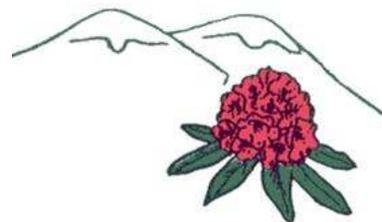


# THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH  
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**MARS  
P. O. Box 342**

**Qualicum Beach. BC**

**Volume 25, Issue 9**

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## 2013/2014 Executive

### President

Linda Derkach

752-3545 [lindaderkach@shaw.ca](mailto:lindaderkach@shaw.ca)

### Vice-President

Tony Ansdell

752-4475 [ansdella@shaw.ca](mailto:ansdella@shaw.ca)

### Treasurer

Bert Harding

752-3923 [ruber@shaw.ca](mailto:ruber@shaw.ca)

### Secretary

Marilyn Dawson

752-3694 [dawsom@shaw.ca](mailto:dawsom@shaw.ca)

### Past President

Tony Ansdell

752-4475 [ansdella@shaw.ca](mailto:ansdella@shaw.ca)

### Directors

Don Bridgen

723-3916 [dabridgen@gmail.com](mailto:dabridgen@gmail.com)

Ann DeBrincat

724-5594 [darrylhatch@shaw.ca](mailto:darrylhatch@shaw.ca)

Maria Bieberstein

468-7252 [abieberstein@telus.net](mailto:abieberstein@telus.net)

Kathy Loyer

738-0138 [kathyloyer@shaw.ca](mailto:kathyloyer@shaw.ca)

Ray Walker

248-5138 [jrjiffy@shaw.ca](mailto:jrjiffy@shaw.ca)

**Bursary** – Tony Ansdell

**Christmas Party**

**Dollar Table** - Cassy LaCouvee

**Newsletter Editor** - Linda Derkach

**Garden Tour** – Kathy Loyer

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**Program Chair** - Ann DeBrincat

**PR** - Marilyn Dawson

**Refreshments** - Anne Gutsche

**Sunshine** – Maria Bieberstein

## THIS MONTH:

**Our speaker is**

**Ron Long**

**speaking on**

**PINK  
MOUNTAIN**



*Rhododendron lapponicum*

## BONUS

On Tuesday, November 12, Ron will be speaking to the QB Garden Club on *Plants of Western Australia* at the QB Civic Centre at 7:30 pm.

All members of MARS who are interested in hearing this presentation, are welcome to attend at NO COST when they show their MARS Membership card.

Please turn to Page 2 for more on Pink Mountain and Ron Long.

## MARS Meetings

**Qualicum Beach**

**Civic Centre**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the  
month 7:30 pm**

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday,**

**November 13**



November can be spectacular when *Cotinus* 'Grace' resides in your garden. 'Grace' can become a very large shrub or tree....but is also quite content to be pruned drastically as the buds swell in spring, producing a robust plant with large purple leaves that transform to fiery oranges and reds in late fall.

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## Pink Mountain

In far northern British Columbia lies Pink Mountain - one of the most bio-diverse areas in the province.

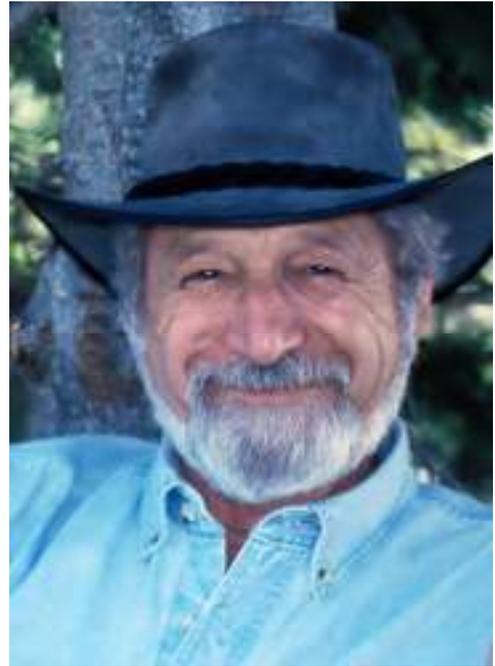
For its size Pink Mountain supports more rare and rarely seen plants than any area north of Vancouver. The summit plateau of the mountain is entirely alpine tundra where one can see almost every arctic/alpine plant that occurs in the province. For the plant lover the flora is almost overwhelming but the jewel in the Pink Mountain crown is the wonderful miniature *Rhododendron lapponicum*.



*Rhododendron lapponicum*

The story of Pink Mountain is entertaining, fascinating and full of interesting detail about the plants, animals, insects and birds that live there. Now it may all be destroyed by resource development.

