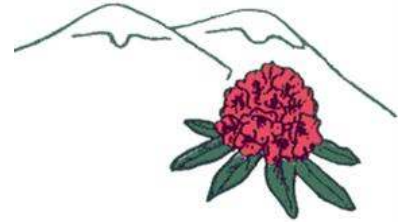


# THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH  
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

MARS  
P. O. Box 342  
Qualicum Beach. BC

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MAY 2014

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**Truss Show** – Ray Walker

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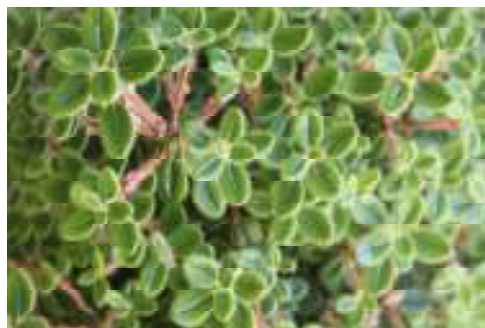
## THIS MONTH:

# From Rhodos to Rock Gardens

## Dany Fortin and Shane Tillapaugh

Shane and Dany are members of the North Island RS and bring to us their experience as gardeners, arborists, landscapers and especially their passion for dwarf rhododendrons and other rock garden treasures.

Read more inside about this fascinating presentation that will appeal to rhododendron specialists and rock garden enthusiasts alike.



*Rhododendron megeratum* – a very attractive dwarf rhododendron at any time of the year.

## MARS Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm  
Qualicum Beach  
Civic Centre

### Next Meeting

Wednesday,  
May 14  
7:30 pm



*Rhododendron campylogynum* is a dwarf found in many Vancouver Island Gardens. Exquisite bell-shaped flowers can be white, rosy purple, salmon pink or dark purple.

### Inside.....

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## From Rhodos to Rock Gardens

*(But not everything in between!)*

Presenters Dany Fortin and Shane Tillapaugh are well-known members of NIRS.

Dany is an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor. His horticulture and rock garden experience ranges from Kew Gardens to Cumberland and Comox. He currently works for Comox Parks Department.

Shane is a gardener and naturalist who "loves birdies, bees, plants and trees".

After earning a BSc in Honours Biology from UVic, he gained the designation of Ecological Landscape Designer and Certified Organic Land Care Professional. He is currently a horticulturist for Courtenay Parks Department.



*Rhododendron campylogynum* in its full glory during the MARS Garden Tour of 2013.

Both Dany and Shane admit to severe cases of PCS (Plant Collector's Syndrome) and confess this is why they are such avid rock gardeners. Dozens of tiny slow-growing plants can be inserted into the crevices in their respective rock gardens. They have been inspired by the gardens of folks such as Paul Spriggs in Victoria and Bernie Guyader of Courtenay, as well as from nature. Their hiking trips into our local mountains offer outstanding examples of nature's rock gardens.

*(Thanks to NIRS Newsletter for this information.)*

Photos: Linda Derkach



*Rhododendron hirsutum* 'Flore Pleno' is a double-flowering form growing to about one foot and blooming somewhat late in June.

If you are looking to squeeze more rhododendrons into your garden, or have become bitten by the rock garden/crevice garden bug, you will enjoy this presentation.

**Bring your friends.**

**Public welcome – admission free**

# *MARS May Meeting*

## *Highlights*

At 7:30 pm, Shane Tillapaugh and Danny Fortin will present "From Rhodos to Rock Gardens".

Following our coffee break, we welcome members to rise to the challenge from Glen Jamieson at our last meeting. **Please bring flowers/branches/trusses of whatever is blooming in your garden right now.** Bring the botanical name if possible and any other fascinating information. Cuttings and potted plants welcome. We will have plant tags for you to print the Latin and common names. And if you are so inclined, you may wish to talk briefly about your garden treasures.

Following our Horticultural Show and Tell, we will hold an election for several Executive positions at our Annual General Meeting.

