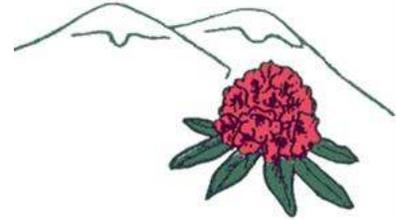


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS
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JUNE 2012

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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

THIS MONTH:

Please come to

**Our Annual Potluck
Windup Party**

Saturday, June 16 at

5:00 pm

at the home of

Linda and Al Derkach

**1051 Surfside Drive,
Qualicum Beach**

**Please bring plates, cups,
cutlery, a chair, something
to drink and your yummy
potluck dish.**

**We look forward to seeing
everyone – to celebrate
another great year of
MARS, your hard work, and
to have some fun!**

Right: *Rhododendron* 'Baden Baden'
combines with euphorbia to create
an attention-getting combination in
the garden of John and Arlene
England.

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

Thursday

September 12, 2012



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From Your President...

I am looking forward to the coming year. I can report that the folks you have elected are a dedicated group working together to both maintain and to improve MARS.

It was apparent how active our club is with a successful Truss Show, Spring Fling and Garden Tour. Huge thanks to everyone who helped with our fund raising events and to those who help all year at our regular meetings.

Since I am a fairly new member to MARS - two years - this past year has been a steep learning curve as chair for the Garden Tour. It was with the help and guidance of the members of the committee that only minor problems arose which were easily fixed.

There is a lot of talent within the club and thanks for sharing your passion for gardening. Please email to any member of the executive with suggestions to improve MARS, or gardens you would like to see on the 2013 Tour.

Enjoy the summer and your garden – and the gardens that you tour!

See everyone on September 12, 2012.
Ken Jones

**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.**

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

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

**RHODOS IN PARADISE -
DESTINATION
VANCOUVER ISLAND**

September 21 - 23, 2012

**For full details:
Check out our 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. 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!

Spring Fling a Hit

Although the doors didn't officially open until 8:30, early bird shoppers were already cruising the tables by 8:15 while plants were still coming in the back door thanks to the Farmers' Market that was operating out front. It was a good sign for the sales crew at the Spring Fling. Tables were kept busy throughout the morning.

It's hard to believe that this is the fifth year that MARS has had a perennial plant sale, the first three being in Coombs and last year in the Community Hall in Qualicum Beach.

Initially this year there were a few hiccups over acquiring the hall on a suitable date, followed by the concern that the Fire and Ice Festival uptown would upstage Spring Fling, but in the end everything worked out well and the sale grossed over \$1,200. Other vendors in the hall were also happy, asking to be invited back next time.

Co-ordinators Barbara Kulla and Marilyn Dawson offer profound thanks to everyone who participated. It was a total club effort, involving helpers setting up Friday night, another crew arriving early Saturday morning to help bring in plants, an extra chore because they had to be unloaded in the church parking lot and brought up the ramp to the back door. Thank heaven for assembly lines! The plants kept coming, eventually using six tables and lots of floor space as well.

There was lots of choice and quality was high, and one member was told MARS had the best sale that day. There were also Fire and Ice visitors from Duncan and Ladysmith who would have spent more, but were planning to stay the whole day and didn't want to leave plants locked in hot cars for too long.

The sales crew was kept busy helping shoppers choose plants and offering advice on care and generally just being friendly. In fact, it

became obvious that what the shopper at garden club sales is looking for is encouragement and discussion, as well as interesting plants.

Finally, it was time for the cleanup crew, more volunteers who carted out the leftovers, rolled up the plastic floor covers and swept up until by 1:30 the hall was returned to its original state.

**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!

After the Garden Tour....



Garden owners and MARS members enjoy our traditional potluck party on the patios of Barbara and Ken Kulla.

MARS Garden Tour Spectacular!

Hundreds enjoyed the 14 lovely gardens that were opened to the public on Mothers' Day Weekend - and the weather cooperated, blessing us with lovely warm spring weather.

And as they say.....a picture is worth a thousand words.....here are some of the wonderful treats that garden enthusiasts enjoyed this year.



Rhododendron 'Lem's Best Orange' is not often seen, but here it glows in the England Garden.



Shirley Finstad has this lovely deep pink rhododendron gracing her garden.



This interesting pond was a highlight in the garden of Barbara Svarich.



Rhododendron 'Susan' was much-admired in the garden of Kaye and Bill Burgoyne.



Rhododendron 'Looking Glass' is looking good in the Burgoyne Garden.



This lovely and well-behaved ground cover was flourishing in several gardens. Does anyone know the name??



An interesting potting area in the garden of Peter Wams.



Sedum 'Angelica' growing on a rock in harmony with a dainty saxifraga is a lovely feature in the garden of Irene Brooks.



A path to the ocean.....a lovely garden and spectacular view invited visitors to linger in the Holyk garden.



Rhododendron 'Coral Mist' was at her best on the tour.

