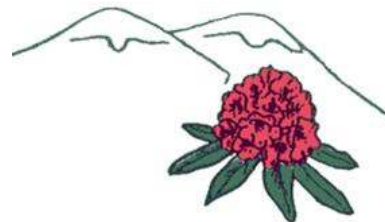


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH

MARS

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 342

Volume 25, Issue 3

Qualicum Beach. BC

MARCH 2013

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Garden Tour – Kathy Loyer

Greeter - Velda Rhodes

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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 – Maria Bieberstein

THIS MONTH:

Please Note:

This month's meeting is

MARCH 20

Expert Panel

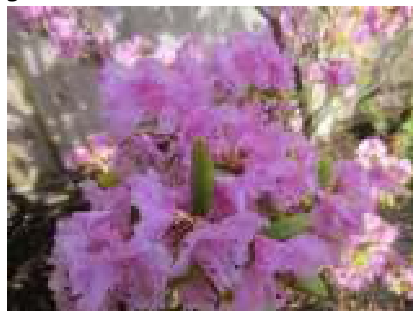
This is one of our most popular meetings of the year!

MARS Members

John England, Terry Richmond and Don Bridgen will share their knowledge on caring for rhododendrons throughout the year. **Bring your questions for the panel.**



Rhododendron 'Tessa Bianca' is a lovely plant, here in full glory gracing the garden of Barbara Kulla in February.



Rhododendron 'Olive' is a very reliable early bloomer....and a welcome sight in Barbara Kulla's late winter garden.

MARS Meetings

Qualicum Beach

Civic Centre

2nd Wednesday of the month 7:30 pm

Next Meeting

Wednesday,

March 20, 2013



Rhododendron 'Olive' cloaks herself with a lovely mauve/pink bloom that surprises the garden visitor, expecting to see only snowdrops and hellebores at this time of year.

Photos: Barbara Kulla

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From Your President...

The Spring ARS Convention takes place May 1 to 5 at the Seattle Airport Marriott. Full details on the convention can be found at <http://olympiachapterars.org/2013-ars-international-convention.html>. Since this convention is relatively near to us, I hope that many MARS members will attend. As usual, MARS will subsidize one member, who has never attended an ARS convention, by \$400 to assist with expenses in attending this convention. The member will be chosen by a draw at the next General Meeting

The Spring 2015 Convention will be held in Sidney, BC. Again I hope that many MARS members will be able to attend. Unfortunately the dates for this convention clash with our annual Mother's Day Garden Tour. The MARS Executive, together with the Garden Tour Committee, will be discussing our response to this situation. I would like us to figure out how to maintain our traditional dates while accommodating those members who will be attending the convention.

There will be a District 1 meeting on the mainland on March 19. Among other things, we will be discussing a proposal to make the Milner Gardens Species Garden a District 1 Project.

Tony

MARS Programs in 2013...

April 10 - Verna & Bob Duncan

- ❖ **Pushing the Hardiness Limits:
Fruit Trees and Subtropicals**

May 8

- ❖ **Yet to be confirmed**

June

- ❖ **MARS Wind-up Party**

Mark Your Calendar...

MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale

Saturday, April 27, 2013
Parksville Curling Club

ARS Convention 2013

Near Seattle/Tacoma Airport
Thursday, May 2 – Sunday, May 5, 2013

MARS Spring Fling Plant Sale

Saturday, May 4, 2013
8:30 am to 12:30 pm

MARS Mothers' Day Weekend Garden Tour

May 11 and 12, 2013



At six feet tall, *Rhododendron* 'Sir Charles Lemon' is an imposing sight - especially here in the container garden of Mary Parker in Nanaimo. See more of Mary's garden in our April Rhodovine.

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

Northwest Flower and Garden Show

"The Silver Screen Takes Root - Gardens Go Hollywood" was the theme for the recent NW Flower & Garden Show.



The gold medal winning Hobbit's New Zealand Garden featured plants native to New Zealand.



Plants and driftwood were a popular combination.



Recycled natural materials including cedar roots, stone and pavers interspersed with conifers provide easy maintenance for the busy gardener.