## Who is Ron Long?



Ron worked as a professional photographer at Simon Fraser University for 36 years. For fifteen years he photographed exclusively for the Biological Sciences Department and so has a great deal of biology in his background.

Ron began photographing wildflowers over forty years ago and has never stopped. Now retired, Ron travels to wildflower hot spots around the world. Recent trips have taken him to Southern Africa (x6), South America (x3) and Australia.

So the obsession continues - says Ron "it could be worse".

Ron Long is President of the Native Plant Society of BC, is active in the Botany Section of the Vancouver Natural History Society and is on the Speakers Committee at VanDusen Gardens.

Come to hear Ron and find out what you can do about this potential tragedy.

## *Snippets from Your Executive...*

**2014 dues** are payable in October and November - please see Tony Ansdell.

**Plant Sales Table** - We welcome plants and other garden-related items such as garden magazines, books, small tools, etc. for sale at our meetings

Please remember that if your items are not sold, you will need to take them home with you at the end of the meeting.

## **MARS Programs in 2014....**

### **January 2014**

- ❖ **Panel of Local Experts**

### **February 2014**

- ❖ **Cisco Morris of Seattle Gardening and TV fame....**



*Cyclamen hederifolium* comes with many leaf designs and shades of green and silver.

## *Coming Events of Note....*

### ❖ **MARS Christmas Party**

**Saturday, December 7**  
**Rotary House in QB Village**

### ❖ **MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale**

**Saturday, April 26, 2014**  
**Parksville Curling Club**

### ❖ **MARS Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour 2014**

**Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11**

### ❖ **MARS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Sunday, June 22, 2014**  
**Rotary Park, Qualicum Beach**

### ❖ **MARS Fun Bus Tour**

**Date to be determined**

*Editor's Note: All I can say is.....will this gay, mad whirl never end!!*

### **MARS Garden Tour 2014**

Do you have or know of a great garden between Eaglecrest in Qualicum Beach and the far end of Temple Road in Parksville, and on both sides of Highway 19a????

Please contact Kathy Loyer  
Our Garden Tour Chair with your ideas!

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

# **MARS Welcomes Ciscoe Morris in February 2014**

***On Wednesday, February 12, MARS will present Ciscoe Morris, Seattle TV personality and well-known Pacific NorthWest gardening expert. And we are welcoming the community as well...so spread the word...bring your friends!!***



Ciscoe is well known in the media. KING5 TV airs his popular gardening segments with Meeghan Black as well as his weekly show "Gardening with Ciscoe". His Friday night Q & A show, 'Gardening with Ciscoe Live' broadcasts on Northwest Cable News. Every other Monday morning, he appears on KING5's New Day Northwest with Margaret Larson. You can also catch his gardening advice mixed with a hearty dose of humour

every Saturday morning on News Talk 97.3 KIRO FM.

His book, Ask Ciscoe, was among the top selling garden books nationwide. In addition, he co-authored books on roses and perennials, and he also writes a weekly garden column in the Thursday edition of the Seattle Times.

Ciscoe is crazy about dogs and gardening, and he can often be found working with his pooches Fred and Ruby in his Seattle garden which has been featured in several publications. Ciscoe's other passion is travel, and despite his busy schedule, he manages to find time to lead garden tours to countries all over the world.

***"Fred and Ruby supervising my work in the garden."***



***"Don't plant that gunnera there ... we just buried a bone in that spot."***

***Text and photos from the Ciscoe Morris Website....Check it out at [www.ciscoe.com](http://www.ciscoe.com)***

## ***MARS Goes to Newport***

British Columbia was well represented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Fall Western Regional Conference of the ARS at Newport, Oregon recently.

Thirty-one Canadians posed for a group picture and island chapters were all represented including five from MARS: Linda Derkach, Barbara Kulla, Glen Jamieson, Kathy Loyer and Marilyn Dawson.

The theme was Rhododendrons Around the World and the Friday night dinner emphasized that with five presenters showing rhododendrons from England to Russia and Australasia to North America. The Russian speaker was Andrey Karpov, a cardiovascular surgeon in southern Russia who just happens to have an interest in rhododendrons. Russia does have a few native species.

How-to Clinics on both Saturday and Sunday morning provided a wealth of information on a variety of subjects - propagating from seed, cuttings and layering, mole control, compost tea, photography, companion trees and unusual perennials to name just a few.

Organizers had scheduled two gardens to tour but with hurricane-force winds and a driving rain at times, only two hearty souls turned up. Even so, with a huge assortment of plants to browse through and an extensive photo display to see, there was lots to do. Island members fared well with the photo display. Linda Derkach won for one of her entries; Brian Staton of North Island had several winning photos in various categories.

