightburn.

MOUNT ARROWSMITH GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 12, 2012

Held at the Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach
at 7:30 pm

Minutes of the meeting were approved as published in the Rhodovine

REFRESHMENTS: Provided by Ann DeBrincat, Wolfgang Ruff and Velda Rhodes

BUSINESS ARISING: 1. President Tony Ansdell told members that next month's regular meeting will also be held on a Thursday because of a scheduling conflict at the Civic Centre.
2. An invitation is still open for anyone who has not attended an ARS convention to apply for the \$400 subsidy to attend the Ashville N.C. session in May.
3. Tony said no one has offered to complete Tofino tour arrangements and it is in danger of being cancelled. Terry Richmond said he would have a definitive answer within a week.
4. Linda Derkach, as newsletter editor, reminded members that the publication welcomes photos, articles and ideas.
5. The annual general meeting will be held at the next meeting. There are several positions open and Tony asked the membership to consider nominations.
6. Judy Wood spoke about a Floriade tour that she has booked for herself, and will book others in her capacity as travel agent. It runs from May 11-21 and covers much the same territory as the one that was cancelled. An email has been circulated to members.

TREASURER: Bert Harding said March was a relatively quiet month for expenses and we are roughly where we should be financially just before our big fundraisers of the year.

PROGRAM: Ann DeBrincat said Bernie Dinter, the evening's speaker, had brought a table full of plants from his nursery for sale at the break. Speakers for May are Ken and Madeleine Webb who will give a presentation on their trip to Germany. Ann also had rhododendron seeds left over from last month's workshop which she distributed to anyone who was interested.

WAYS AND MEANS: Don Bridgen said the door prize *Rhododendron* 'Kimbeth' was donated by Ken Webb; other prizes were *R.* 'Point Fosdick' donated by Velda Rhodes and Dan Schwarz, *R.* 'Pink Cameo' and *R.* 'Hansel'. Winners later in the program were Judy Wood, Tony Ansdell, Wolfgang Ruff and Linda Derkach.

EVENTS: Spring Fling – Marilyn Dawson said there were still a few tables available. She said volunteers would be needed on the day of the sale. Because the Farmers Market will be in full swing in Veteran's Way by 8:30 early delivery of plants is urged. She will check the week prior to the sale, to learn how best to access the

Community Hall (possibly by the back door) and send out late instructions to members via email.

MEMBERS' OPEN GARDENS: The first visits of the year came off with only a few stalwarts braving the weather to tour the gardens of Al and Maria Bieberstein and Wolfgang and Vivienne Ruff on the March 29 weekend. Next gardens open are Marilyn Dawson's at 843 Woodridge Place in Qualicum Beach and Beate Kuhn, 857 Crocus Corner Drive on the weekend of April 28. The following weekend May 5 and 6, Lorne Hepting will open his garden at 3925 W. Island Highway. Visiting hours for all gardens are from 10-4 pm.

GARDEN TOUR –Ken Jones literally fell to his knees and begged members to fill in the last few sitting spots for the Mother's Day weekend tour. Packages of small flyers advertising the tour were handed to each member to pass around to their friends and neighbors.

TRUSS SHOW –Glen Jamieson said volunteers will be needed from 7 am on but there will be time to shop at 9 am before doors open to the public at 10. Help will be needed to assist the vendors setting up, selling raffle tickets and other chores including final cleanup. He also urged members to bring as many rhodos as possible to the hall between 7 and 8:30, some for the judging table, others for exhibition. Lots of bloom is important. All entries to be judged must be in place by 8:30. Terry Richmond then demonstrated how to present a truss for judging and also identified the various categories that often cause confusion, a lax truss or a spray, for example. He also showed how to improve the presentation of a truss, through the use of corks, removing a leaf or two, and cleaning the leaves. "It's okay to take away a leaf, but you can't add one," he said.

NEW BUSINESS: Judy McMaster is relinquishing her Sunshine duties; she will undergo shoulder surgery soon. Maria Bieberstein offered to take on the job.

