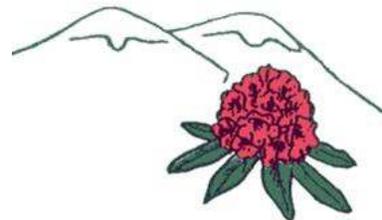


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH

MARS

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 342

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Qualicum Beach. BC

DECEMBER 2012

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Membership – Bert Harding

Milner Gardens - John England

Plant Sale – Marilyn Dawson

Program Chair - Ann DeBrincat

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments - Anne Gutsche

Sunshine – Maria Bieberstein

THIS MONTH:



Christmas Party Rotary House Qualicum Beach

Please come to our annual
Christmas Pot Luck Party
Saturday, December 8
at 5:30 pm.

Don't forget to bring a beverage
of your choice and a uniquely-
wrapped present valued up to
\$10 for our gift exchange.

**We welcome donations to the
local Food Bank.**

**We look forward to
seeing you there!**

And don't forget the potluck
dish you signed up for at the
November meeting...or call
Marilvn Dawson.

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday,
January 9, 2013
Brian Minter



7 pm - Doors open, plant sale
7:30 pm - Brian speaks on
"Taking Your Garden to the
Next Level"

Public Welcome

Non-members - \$5

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From Your President...

Many congratulations go to MARS members Kay Burgoyne and Marlys Diamond for being awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for "extraordinary contributions to the community". These medals are well deserved.

The next MARS get together is the Christmas Party on December 8 at the Rotary Hall. This will be in the usual format. In past years this has been an ideal opportunity for members to get together in a completely informal setting.

The gift game is always a source of fun and the carol singing helps to get us in a Christmas mood. I hope you will all be there to enjoy the companionship and fun. To those who cannot be there, let me wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We have a major event coming at our meeting on January 9. Brian Minter will be our speaker for that meeting. We have moved the meeting to the larger half of the Civic Centre and we will install many more chairs than usual. Please help us fill these chairs by telling everyone you know about the meeting and encouraging them to attend. See you all there!

Tony

Mark Your Calendar....

MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale

Saturday, April 27, 2013
Parksville Curling Club

MARS Spring Fling Plant Sale

Saturday, May 4, 2013

MARS Mothers' Day Weekend Garden Tour

May 11 and 12, 2013

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

MARS Programs in 2013...

January 9 - Brian Minter

- ❖ Taking Your Garden to the Next Level

February 13 - Dick Beamish

- ❖ Nanaimo Seaside Garden

March 13 - Expert Panel

- ❖ The Rhodie Calendar: Care of Rhododendrons Through the Seasons

April 10 - Verna & Bob Duncan

- ❖ Pushing the Hardiness Limits: Fruit Trees and Subtropicals

May 8

- ❖ Yet to be confirmed

June

- ❖ MARS Wind-up Party

Looking forward to spring....



This spectacular but not often seen winter-flowering treasure - *Eranthus hyemalis* (Winter Aconite) can be enjoyed at Milner Gardens in February.

MARS Members Honoured with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Kay Burgoyne



Kay has been involved with District 69 Society of Organized Services since 1978, first as Bookkeeper and Office Coordinator and the last 8 years as Executive Director, retiring in 1994, and continuing as a volunteer. For the last 4 years she has served on their Board of Directors.

As well, Kay has served on several other boards over the past 18 years: Arrowsmith Community Justice Program 2-3 years (Treasurer), 5 years on Career Centre Board (2 years as President), 6 years on Parksville Community & Conference Centre (5 years as Secretary).

Kay has been a member of MARS since about 1990, serving as Secretary for four years, Vice-President for two years and President for two years, and then past President for another two years. She volunteered for five years on the Communities in Bloom Committee for the City of Parksville, serving as Secretary and on the Awards Committee.

Kay has been a member of the Rotary Club of Parksville for 18 years, serving as Secretary and President. She then headed up the Community Service Committee which instituted the Coats for Kids Project, and has worked on this project since c1997. Along with both Parksville Rotary Clubs she has worked and volunteered for seven years helping establish and maintain the Rotary Centennial Project which is the Rotary Peace Park at the southern entrance to the City of Parksville and which was turned back to the City approximately three years ago.