And of that huge assortment of plants tantalizing MARSians, there was a solution.

Terry Henderson of Log Cabin Nursery had brought trays of two-inch plants for \$2 each. When you're driving with a carload of women and their gear, it wasn't easy but it's amazing how many crannies one can find to stow plants.

## ***Canadians Abound in Newport***

Once again, many BC members of the ARS made the trek to Newport for the Fall Regional Conference. And even the lousy weather did not dampen our spirit and enthusiasm...it was a well-organized and very informative conference.

The Canadian group photo has now become a tradition - thanks to Glen Jamieson.



**Back row:** Tony Marquardt, Burns Morrison, Bob Blackmore, Lois Blackmore, Earl Daneluk, Ken Webb, Bob Wright, Joe Ronsley, Brenda Macdonald, Sean Rafferty, Sue Wedemire, Garth Wedemire, Maria Kemmler, Siggy Kemmler, Madeline Webb, Barbara Kulla, Lynn Wurz, Kathy Loyer, Paul Wurz, Barb Staton

**Middle row:** Carolyn Marquardt, Karen Morrison, Jo Wright, Joanne Ronsley, Marilyn Dawson, Norma Senn, Linda Derkach, Brian Staton

**Front row:** Glen Jamieson, Bill McMillan

# Gardens by Design

*Marilyn Dawson shares information gleaned from a workshop with Lucy Hardiman.*

So, you've accumulated some rhododendrons and want to place them around the garden with other plant material. Where do you begin? What do you look for and is there such a thing as garden décor?

**Lucy Hardiman** a well-known design specialist from Portland, Oregon says there are elements to look for in garden design just as there is in home décor. A fifth generation Oregon gardener and owner of Perennial Partners, a design group in Portland, she was one of the "how-to" speakers at the recent Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in Newport.

In designing a garden, Ms Hardiman considers form, texture, color and color schemes. Here are some of her suggestions.

**Form:** The shape of individual plants creates rhythm. Upright spiky plants add height and rounded shapes are soothing, so mix them up for added interest. Prostrate ground creepers, "the carpet of the garden" are particularly useful for areas that move from sun to shade. They also visually weave diverse plants together.

**Texture:** Both foliage and flowers have various textural qualities. There are the airy blooms of baby's breath, the feathery look of ornamental grasses and some ferns, the foliage of hardy geraniums, and the bold look of large leaves. As an example of mixing textures, she suggests planting *Hosta* 'Frances Williams' beside one of the delicate fern fronds.

**Color:** Everyone responds differently to color. It changes our moods, and in turn changes with the quality of light, full sun or shade. If seen

separately, colors keep their identity, but plant several colours together and new images emerge.

**Blue:** A cool colour, it mixes well with others, appears bluer in shade and glows at twilight. It stays visible longer than any colour other than white.

**Red:** A hot colour that adds drama to the garden and works particularly well in the high light of summer. Hummingbirds love it.

**Yellow:** Another hot colour, yellow is perceived by the eye before all other colours.

**Green:** There is a huge range of shades in this colour that forms the backdrop of the garden but can also be used to effect in the foreground.

**Pink or Mauve:** There is a wide range of colour here from blush to magenta that tend to look darker with white or silver, and brighter with gray.

**Orange:** A hot colour that is difficult to place, it goes well with bronze, some purples and chartreuse; softer salmon and apricot shades are easier to use.

**Violet/Purple:** A cool colour that attracts bees and other insects. Use as background with brighter hues.

**Gray:** It never clashes with other colours.

**White:** Few flowers are truly white, but even so they glow in the dark as well as provide contrast to the garden.

## Conclusion

As for a colour scheme, it all depends on what the garden owner is striving to achieve. For a daring, bold look, choose colours that are opposite on the colour chart. For a harmonious look, go for colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel. Lucy Hardiman seems to favor a monochromatic colour scheme, with one element repeating itself in another. But a full-fledged monochromatic design which may be trendy can be boring and "difficult to do well."

## Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

### General Meeting

Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 7:30 pm

Held at the Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach

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

**REFRESHMENTS:** Provided by Joanne Hamilton

Our speaker **Susie Reynolds** started the meeting with a presentation on **Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens**. She is the nursery manager for this 53-acre garden and woodland preserve that was started in the 1960s by Ann and Max Meerkerk. There were beautiful paths, garden structures, rhododendron species and hybrids and lots of companion plants in this presentation. It is a must-see garden if you are visiting Whidbey Island.