Photos: Barbara Kulla Words: Marilyn Dawson

Pot Up For Spring Fling

Marilyn Dawson

With the possibility of an early spring, MARS members are encouraged to think about what they can contribute to Spring Fling, our perennial plant sale on May 4 at the Community Hall in Qualicum Beach.

Co-Chairs Barbara Kulla and Marilyn Dawson are finding increasing community interest in the event, largely because the plants are often one of a kind, well-potted and healthy-looking. "Many times last spring, we were told, 'your's is the best sale,' so we can all take a bow for that," said Barbara.

Good sellers are Japanese maple seedlings, little conifers, and a wide range of perennials including sedums, ferns and hellebores. No invasives please. Pots should be clean and plants should be named with colour and other growth details noted, if known.

Marilyn suggests members let their neighbors and friends know about the sale, and if they are dividing or turfing out something, ask for it to be potted up. "Most people, I find, are happy to give something away rather than see it go in the landfill," she said.

Many of the vendors from last year are coming back, but there are still some tables available for \$15 each. One new vendor is the energetic Alpine Club.

"We've always had great response from volunteers, even if they can only stay an hour or two. Everybody pitches in and we have a good time. All help is greatly appreciated," Barbara said.

Mt. Arrowsmith RS General Meeting

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre,

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 7:30 pm

GUEST: Angela Einarson

BUSINESS ARISING: 1. Tony Ansdell reminded members that next month's meeting is a week later than usual, on March 20, because the entire hall has been pre-booked for our regular date.

2. The ARS sent a letter at the end of last year asking every member for a donation because of its deficit position. Instead of individual cheques, Bert Harding will accept donations at this meeting and send one cheque to the ARS. The donation is strictly voluntary.

3. Members are urged to acquaint themselves with the ARS Journal on line.

4. Members from each island chapter met at Milner on January 30 to discuss a proposed species garden. Tony Ansdell, Marilyn Dawson, Terry Richmond and Maria Bieberstein represented MARS; John England represented Milner Society and Glen Jamieson represented the ARS Journal. Tony said he was encouraged by the attitude of all parties. Next step is for Tony and Milner Executive Director Geoff Ball to draw up a memorandum of understanding to spell out the rights and obligations of each participant.

5. Tony Ansdell and Marilyn Dawson travelled to Saanich on January 27 to attend a meeting on the 2015 Convention which opens in Sidney on May 5, 2015 for six days. The final day is devoted to up-island tours. While the host of the convention is the Victoria chapter, all chapters in District One are expected to participate in some way. This particular meeting was devoted to selecting speakers of international calibre and deciding on the format.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Palaeontology Society reports that Glen Jamieson will be talking about the evolution of the rhododendron at the next meeting, February 24 at 1 pm at the QB Community Hall (by the railway tracks). MARS members are invited.

TREASURER: Bert Harding said our funds are in good shape. The Minter evening brought in \$610 from non-members, which helped to offset the expenses of about \$900. Bert said the storage area has been leased for a year and by paying in advance, we get one month free.

MEMBERSHIP: MARS now has 64 memberships for a total of 104 people, an increase over last year.

PROGRAM: Ann DeBrincat outlined plans for the March 20 meeting which will be a panel on the care of rhododendrons for the calendar year. Panelists are John England, Terry Richmond and Don Bridgen.

WAYS AND MEANS: The door prize *Rhododendron* 'PJM' was won by Arlene England; other prizes were *R. 'Noyo Dream'* won by John England, and *R. 'Crete'* won by Anne Beamish.

EVENTS: Spring Fling –Marilyn Dawson said there were still a few tables available and members were encouraged to talk to their creative friends; she urged members to think about what they could divide and pot up for the May 4 event.

Rhodo Show & Sale: Glen Jamieson said all the sellers have been contacted and the judges selected for the April 27 truss show; he will be calling on individuals to help with specific chores before the event. On show day most members help where they can.