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

## **Nominations Slate**

(For a two-year term)

Secretary - Marilyn Dawson

Treasurer - Bert Harding

Director - Don Bridgen

Director - Maria Bieberstein

Director at Large - Ann de Brincat

## **Executive Members**

**with one year left in their terms:**

Linda Derkach, President

Tony Ansdell, Vice-President

Kathy Loyer, Director

Ray Walker, Director

**This is our last meeting before our June celebration and summer recess. We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.**

**Don't forget to sign up for the June 22 celebration and indicate your BBQ choice.**



This luscious, pink rhododendron blooms profusely in the garden of Kathy and Guy Loyer. Rescued from another garden, the name has been lost. Any ideas?

# 2014 Events of Note

**Monday & Tuesday, May 5 & 6**

❖ **MARS Bus Tour of public and private gardens in Victoria and Saanich Peninsula**

**Saturday & Sunday, May 10 & 11**

❖ **MARS Garden Tour**

**Sunday, June 22**

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

❖ **Rotary Park in Qualicum Beach**

## Blooming in Bowser....

MARS member Joanne Hamilton has many early bloomers in her Bowser garden.

Here are a few....



*Rhododendron* 'Mary Fleming' is loaded with yellow and pink blooms.



*Rhododendron* 'Patty Bee' is a cross of *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy' and *R. fletcherianum* reaching about 18 inches - a good dwarf yellow hybrid for the rock garden.



*Rhododendron* 'PJM' in Joanne's garden is performing very well. Hardy to minus 30 C., this heat and sun tolerant shrub is interesting year round with mahogany leaves in winter morphing to green for the summer.

Photos by Joanne Hamilton

# Rhododendron Show and Sale a Blooming Success

The crowds came early to find healthy and beautiful rhododendrons, woodland plants and veggies at our annual show and sale.



Judges Art Lightburn and John Deniseger with recorder Marilyn Dawson had a challenging task determining winners in the Truss Show.

## And the winner is ...

From Marilyn Dawson



The Popular Choice Award went to Al Bieberstein for *Rhododendron* 'George's Delight'.



Best in Show, large leaf went to Doug Kitts for *Rhododendron* 'Yeti' (above) and Linda Derkach took Best in Show small leaf for *Rhododendron concinnum*.

Despite the on-again off-again rainy weather for the entire week, members managed to find a huge number of blooms for the judges' table and the exhibition table at the Rhododendron Show and Sale. A lot of the reds were washed out but others shone. Other winners were:

### Blue Collection:

1. Marilyn Dawson, *R.* 'Blue Baron'
2. Joanne Hamilton, *R.* 'Blaney's Blue'
3. Anne Gutsche, *R.* 'Blaney's Blue'

### Foliage:

1. Ann De Brincat, *R. protistum*
2. Ann DeBrincat, *R. sutchuenense*
3. Lorne Hepting, *R. insigne*

### Pink:

1. Al Bieberstein, *R.* 'George's Delight'
2. Al Bieberstein, *R.* 'Noyo Brave'
3. Doug Kitts, *R.* 'Neat-O'

# MARS – 25 Years Ago

*From Marilyn Dawson*

*Since this is our 23<sup>rd</sup> Garden Tour in our 25<sup>th</sup> year of existence, members may be interested in our first garden tour. President Louise Dwyer writes in one newsletter:*

*"The garden tour committee has lined up 25 gardens and expects that up to 1,000 guests may visit Qualicum Beach May 16 and 17. "*

*In a subsequent newsletter, just before the tour another item states:*

*"We still need lots of volunteers ... for the garden tour. It's a fun way to know other chapter members as well as other interesting folk."*

*Sounds familiar, doesn't it?*

*Those issues of the newsletter also mentioned the naming contest of a rhododendron to be given to the Town of Qualicum Beach. It was called 'Qualicum's Pride' (below) and was planted at Valhalla. It is also the beautiful rosy pink bloom that now graces the MARS website.*