GUEST SPEAKER: Bernie Dinter gave a slide presentation on the garden of Peter Stone of the Cowichan area, begun in the late 1950s. He made two visits around 2001 showing the garden at its maturity. Meeting adjourned: 9:40 pm

**Watch your email
for information on the
Propagation Workshop to be held in
Victoria on Saturday, October 13
at the home of Ken and Madeleine Webb
For registration and questions
email kenwebb@live.ca
or phone 250-744-1785.
Please register early - space is limited.**

Open Gardens Spectacular

Members Beate Kuhn and Marilyn Dawson generously opened their gardens on April 28 and 29. If you weren't able to take advantage of the opportunity, here are some of the scenes that you missed.

In the Garden of Beate Kuhn...



Rhododendron 'Virginia Richards'



Euphorbia wulfenii and Gold Mound Spirea foil the deer



Our native bleeding heart – *Dicentra formosa*



Euphorbia again here with Forget-me-nots...a lovely combination...



Primulas were looking fabulous....

And in the Garden of Marilyn Dawson...



Marilyn's *Rhododendron 'Grace Seabrook'* is a standout....with dozens of blooms...



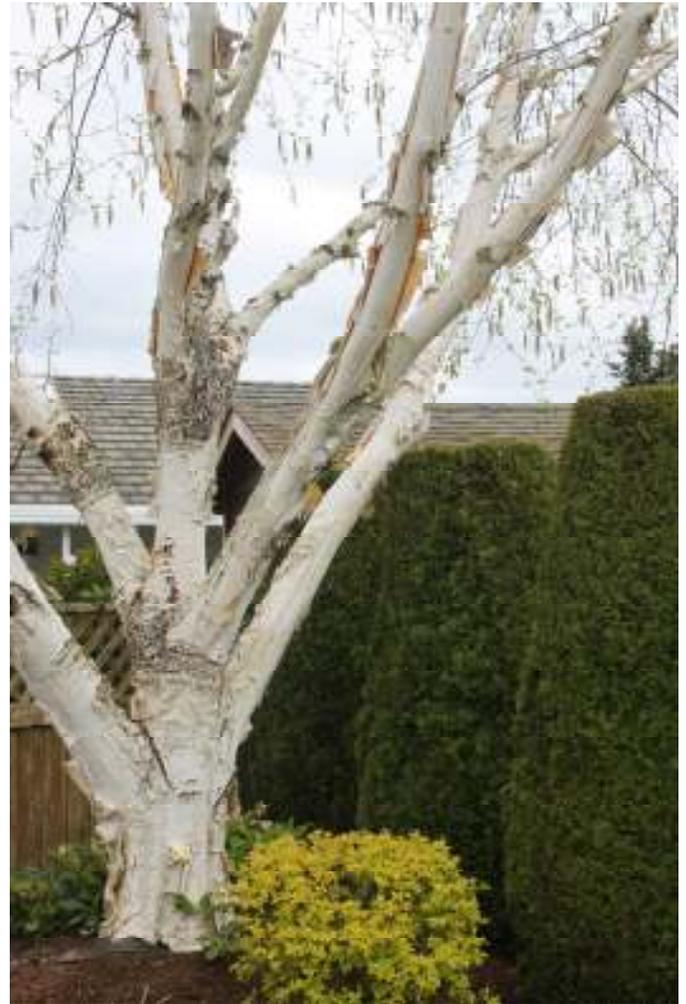
Rhododendron 'Ramapo' is a wonderful shrub for a small garden.



Rhododendron 'Elizabeth' thrives in Marilyn's garden.



Rhododendron pseudochrysanthum is a species worth growing.



The white, peeling bark of Marilyn's Himalayan Birch looks good against the dark green hedge and Gold Mound Spirea.

**Master Gardeners Association of BC
Fall Education Conference**

Nanaimo, BC

Saturday, October 20, 2012

EVERYONE WELCOME!

- Dr. Linda Gilkeson on pests and diseases
- Cass Turnbull on Pruning
- Harry Jongerden from VanDusen Gardens
- Expert Panel on Grow Your Own Food
- Lucy Hardiman - Full Frontal Gardens

Early Bird Registration at

www.mgabc.org

Great information for all home gardeners!