Garden Tour: Kathy Loyer said the gardens have been chosen. Two home owners have had to withdraw because of illness.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Glen Jamieson asked members to note the flowering times of their rhododendrons; he said some of his plants have been blooming earlier than usual. He would like local documentation for a future article in JARS.

2. Because of the success of the Minter presentation in January, the executive is considering a repeat performance next January. Members were urged to suggest a possible speaker, hopefully with the same drawing power as Brian Minter.

3. After many years as editor, Linda Derkach would like to step down. Anyone wishing to take on the job should talk to Tony or Linda.

4. Velda Rhodes, who is the official greeter, is also looking for a replacement, particularly as back-up, since weather and other problems make it difficult to get over sometimes from Port Alberni. Interested persons should talk to Tony.

GUEST SPEAKER: Emeritus scientist Dick Beamish gave a presentation on his garden by the sea in Nanaimo; he and his wife Anne bought the property in the 1980s and have been adding rhodos to it ever since. He wove information about the changing climate into the presentation, not surprising given his many years with the Department of Fisheries.

Meeting adjourned: 9:40 pm

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Garden Journal

Linda Derkach, Newsletter Editor

I love this time of year....for even on a cold and dreary day, I can walk around my garden and be warmed by a brave early spring bloomer.



Iris reticulata creates a brilliant blue skirt under *Hamamelis* 'Arnold Promise', complimenting the quirky yellow blossoms of this Witch Hazel. In large containers of shrubs, it provides a lovely splash of colour while we wait for the main event to leaf out and bloom. And easiest of all, it delights in a shallow dish as seen above. If you don't have *Iris reticulata*, I recommend treating yourself to a half dozen small pots when available in fall and group for a big splash in late winter.



The first thing I notice as I approach my garden gate is not the cold or rain....but the delicious fragrance provided by *Sarcococca* nestled among my rhododendrons, and *Viburnum bodnantense* 'Pink Dawn' that has lived happily in a large pot for

many years. *Sarcococca* (Sweet Box) is best planted near a patio, porch or path so that passers-by can enjoy the heavenly fragrance.



Every garden should have lots of crocuses...my favourite is *Crocus vernus* 'Yellow Mammoth', a strong golden yellow that demands attention.



This clump of *Hepatica nobilis* resides in a shallow alpine dish, and surprised me in mid-February with this lovely show.



Tough little *Rhododendron* 'Ptarmigan' produces dozens of delicate white blooms in February.



Berberis darwinii holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society....and for very good reason. Evergreen, deer-resistant (prickly), fragrant, and early blooming are just some desirable traits. The flowers on this cultivar are a deep golden yellow with orange calyx – a wonderful combination against the shiny, dark green leaves.



All around my garden – nestled among the dark green foliage of rhododendrons with their swelling buds and promise of spring bloom – are hellebores. Here *Helleborus* 'Blue Lady' shyly blooms through the bare branches of *Cotinus* 'Golden Sprit' with a skirt of *Cyclamen hederifolium*.



My favourite later blooming hybrid is *Helleborus* 'Ivory Prince' which is very floriferous, long-blooming, and holds its head up proudly.



My patches of *Cyclamen coum* expand each year with the help of ants...so they say. Less vigorous than *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *C. coum* blooms in January and February when most of the garden is still asleep. I wouldn't be without it!!!

Nanoose Naturalists

invite you to hear

Jessica Wolf

speak on

Edible Native Plants

Date: March 14th, 2013

Time: 7 pm

Place: Nanoose Library Hall

(corner of NW Bay Road and Nanoose Road)

For more information
call Joe at 250-468-1728

The Mid Island Floral Art Club

will meet on

Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 2:00pm at

St. Stephens Church Hall

150 Village Way,

Qualicum Beach

Join us for an afternoon with

Birgitta Mick

and

Katrina Isaak Graham

who will demonstrate

"Spring Fling - Two Styles".

So - come join us for a fun afternoon
to welcome spring.

Everyone welcome.

Guest fee \$5.00.

Call Catherine at 250-937-1350 for more
info. www.mifac.org.

