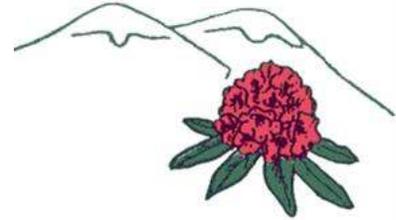


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS
P. O. Box 342
Qualicum Beach. BC

Volume 25, Issue 6

JUNE 2013

2013/2014 Executive

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Greeter – Guy Loyer

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Library – Donna deBoer

Meeting Coordinator- Tony Ansdell

Membership – Tony Ansdell

Milner Gardens - John England

Plant Sale – Marilyn Dawson

Program Chair - Ann DeBrincat

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments - Anne Gutsche

Sunshine – Maria Bieberstein

THIS MONTH:

**MARS
Potluck Wind-up
Party**

**Saturday, June 22
5:00 pm**

**Home of
Linda and Al Derkach
1051 Surfside Drive
Qualicum Beach**

Please join us for a fun summer party! And....no work involved!! Please bring plates, cutlery, cup or glass, a chair, your favourite beverage and a potluck dish you love to make and share.



Rhododendron eriocarpum was looking lovely as ever in the garden of John and Arlene England on our annual garden tour.

MARS Meetings

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

**Next Meeting
Wednesday,
September 11**



This beautiful, old rhododendron blooms every year in Tamara Maniec's woodland garden – and was much admired by MARS Garden Tour visitors.

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From Your President...

This is my last President's message for the newsletter. The job of President has been passed to Linda Derkach. I'm sure she will do a great job since she, like me, is supported by an active and enthusiastic Executive. I want to thank the Executive Committee for their support and energy during my time as President.

I also want to thank all the members who answered my call for volunteers for all the MARS events over the last while, and especially the last two months. I have always been able to rely on all of you to make our events special and successful. I now take on the job of Vice-President, as well as Registrar, so I will still be very active in the club's activities.

See you all at the Wind-up!

Tony

MARS Programs in 2013...

June 22

- ❖ MARS Wind-up Potluck Party
- ❖ Home of Linda & Al Derkach

October 9

- ❖ Meerkerk Gardens

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

Enjoyable Potluck Celebrates Successful Garden Tour

Garden owners and MARS volunteers enjoyed a great meal and amazing deserts at our traditional wind-up party in the garden of Kathy and Guy Loyer.



The rain held off to allow an outdoor patio party.



Garden tour Chair, Kathy Loyer thanks everyone for their enthusiastic contributions to our amazing garden tour. And "Thank You, Kathy" for your hard work on this tour!!

And the Envelope Please...

Results for the 2013 MARS Truss Show ...



Rhododendron 'Mango Tango' - pictured here in the garden of Terry Richmond - was the Popular Choice winner for Don Bridgen - Congratulations, Don!!

Here are the results of the MARS 2013 Truss Show at the Parksville Curling Rink on April 27. **Best in Show, large leaf** went to **Al Bieberstein** for *Rhododendron* 'Teddy Bear'. **Glen Jamieson** took **Best in Show, small leaf** for his vireya, *R.* 'Hansa Bay'. **Don Bridgen** won **Popular Choice** for his entry *R.* 'Mango Tango'.

Other results were:

Blue Collection:

1. *R.* 'Blaney's Blue' - Al Bieberstein
2. *R.* 'Blue Diamond' - Marilyn Dawson

Foliage:

1. *R.* *edgeworthii* - Judy Millicheap
2. *R.* 'Noyo Chief' - Al Bieberstein
3. *R.* 'Goldflimmer' - Al Bieberstein

Lax Truss:

1. *R.* 'Dormouse' - Anne Gutsche
2. *R.* 'Trewithen Orange' - Lorne Hepting
3. *R.* 'Mission Bells' - Al Bieberstein

Pink:

1. *R.* 'George's Delight' - Al Bieberstein
2. *R.* 'Ken Janeck' - Doug Kitts
3. *R.* 'Twikum' - Al Bieberstein

Red:

1. *R.* *arboreum* - Doug Kitts
2. *R.* 'Grace Seabrook' - Glen Jamieson
3. *R.* 'Rubicon' - Glen Jamieson

Species, large leaf:

1. none
2. *R.* *morii* - Al Bieberstein
3. *R.* *hyperythrum* - Al Bieberstein

Species, small leaf:

1. *R.* *obtusum* - Glen Jamieson
2. *R.* *augustinii* - Glen Jamieson
3. *R.* *luteum* - Glen Jamieson

Spray:

1. *R.* 'Blaney's Blue' - Al Bieberstein
2. *R.* 'Baden Baden' - Marilyn Dawson
3. *R.* *augustinii* - Judy Millicheap

Tender:

1. *R.* 'Hansa Bay' - Glen Jamieson
2. *R.* *lochiae x laeteum* - Glen Jamieson
3. *R.* 'Tyermanii' - Ann DeBrincat

White:

1. *R.* 'Teddy Bear' - Al Bieberstein
2. *R.* 'Teddy Bear' - Kathy Jones
3. *R.* *bureavii x yak* - Glen Jamieson

Yellow:

1. *R.* 'Cinkeys' - Doug Kitt
2. *R.* 'Mango Tango' - Don Bridgen
3. *R.* 'Starbright Champagne' - Donna DeBoer

Hammerhead:

R. 'Horizon Monarch' - Donna DeBoer

Youth Award:

R. 'Bibiani' - Leslie Hill

May Tour Delights

Garden Visitors

Story and Photos: Linda Derkach

Once again, MARS members created a tour that demonstrated the creativity, hard work, enthusiasm and horticultural knowledge of garden owners - this time in Qualicum Beach.