## **Red:**

1. Linda Derkach, *R. 'Taurus'*
2. Judy Millicheap, *R. 'Grace Seabrook'*
3. Doug Kitts, *R. 'Taurus'*

## **White:**

1. Doug Kitts, *R. 'Yeti'*
2. Linda Derkach, *R. 'Teddy Bear'*
3. Lorne Hepting, *R. 'Sir Charles Lemon'*

## **Yellow:**

1. Marilyn Dawson, *R. 'Horizon Monarch'*
2. Glen Jamieson, *R. 'Marie Starks'*
3. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Moonstone'*

## **Tender:**

1. Ann DeBrincat, *R. 'Princess Alice'*
2. Glen Jamieson, *R. 'Avalon'*
3. Glen Jamieson, *R. 'San Gabriel'*

## **Species, large leaf:**

1. John England, *R. campanulatum*
2. Glen Jamieson, *R. morii*
3. John England, *R. bureavii*

## **Species small leaf:**

1. Linda Derkach, *R. concinnum*
2. Al Bieberstein, *R. schlippenbachii*
3. Glen Jamieson, *R. cinnebarinum*

## **Spray:**

1. Judy Millicheap, *R. augustinii*
2. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Ginny Gee'*
3. Marilyn Dawson, *R. 'Senora Meldon'*

## **Lax Truss:**

1. Glen Jamieson, *R. 'Maureen'*
2. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Maureen'*
3. Lorne Hepting, *R. 'Fred Robbins'*

## **Novice:**

1. Joan McCully, *R. 'Nancy Evans'*

## **Hammerhead:**

1. Al Bieberstein, *R. 'Taurus'*



*Castilleja scabrida*

**The Alpine Gardeners of Central  
Vancouver Island (AGCVI)**

present

## **Kenton Seth**

speaking on

### **"Hunting Wildflowers of the Wild West":**

A talk about the places and plants in the recent work of bringing the Wild West home to the garden.

**Monday, May 26, 2014**

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
(doors open 12:30)**

**Qualicum Beach Civic Centre,  
747 Jones, QB**

**\$5 at the door includes Entry in Prize Draw  
and Coffee/Tea**

For further information,  
please contact Valerie Melanson,

[Melanson.valerie@gmail.com](mailto:Melanson.valerie@gmail.com)

Phone: 250-594-4423



Kenton Seth, photographed at the  
San Rafael Swell, UT

Kenton writes: "Well, it's still there. The "Wild" West, that is. So much of the great basin and dry American inter-mountains is still there - uninhabited, dry, dusty, and lousy with wildflowers. They definitely miss that part in old John Wayne flicks.

#### **Biography:**

Kenton J. Seth is a landscaper/gardener/wild-plant-fiend in Colorado, USA, who specializes in desert natives and builds crevice gardens professionally. Bulbs were his "gateway drug" to rock gardening, and expecting to be permanently tied down soon to the green industry, he went traveling to see botanic gardens (including and especially British Columbia) and his favourite foreign wild plants, which only made the plant sickness worse. He has contributed a few novice articles to the NARGS (North American Rock Garden Society) Quarterly. Presently, he is working hard on his quality of growing-on and success with rarities to try to catch up to his horticulture heroes who have been making gardens more colourful, useful places and have been so generous to us all.

## **Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society**

General Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2014

Held at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre at 7:30 pm

**Refreshments:** Provided by: Linda Derkach, Marilyn Dawson and Kathy Loyer

**Draw prizes:** *Rhododendron* 'PJM Elite', *R.* 'Sugar Puff', *R.* 'Gumpo' (*Azalea*) and a miniature rose

More than 50 people turned out to hear Margaret Cadwaladr, the author of *In Veronica's Garden*, talk about Veronica Milner and her transformation of Milner Gardens. Several visitors are volunteers at Milner Gardens in various capacities and wanted to brush up on their knowledge of the controversial woman. Ms Cadwaladr did not disappoint. In a conversational presentation, she explained some of the early history, how Veronica's early childhood contributed to her choice of rhododendrons for Milner and how the gardens didn't just happen to be as they are. As an amateur artist, she planned the garden to appear as a work of nature by cutting out "windows" to create a view framed by trees already full grown.