Nature and Culture: Reflections on the Journey From Biodiversity and Culture to Biocultural Diversity with Nancy Turner

Predominant in western thinking is the dichotomy between "nature" and "culture", with humans seen to be above and dominant over nature. Many societies, however, embrace a different philosophy in that humans are part of nature, and that we have responsibilities towards other species as we do to our own kin.

Join Nancy Turner as we explore why thinking of the importance not only of biodiversity, but of biocultural diversity, can help us frame our attitudes, our governance systems, and our very understandings of what it is to be human, and may help us to become responsible players in the world's ecosystems.

Nancy Turner is an ethno-botanist, Distinguished Professor and Hakai Professor in Ethno-ecology in the School of Environmental Studies at UVic. She has worked with First Nations' elders and cultural specialists in northwestern North America for over 40 years documenting and promoting their traditional knowledge of plants and habitats. She has authored or co-authored over 20 books and over 125 book chapters and papers. Her awards include the Order of British Columbia (1999) and the Order of Canada (2009).

Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

UBC ESB Rm. 1013

Earth Sciences Building,

2207 Main Mall, Vancouver

By Donation (\$5 suggested)

Tickets and information:

botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/events

This lecture is made possible by the Peter Wharton Memorial Fund. Donations are graciously accepted

Pink Mountain Biodiversity Research Initiative

Pink Mountain is located 120 km north of Fort St. John in northern British Columbia. The mountain is unique in the province for its rich flora and fauna. Preliminary studies on the flora of the summit plateau reveals that Pink Mountain hosts more red- and blue-listed species (endangered or threatened) than any other location in the province north of Vancouver (Conservation Data Centre information).

To date, **12 red- and blue-listed plant species have been identified.** In addition to the listed species, Pink Mountain also hosts a number of botanical curiosities. For example, the southernmost populations of some arctic species, such as the rare ***Rhododendron lapponicum*** can be found. Two species of orchids not otherwise known to occur in tundra habitats are located on the mountain, while sub-alpine plants such as *Zygadenus elegans* can be found on the tundra summit. The exquisite and odd can also be found: two miniature gentians and a rare corydalis are also here, as are five species of the partially-parasitic pedicularis.

The exceptional plant biodiversity of Pink Mountain is matched by an extensive fauna. **Large populations of elk, moose, whitetail deer, stone sheep, mountain caribou and black bear** frequent the mountain, as well as smaller rarely-seen animals like the **pine marten.**

The mountaintop supports a substantial population of hoary marmots and a diversity of birds like the golden eagle and horned lark. **Pink Mountain is known worldwide in the butterfly community for its assemblage of rare arctic butterfly species.** Geologically, Pink Mountain is also the southernmost occurrence of permafrost in BC.

Much of this is recent knowledge and has been determined although no comprehensive biodiversity survey has ever been done on Pink Mountain by qualified scientists.

Despite its importance to B.C. biodiversity, **Pink Mountain is under threat of development from the proposed construction of a wind farm.** Wind turbines have already been tested on the summit, and the impact of maintaining that single test site has directly affected one of the threatened plant species. The installation of dozens of wind turbines will destroy the ecological uniqueness of Pink Mountain.

A letter writing campaign over the past two years has made the provincial government aware of the special assemblage of plant and animal species on the mountain and has pressed for the creation of a preserve on a portion of the summit. So far, results have been disappointing.

Presentations to nature societies and gardening clubs around the province have generated significant interest from club members wanting to preserve the ecological integrity of Pink Mountain.

A proposed Pink Mountain Biodiversity Research Initiative (PMBRI), intended to further document and study the flora and fauna of Pink Mountain, has been endorsed by executives of both the BC Federation of Naturalists and the BC Council of Garden Clubs. This scientific initiative is also being supported by UBC Botanical Garden. PMBRI will involve a three-month field study to cover the entire bloom and seed-set period of the flora of Pink Mountain, with a preceding planning period. Several months of lab and herbarium analysis will follow the field study. Seeds will be collected for propagation and for eventual distribution to gardeners through a seed exchange program.

Funds are being solicited to support this initiative. For further information contact Ron Long at rphoto@shaw.ca.