The predominantly green, white and pink garden designed by Shirley Meekison is complemented by Dougal's meticulously restored 1961 AMC Metropolitan that has only 17,400 miles on it! Dougal drives his "baby" only on good days - and will be showing it on Father's Day in Qualicum Beach.



Garden owner Eva Hilborn shows off the plant gift she received while on the MARS Garden Tour 20 years ago.

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A swath of deciduous azaleas in a kaleidoscope of colour combines with a vista of Georgia Strait in the garden of Eva Hilborn.



A fairy's home and garden - decorated with toadstools and interesting rocks - the creation of Mel and Irene Drage.



This stunning deciduous azalea was in its glory in the garden of Al and Debbie Rourke.



This is one of many beautiful views in the garden of Lorne and Cindy Hepting. Many long-established rhododendrons continue to bloom and delight owners and birds alike.



Donn and Sylvia Gardner enjoy this view from their deck every day



For those whose interests go beyond the ornamental to the edible, Helen Chesnut's plot contained many ideas for growing organic produce to eat all year round.



Mother bird has many choices for her next brood - thanks to the creativity of Joanne Hill and Neil Saigal.



Dollie's old bed is re-purposed as home to this sedum in Helen's garden.



Visitors to the garden of Skip and Doug Cockburn are greeted by this spectacular hybrid azalea.



A very robust clump of *Maianthemum racemosum* a.k.a. *Smilacina racemosa* (False Solomon's Seal) loves its shady spot in the Cockburn back yard.



Rhododendron 'Kiwi Magic' in the garden of John and Arlene England.



Azaleas were front and central on this year's tour - all looking spectacular like this *R. 'Exquisita'* - an Exbury hybrid at the garden of John and Arlene England.



Welsh poppies are perfect woodland plants - right at home in the lovely garden of Tamara Maniec.



Rhododendron oreotrephes greeted visitors at the England's front gate.

Right: Even the boulevard at the garden of Alice and Jack Holt hints of interesting garden delights on the other side of the beautiful front gate.



Canadians Key Players in ARS 2013 Convention in Seatac

From Linda Derkach

Early May proved to be a perfect time to visit the amazing gardens in the Seattle - Tacoma and Federal Way area of Washington State!

The sunny, warm weather made for perfect garden-visiting conditions - and the blossoms were as floriferous as we have found here on Vancouver Island.

Tours included such iconic gardens as the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Meerkerk, Frank Fujioka and Stipe Gardens on Whidbey Island.....and some lovely gardens in the Enumclaw area with stunning views of Mt. Rainier!



The Canadian contingent at the Seattle ARS Convention proved once again that Canadians – and in particular British Columbians - are a significant part of the ARS. In a separate email, you will find a larger copy of this photo with names of all the Canadian attendees.

Along with the plant sale, photo contest, knowledgeable and interesting speakers and the truss competition, there were lots of

activities to interest everyone! And of course, the fun and camaraderie of re-connecting with old and new friends in the rhododendron movement throughout North America.

Interestingly, all the winners in the Photo Contest were Canadians, including Susan Lightburn (formerly of MARS and now a member of NRS) who won two First Prizes, and yours truly - Linda Derkach - with one First Prize.



This photo taken in Milner Garden and Woodland features the native plant *Achlys triphylla* (Vanilla Leaf) with probably *Rhododendron cinnabarinum*. It won a First Place ribbon for Linda Derkach.

The Saturday night banquet featured Brian Coker speaking on hybrid development in New Zealand: "The Sweet Smell of Success!"

ARS Conventions are a great way to learn about the latest in the rhododendron world, and to discover a part of the continent you may not have visited yet. Tours of public and private gardens are always excellent....and the fun and food are excellent. I heartily recommend the experience to anyone!

***MARS 2014
Garden Tour
Needs Your Help***

It's never too early to start thinking about gardens for next year's tour. We are asking that our members keep an eye out for a pleasing or unusual or exciting garden....and send a note to Kathy Loyer. The area for next year's Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour is from Eaglecrest to Pym Road in Parksville. And if your plot is edging toward perfection, please consider offering it for the tour. The Committee will make the final selections based on location, access and suitability....and we always try to cluster gardens to save driving time.

***Scenes in Meerkerk Garden during
the ARS Convention at Seatac....***



Rhododendron kesangeae was amazing at Meerkerk Gardens.



This fabulous bloomer was about 20 feet high and 10 feet wide!!