Marlys Diamond



Shortly after arriving in Qualicum Beach, Marlys became Manager of The Old School House Gallery and Art Centre. For seven years, she worked on raising the profile of TOSH as an important community asset following the dream that had seen TOSH saved from the wrecking ball. To this end, she was active with the Chamber of Commerce and the Parksville/Qualicum Beach Tourism Association, serving as an early board member of the C of C.

Shortly after leaving TOSH, Marlys became associated with the Eaglecrest Residents' Association. This was a short-lived association, with Marlys resigning to avoid any potential conflict of interest when she successfully ran for

town council. She served two terms on Council and was Protective Services Liaison, which included working with community volunteers from a number of groups, such as Citizens on Patrol, and Emergency Services. As Council Health Liaison, she sat on the Eagle Park Board, the Mid-Vancouver Island Health Advisory Committee, and on the Quality Assurance Committee at NRGH.

Marlys enjoyed much satisfaction working with community volunteers on the Communities in Bloom project which won so many honours for the community, both on a national and international level. The liaison with all of the garden clubs was amazing. CIB partnered with Dyce, Scotland, and as a team with Dyce, won the International Category, and then mentored Sequim, Washington, in their entry into the American version of Communities in Bloom. Interestingly, Kay and Marlys were involved with CIB at the same time. Kay (representing MARS) and Marlys were roommates on a memorable trip to Sequim! They also encouraged and mentored Parksville in the early phase of their CIB involvement.

After leaving council, Marlys re-connected with the Eaglecrest Residents' Association and served as board member, Vice-President, and then three years as President. While President she represented ERA on the newly-formed Federation of Residents' Associations (FORA), which began with the mandate to advocate for improved health services in our under-served community. After four years of involvement, the Oceanside Health Centre is under construction and involvement continues because there is still much to do!

As a part of the Forum Group, Marlys helped to organize several Community Forums, featuring expert guest speakers and facilitators to determine if community resources could be used more collaboratively and efficiently. Marlys represents FORA with the Oceanside Healthy Initiatives Association (OHIA) which has sponsored public seminars on a variety of healthy aging concerns, and is planning future workshops to integrate and

complement services to be available through the Oceanside Health Centre.

Marlys was surprised and honoured to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and especially so, when she found herself in the company of our very special Kay Burgoyne!

And from your fellow Martians, congratulations to two remarkable women who have given so much to our community!!

Time to Divide?

Marilyn Dawson

The weather outside may be frightful, but in between the rain drops and raking leaves, there may be time to dig up perennials that need dividing, and if so, think of potting up for the Spring Fling. May 4 may seem like a long way away, but the months fly by quickly. Pot up now and the plant will have time to grow before the sale.

If you're raking under shrubs and trees, don't tear out the seedlings hidden underneath; lift carefully and pot up for a future sale. Seedlings of Japanese maples, for example, are good sellers and are often found under the parent tree. If you don't want to watch them grow, ask Barbara Kulla or Marilyn Dawson to find a home for them.

Those gardeners, who grow their plants from seed might think of Spring Fling when planting. Heritage tomatoes, for instance, do well among vegetables. The secret for our sales is to offer three or four of each variety, not a flat. Too many can overwhelm our customers.

Christmas Magic
at Milner Gardens and Woodland
Here's a great event to get you in the Christmas spirit. Take some time away from the frenzy of Christmas preparations to enjoy a
Milner Gardens Christmas!
November 30 to December 2
December 7 to 9 and December 14 to 19.

MOUNT ARROWSMITH GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Held at the Civic Centre

in Qualicum Beach at 7:30 pm

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the Rhodovine.

GUESTS: Mildred Siegel, Valerie Melanson, Carol Tidler, Karen Bennett, Kel Roberts

REFRESHMENTS: Provided by Ray Walker, Marnie Baird

BUSINESS ARISING: 1. Tony reminded members that he is only acting president and that we still need a leader.