#### **MARS BUSINESS:**

1. Our **Christmas party** is booked for Saturday, December 7 at 5:30. More information next month.
2. The **MARS 25th anniversary** will be our windup party in 2014, scheduled for Sunday, June 22 at Rotary Park.
3. President Linda Derkach asked members if they are interested in a one or two-day **bus tour** to visit gardens on the island. Possible destinations are Dominion Brook Park, Finnerty Gardens, Salt Spring Island or north Vancouver Island. There seemed to be support for a bus trip. Anyone interested in helping to organize the tour is asked to get in touch with Linda.
4. A few members of the Mars executive cleared out the storage area, offering the tent that has been unused in years to members. It finally went, after a coin toss, to Sandra Hemsworth.
5. A new **name badge** was developed by Tony Ansdell. Several members received their badges this evening.
6. **Garden Tour** Chair Kathy Loyer has lined up some gardens but is still looking for more in the area from Eaglecrest to Pym, both sides of the highway. If you know of a garden that might qualify, contact Kathy.
7. The **door prize** *Rhododendron* 'Elsie Lee' was won by Bert Harding. Raffle winners were Dan Schwartz, Eddy Liedke, Kathy Loyer and Tony Ansdell.

A cuttings workshop followed the business portion of the meeting with cuttings provided by members. As well, Linda and Kathy brought many cuttings from Bob Smith's rhododendron garden in Courtenay.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:30 pm

## *Getting Ready for ARS Convention 2015 in Sidney*

From Ken Webb, ARS District 1 Director

In preparation for the 2015 ARS Convention in Sidney, the District 1 organizing committee is asking for submissions to the ARS journal from writers in this area. The committee welcomes articles on gardens and tourist attractions to advertise the convention to the world, and let people know about our beautiful Vancouver Island.

To all the writers out there, this is your chance to be published in a worldwide publication. This is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ARS and we want to make this convention extra special by letting folks know about the spectacular gardens and other points of interest here in BC.

The ARS Board has just voted to increase the colour pages in the Journal from 16 up to 36, so there should be lots of room for beautiful color pictures with your articles. Anything that promotes our beautiful District 1 will be considered. Articles should be submitted as soon as possible over the next few months so that they can be worked into the next few editions of JARS.

So please select a favourite garden or attraction, write a brief article with photos and submit to Glen Jamieson at [ars.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ars.editor@gmail.com).

## Ask an Expert:

While many folks are enjoying the autumn bonus blooms on their rhododendrons, others are asking a worrisome question:

**If my rhododendron blooms this fall, will I still have blooms in the spring???**

Terry Richmond has some sad and sobering news for us:

**More blooms in the fall mean fewer blooms in the spring!**

A plant displaying only a few blossoms in fall will have a somewhat reduced number of blooms in spring. Heavy blooming now heralds drastically reduced blooming in spring.

And there is nothing we can do about it...it's just a result of our very hot summer and pretty nice autumn this year.

Terry has the following advice:

- Remove spent blooms once done
- Clean up around plants to avoid mould and diseases
- Mulch with some fish compost or Sea Soil
- Make sure your plants have adequate moisture going into winter.

## Mid Island Floral Art Club Meeting

1:45 pm, Thursday, November 14

St. Stephens United Church Hall,  
Qualicum Beach

"Demo & Do"

with a Christmas theme

Laurene, Margaret, Shirley and Helen will demonstrate four different Christmas designs including...

- an urn arrangement for the front of your home
- a mantle arrangement
- a candlescape and
- a table wreath.

We will also discuss Christmas Wreaths for the charity event at TOSH.

For more information please call  
Catherine 250-937-1350  
Guests \$5.00



*Cyclamen hederifolium* is a fall favourite - blooming in shades of pink and white - and possessing leaves of intricate design.

# Garden Journal

From Your President, Linda Derkach

I love this time of year in the garden. Although the work is not yet done - raking, pruning, tidying and planting spell lots of back-breaking work ahead - the garden in autumn has a beauty unmatched by spring and summer.

Sunny, windy days bring a swirling golden glow to the garden, and when deciduous plants are selected with good fall colour in mind, the rewards are stunning....especially with a backdrop of deep green and lush rhododendrons.



Fothergilla is grown for the bottle brush type flowers that are borne before the leaves emerge in spring, and for their awesome fall colour. This cultivar – *Fothergilla gardenii* 'Mt. Airy' was so spectacular during a recent nursery visit that it became an unplanned but much coveted addition to my garden.



The gold and orange leaves of *Lysimachia clethroides* (Gooseneck Loosestrife) glow against the green leaves and dark seedheads of *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm' – a great combination.



The glowing colours of this deciduous azalea – bought as a small unnamed specimen several years ago – are a delightful surprise. It has earned a permanent place in the garden.