The highlight of the evening was her description of the 'later' Veronica as Margaret and husband Jim had lived on site. At that time, Jim was employed by Malaspina University which had bought the property with the proviso that Veronica could remain living on it until her death. Ms Cadwaladr became well-acquainted with her subject, her imperiousness and all her foibles.

John England introduced Margaret Cadwaladr - who incidentally won the door prize - and thanked her for an entertaining evening.

This evening was also the night to renew memberships at Milner for the special garden club rate. Kim Hammond, who worked the membership desk, said the renewal numbers were much higher than last year.

### **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Moved by Glen Jamieson and seconded by Joanne Hamilton that the minutes of March 19, 2014 be accepted as circulated. Carried.

**Truss Show:** Ray Walker told members that 11 vendors have signed up for the April 26 event and he is looking for volunteers throughout the day. He said the names of all show volunteers will be put in a hat and one lucky winner will receive a carved plate created and donated by MARS member Bob Baird. He also encouraged members to bring as many blooms as possible, some to decorate the exhibition table and of course the best ones for the judges' table. He and his wife Jane will host the pot luck after the show and he welcomed everybody.

**Garden Tour:** Kathy Loyer said the sitters are all in place. Sitter instructions and tickets were provided to the sitters. As well members took home posters to hand out to friends and neighbours.

### **Preparing Your Trusses**

Glen Jamieson rounded out the evening with a short talk on preparing trusses for the judges' table. Cut blooms either the night before, or early morning and put them in water. Small plants need lots of water. He said some plants do well being picked early, others not so much. It's a matter of trial and error. Transport them carefully; he packs newspapers around his entries to hold the blooms in place, preferably upright not touching other plants. It's easy to damage them on the way to the rink. Plants are judged in many categories, including lax truss, foliage and spray. There's a novice category for anyone who's been a member for 3 years or less. And don't forget the hammerhead, a truss with two or more blooms from one terminal bud

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.



## *In a Parksville Garden...*

Doug Kitts and Jillian Withers have a wonderful collection of choice rhododendron species and hybrids, as well as other choice perennials. Here are some blooming in April...



*Rhododendron lutescens* - blooming in early April – can become a six foot upright shrub in time. The bright red new growth opens to primrose yellow or a clear bright yellow. Hardy to minus 15 C.



*Rhododendron coeloneuron* grows in the UBC Botanical Garden.....and in the garden of Doug Kitts. Originating in China, it can eventually become a small tree.

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*Rhododendron calophytum repens* boasts lovely blooms. Doug's extensive collection of rhododendrons and other treasures will be on display during the annual MARS Mother's Day Garden Tour. *Photos by Doug Kitts*

### **Eaglecrest Garden Club**

welcomes

### **Des Kennedy**

“Heart & Soil: The Revolutionary Good of Gardens”

Des will promote his new book of the same title, also available for purchase.

**Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 pm**

**Qualicum Beach Civic Centre**

Doors open at 6:00 for “meet and greet”

Everyone welcome

Non-members: \$5.00 Info: 250-752-6129

## Qualicum Beach is Blooming

We love our gardens in spring! April and May yield an amazing abundance of fabulous blooms – many exquisite rhododendrons and other horticultural friends making their annual comeback.

The garden of John and Arlene England is once again harbouring a vast number of plants looking their very best. All will be on display as a bonus during our annual MARS Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour.



*Rhododendron* 'Ink Spot' boasts pink to purple spotted and ruffled florets with lovely dark green foliage - a real show stopper!



*Rhododendron* 'Unique' is an old favourite – here looking gorgeous and healthy.



*Rhododendron orbiculare*  
is a waterfall of pink loveliness!



Deep green, attractive leaves set off the lovely gigantic trusses of *Rhododendron* 'Horizon Monarch', opening a soft yellow from scarlet/orange buds. Always a sight to behold!