2. As membership chair, Tony encouraged everyone to renew before the Dec. 1 deadline. Failure to do so would miss delivery of the Journal. His next membership report will be in January.

3. Marilyn Dawson and Tony went to Victoria to the planning meeting of the 2015 spring convention which will be held in Sidney, BC. While Victoria RS is doing the bulk of the work, all chapters in District One are asked to participate. The initial documents are in a red binder in the library for members to look at but not take out.

4. Linda Derkach, acting chair of the garden tour committee, is still looking for gardens although the tour is starting to take shape.

5. Tony reminded the members that besides a president we also need a chair for the Garden Tour, both positions becoming empty when Ken Jones resigned.

CORRESPONDENCE: Online edition of the B.C. Council of Gardens November issue. Also Marilyn has Dates to Remember as a handout for members to take home. She also reminded members of Milner Gardens' Christmas Magic program which begins over three weekends from Nov. 30 to Dec. 19. John England has raffle tickets for Milner, with the grand prize being an iPad.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Marilyn passed around a clipboard asking those attending the Christmas festivities to indicate the pot luck dish they will bring. Last year there were mostly appies, which meant the dessert table was very small. The party is on December 8 at Rotary Hall on Fern, the same venue as the past few years. Turkey and the trimmings are provided; ham and mashed potatoes are already assigned. She asked for a show of hands about the choice of gift exchange - the same as last year or something different? Terry Richmond said he had already bought a present and suggested we go with the crazy gift exchange. Everybody agreed.

SPRING FLING: Members who are doing fall cleanup were reminded to pot up a few plants when they are dividing perennials. Spring Fling is May 4, 2013 at the Community Hall in Qualicum Beach.

ARS JOURNAL: Glen Jamieson, ARS Journal Editor said there are still bugs to be worked out before the journal goes online, but it should be ready soon. He suggested an ideal gift for students was a \$10 membership which would provide online access to the journal. He also urged members to notify him or Laura Grant if they are not receiving the Journal.

PROGRAM: Ann DeBrincat reminded members that Brian Minter will be our featured speaker on January 9 in the West Hall. Guests are welcome; tickets will be \$5 at the door for non-members.

WAYS AND MEANS: Door Prize was *Rhododendron* 'Fantastica'; other prizes were *R.* 'Bob's Blue', *R.* 'Dreamland', *R.* 'Hachmann's Polaris' and *Carpinus japonica* (Japanese Hornbeam) donated by guest speaker Gordon Mackay. Winners were: Judy Wood, Tony Ansdell, Gillian Walker, Kathy Loyer and Linda Derkach.

NEW BUSINESS: Terry Richmond reported on the success of the 2012 ARS Conference in Nanaimo. Net profit was \$10,500 and 10 per cent of that goes to the ARS. After paying for the hall in the Coast Bastion for three days, the Plant Sale delivered a net profit of \$700 according to Terry. MARS members were responsible for organizing and handling the plant sale; they put a great deal of effort into the event. The silent auction was a big money maker, and a handsome cedar bowl carved in Port Alberni and contributed by MARS received one of the highest bids.

PROGRAM: Speaker for the evening was Gordon Mackay, proprietor of Alba Plants, a horticulture instructor and a regular participant at our Truss Show in the spring. His topic for the evening was "Companion Plants for Rhododendrons" and his presentation covered a wide range of plants that work well with rhododendrons. There were many that were familiar, and many that were not so well known among the photos of his homeland in Scotland and elsewhere. Some plants of interest included gentian, *Epimedium* 'Suzuka', *Hosta* 'June' and the little conifer *Abies koreana* 'Ice Breaker' for its frosty appearance. There were also plants for sale.

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 pm

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Coming Soon: A New Rhododendron

By Marilyn Dawson



The Victoria chapter is getting off to a flying start with its planning for the 2015 ARS Spring Convention, which also happens to be the 70th ARS Anniversary.