*More on the ARS Convention in the next
newsletter.....*

MOUNT ARROWSMITH GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday May 8, 2013

Held at the Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach at 7:30 pm
The usual format for the general meeting was changed so that the speaker, who had driven up from Victoria could return home the same night. With President Tony Ansdell away in Italy, Vice President Linda Derkach presided reminding members that the regular business meeting including the AGM would follow the coffee break.

PROGRAM: Ann DeBrincat introduced Lois Blackmore, a member of the Victoria chapter and co-chair of the 2015 ARS District 1 convention in Sidney. Lois is a great fan of Jim Barlup hybrids, and Jim Barlup, himself. Her presentation, a Journey of Love introduced us to the Kansas-born former photographer, whose hybrids have captivated many. Lois said she first bought *Rhododendron* 'One Thousand Butterflies' and was hooked, being drawn in by all the romantic names – 'Honey Butter', 'Champagne Lace', for example. Her presentation included several minutes of just photographs of the Barlup hybrids without comment.

REFRESHMENTS: Doug Kitts, Gillian Walker

WAYS AND MEANS: 'Wind Song' and 'Wind River', two Barlup hybrids, were the raffle prizes. Kathy Loyer and Lorne Hepting were the lucky winners.

BUSINESS: 1. Bert Harding reported results of the Rhododendron Show and Sale appeared to be a little higher than last year, but final figures are not yet in.
2. Glen Jamieson praised all those who participated in the Rhododendron Show, particularly those who are largely unseen, but are nevertheless very important to the end result - those who set up signs, lug tables and shopping baskets, and return them when it's all over.
3. Terry Richmond echoed Glen's comments and thanked everyone who has supported him over the years.
4. Marilyn Dawson said the numbers for Spring Fling on May 4 were down from last year, but volunteer participation was strong. She thanked all the volunteers - those who brought plants, as well as the set-up and clean-up crews for all their hard work.
5. Kathy Loyer told Garden Tour sitters they would be getting phone reminders for the Mother's Day Tour and

urged all volunteers to attend the pot luck at the Loyer home on Sunday night, May 12.

6. The Wind-up pot luck is set for June 22 at the home of Al and Linda Derkach.
7. Three trophies were presented to Truss Show
Winners: Best-in Show, large leaf to Al Bieberstein for R. 'Teddy Bear', Best in Show, small leaf to Glen Jamieson for the vireya, R. 'Hansa Bay' and the Hammerhead Award to Donna DeBoer for her R. 'Horizon Monarch'.
8. Maria Bieberstein thanked MARS members for contributing to her trip with Al to the Seattle convention. Her name was drawn for the annual subsidy for a first-time convention-goer.
9. Joanne Hamilton in turn thanked Al and Maria for their driftwood presentation of foliage at the Truss Show, where it drew many enthusiastic comments from spectators.
10. The Rhodovine, edited by Linda Derkach was one of three top finishers in the recent ARS newsletter contest. North Island's newsletter, edited by Noni Godfrey, was also a top finisher.
11. Vancouver Island chapters also shone at the ARS photo contest. Linda Derkach and Susan Lightburn, were both winners.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: John England conducted the very short annual general meeting. All four candidates named were elected by acclamation. President, Linda Derkach; Vice President, Tony Ansdell; new directors: Kathy Loyer, Ray Walker. Other members of the executive with one more year to serve in their terms are: Marilyn Dawson, Maria Bieberstein, Don Bridgen, Ann DeBrincat and Bert Harding.

The Executive for 2013-14 is:

President: Linda Derkach

Vice President: Tony Ansdell

Secretary: Marilyn Dawson

Treasurer: Bert Harding

Directors: Maria Bieberstein, Don Bridgen, Ann DeBrincat, Kathy Loyer, Ray Walker.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:20 pm

Creative Ways with Rhododendrons....



MARS member Irene Brooks is a talented flower arranger, demonstrating here how she has incorporated *Rhododendron* 'Snow Lady' into an early spring arrangement for her rooms with a lovely garden view.

Photo: Irene Brooks

**The Mid Island Floral Art Club will meet Thursday,
June 13 at 2:00
at St. Stephens Church Hall
150 Village Way, Qualicum Beach.**

Problem Solving by Margaret Leeuw, Shirley Basciano and Darlene Ellwood.

New techniques with old items. Members can bring branches, lichens, driftwood, odd shaped vases and the girls will give us inspiration and guidance on how to use them in creative designs. This is in preparation for Art & Photography at Milner Gardens.
Call Catherine for more info 250-937-1350

Battling Weevils...



Typical weevil damage on last year's leaves!

Last month, we learned about Margot Moser's method of battling weevils - very organic and found to be very effective.

Another organic method is to soak the ground with beneficial nematodes - micro-organisms that will burrow into the weevil larvae munching on plant roots - thus preventing next year's batch of weevils.

Nematodes can be used once the soil has warmed up - be sure you follow directions carefully so that they survive to do their job.

Other organic ways to battle weevils include:

- Planting weevil-resistant varieties
- Removing salal from around rhododendrons
- Avoiding planting under evergreens
- Using Tanglefoot