**Minutes of the
MARS General Meeting
May 10, 2012
At the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre,
7:30 pm**

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without change.

GUESTS: Skip Cockburn, Bobby Hudson
REFRESHMENTS: Anne Gutsche, Kathy Loyer, Cassie LaCouvee

BUSINESS ARISING: 1. Tony Ansdell commented that this was the last meeting of the rhododendron year, to be followed by a Windup Pot Luck on Saturday, June 16 at the home of Al and Linda Derkach.
2. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

CORRESPONDENCE: Latest issue of the Bulletin from the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs

SPRING FLING REPORT: Marilyn Dawson reported the May 5 event proved very successful, with club members providing trays of plants from their own gardens. Eight tables were sold to other vendors who seemed pleased with the experience. Marilyn thanked club members for their huge support, noted that Velda Rhodes had come all the way from Port Alberni to help, and gave special thanks to the heavy lifters who were on hand Friday night and early Saturday morning, as well as taking part in the final cleanup.

NANAIMO CONFERENCE: Marilyn brought a form from the Nanaimo Conference committee for members to indicate their interest in volunteering for the September event. Several members offered their help, although many were not sure what hours they would be available.

TRUSS SHOW: With Glen Jamieson away, Marilyn also presented Truss Show trophies to Maria Bieberstein, Best in Show, Small Leaf; Donna DeBoer, Novice; Ken Jones, Hammerhead. Judy Millicheap was not on hand to receive her Best in Show, Large Leaf trophy.

GARDEN TOUR: Ken Jones said all was set for the Garden Tour on Saturday and Sunday. He needed one volunteer sitter and that request was met immediately from the audience.

WAYS AND MEANS: Speaker Ken Webb generously brought rhododendrons for the club, some of which were offered as draw prizes. Don Bridgen also brought *R. 'Graf Zeppelin'* as a door prize which was won by Marnie Baird. Other winners were Kay Burgoyne (twice), Kathy Jones, Ken Jones, Mazie Walsh and Marnie Baird again.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: As preamble to the election of the new slate for the 2012-2013 year, Tony Ansdell summarized the year's activities including our bursary award to a VIU student, preparation for the September Conference in Nanaimo and beginning work on a possible Species Garden at Milner Gardens. Bert Harding followed with a year-end financial report. Even with final figures on the Spring Fling and the Garden Tour still to come, MARS is in good financial shape.

Vic Vickers, who took over auditing duties from Jim Greig, agreed that the chapter is in good financial shape and he complimented Bert for his thoroughness.

Vic then took over the duties of Election officer as he outlined the candidates, who were all voted into office by acclamation. He called for nominations from the floor; only John DeBoer agreed to take on the one-year post of director-at-large. There were no other nominations. Here is the incoming executive:

President: Ken Jones, Vice President: Tony Ansdell, Secretary: Marilyn Dawson, Treasurer: Bert Harding, Directors: Linda Derkach, Maria Bieberstein, Ann DeBrincat, Don Bridgen, Director-at-large: John DeBoer, Past President: Tony Ansdell.

SPEAKER: Ken Webb from Victoria, well known as a keen propagator, led the audience from Amish country in Pennsylvania over to Long Island and eventually to Germany in a pictorial presentation of test gardens, acres of rhododendrons and side-trips to other cultural events. The travelogue was ably photographed by Ken's wife Madeleine and well received by the audience.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:30 pm

More on our Garden Tour 2012...



This magnificent specimen of *Rhododendron* 'Loderi King George' - viewed here against a brilliant blue sky - evoked 'oohs' and 'ahs' from visitors to the England garden.



A little humour in the garden:

- a gardener with no time to golf?
- or a golfer forced to garden?
- or a golfing gardener who likes to re-cycle and use everything?

Either way, this flowering golf bag was a hit in the garden of Merle Thomas on our 2012 Garden Tour.

From Your Editor...

Once again, another frenetic (in a good way) rhododendron season is almost at an end...and this will be the last newsletter until early September.

In our September issue, I plan to feature stories and photos from your summer travels...so please send me your 'gems' in the middle of August to share with fellow Martians.

As you may know, several MARS members were able to enjoy the ARS Azalea and Rhododendron Conventions in Asheville, North Carolina in May. We had four days of garden tours and experienced the lovely climate and hospitality of the Blue Ridge Mountains. As a photo buff, I could not resist entering eight of my photos in the contest...and came home with three ribbons. Two of my winning photos are below.



Rhododendron recurvoides near Portland, Oregon



Rhododendron 'Loderi King George' reflected in a pond at the Sonoma Horticultural Nursery.

Scenes from Asheville...



An elegant old home in Asheville



Deciduous azalea



Calycanthus floridus (Carolina Allspice) on the Biltmore Estate



This small bog garden makes its home in an old bird bath and featured sundews and other small moisture-loving plants.



Cypripedium pubescens (Yellow Lady's Slipper)



The Biltmore house suddenly appeared like Sleeping Beauty's Castle after a 15 minute drive through a beautiful forest of mostly native trees.