To mark the occasion Jim Barlup has donated one of his creations, *Rhododendron* 'Champagne Lace'. Erica Enterprises in Pitt Meadows now has the cuttings and will grow them exclusively for the convention.

A great coup for Victoria and the rest of the District One chapters because this convention is district-wide!

'Tis the Season

Marilyn Dawson

Plans for the annual MARS Christmas party are shaping up; the turkey and ham are ordered, and at the November general meeting those in attendance indicated their choice of pot luck to bring and with a show of hands approved the silly Christmas Gift exchange again.

So here are the details:

**Rotary Hall
Corner of Fern and Beach, QB
Saturday, December 8 at 5:30 pm**

You bring your appetite, the potluck dish that you indicated at the last meeting (potatoes are already assigned) and drink of choice. Tea and coffee will be available. The hall is totally equipped. No need to bring utensils or plates.

But do bring something for the Food Bank. Every year MARS donates at Christmas to the Salvation Army Food Bank; door prize funds usually go to the SOS.

There will be several items in the draw, the grand prize being a large *Rhododendron decorum*. For the gift exchange, bring an inexpensive gift, wrapped beautifully, or outrageously. Then watch as members select a gift from the table or from someone who has already chosen. You never know what you will end up with at the end of the evening. There's always lots of laughter.

The evening will end with carol singing; there's no need to rush home. Last year eager beavers were folding tables and chairs while others were enjoying the carols. This year we'll clear the tables because the dishes have to be clean before we leave, but please leave the tables and chairs in place until the last carol is sung. It takes very little time to fold tables, move chairs and do a quick sweep.

Notes from South Africa

Text and Photos by Joan Rich



In October, while folk here were starting to put their gardens to bed, we toured the lush botanic garden of Makaranga Garden Lodge which had these gorgeous vireyas on display.



The Lodge is in the sub-tropical village of Kloof, 25 km from Durban in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.



There was an impressive variety of both indigenous and exotic trees. Eighteen ponds, many beautiful statues in stone, bronze and marble and an authentic Japanese garden graced the grounds.



Unfortunately, there were no names attached to the rhododendrons, but that did not impede our enjoyment of these gorgeous blooms!

Winter's Here - A Few Things to Do in the Garden

From Linda Derkach and Joan Rich

One of the reasons we love rhododendrons is that they look good all year round without a lot of work.....at least not like so many other perennials and annuals in our gardens.

But there are a few things to think about now that winter is upon us....

- ❖ If you have mulched your rhododendrons, remember to move the mulch away from the trunks, and don't let fallen leaves accumulate there to harbour bugs or encourage disease
- ❖ Make sure your rhododendrons are well watered before the really cold windy weather arrives; even during this very rainy fall, some areas of your garden may not have received a lot of rain - check areas under evergreen trees or under very large rhododendrons
- ❖ Conversely, make sure that you don't have water puddling around your rhododendrons - they like even moisture and good drainage
- ❖ If we get a big dump of snow, go out quickly to knock the snow off gently - starting with the lower branches of your shrubs and working upwards

- ❖ You can leave snow on slow growing or dwarf plants as a protective blanket, but make sure there is not a heavy snow load on large branches
- ❖ If you still have rhododendrons in smallish pots (and who doesn't), remember that they will freeze much more quickly than those snug in the ground.....so move them to an unheated garage or protected porch or cool greenhouse if we get a deep freeze
- ❖ Don't forget to water plants that you have under cover; they can dry out and die even in winter

ARS Journal Online: Handy and Accessible

From your Newsletter Editor...

At our November MARS meeting, ARS Journal Editor Glen Jamieson encouraged us to access the journal on line. So, being curious, I went online.....and after completing the one-time registration process, found myself enjoying the gorgeous photos and interesting articles in brilliant colour and full screen.

By using the step by step instructions on page 205 of the Fall issue of JARS, you should have the same success as me.

One thing you will need is your Member Number that can be found on the paper wrapper of the Journal mailing label.

If you have already re-cycled the wrapper - as I had - you will need to get your number from our Membership Chair Tony Ansdell.

Happy reading online!