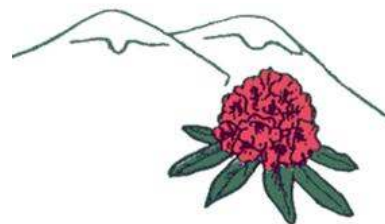


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH

MARS

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 342

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Qualicum Beach. BC

DECEMBER 2014

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Christmas Party

Dollar Table - Cassy LaCouvee

Newsletter Editor - Linda Derkach

Garden Tour – Kathy Loyer

Truss Show – Ray Walker

Greeter – Guy Loyer

Historian - Cassy Lacouvee

Library – Donna deBoer

Meeting Coordinator- Tony Ansdell

Membership – Tony Ansdell

Milner Gardens - John England

Program Chair – Glen Jamieson

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments - Anne Gutsche

Sunshine – Maria Bieberstein

This Month:

MARS

Christmas Party



Saturday, December 6
Rotary House, Qualicum
at 5:30 pm

Please come to our annual
Christmas Pot Luck Party

Don't forget:

- a beverage of your choice
- potluck dish
- Donations to Food Bank and MANNA

There will be:

- Gift exchange
- Raffle and door prizes
- Entertainment

Details inside.....

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday,
January 14, 2015
7:30 pm



Rhododendron yunnanense was a delight on a tour of Lindenfield, the garden of Tony and Bron Fitchett near Dunedin, New Zealand. Hardy to minus 18 degrees Celsius, it was a show-stopper even in the cooler spring weather.

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Upcoming Programs...

❖ *December 6*

- MARS Christmas Party at Rotary House, Qualicum

❖ *January 14*

- Shannon Berch on Soil Biology and Rhododendrons

❖ *February 11*

- Panel of Experts

❖ *March 11*

- Douglas Justice

Seedy Saturday 2015 **Volunteers Needed**

Please contact Lori Pross at 752-0196
or email: nickorlori@shaw.ca



This lovely mauve rhododendron was a prolific bloomer at Lindenfield near Dunedin, New Zealand.

MARS Christmas Party

Christmas Party time is here again....!!

Please bring:

- A beverage of your choice
- The potluck dish that you signed up to bring; if you have forgotten please call Marilyn Dawson for a reminder

Other important reminders:

- Please bring a uniquely-wrapped gift that you would love to receive yourself for under \$10 for our riotous gift exchange
- One or more of the following for the less fortunate:
 - Food Bank contribution, or
 - \$10 cash, or
 - Gloves, scarves, toques for MANNA.

There will be:

- Raffle and door prizes
- A great dinner shared with fellow Martians
- Entertainment and singing
- Gift Exchange
- Opportunities to share with those who are less fortunate.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

Exciting Events

Coming Your Way...

Mark Your Calendar Now

- ❖ **Qualicum Beach
Seedy Saturday
*Saturday, February 7, 2015
10 am to 3:30 pm***

- ❖ **MARS Rhododendron
Show & Sale, Parksville
Arena
*Saturday, April 25***

- ❖ **American
Rhododendron Society
International
Convention, Sidney, BC
*May 7 to 10, 2015***

- ❖ **MARS Mother's Day
Garden Tour
*May 9 and 10, 2015***

Coming to the Christmas Party??

If you plan to attend the Christmas party on Saturday, December 6 and haven't signed up yet, please call Marilyn Dawson at 752-3694 or email dawsom@shaw.ca with your intended pot luck item.

ARS Convention in Sidney, BC

If you are planning to attend the 2015 convention in Sidney near Victoria - or are just interested in what is on the program.....you can now get all the information you need on line. Just google American Rhododendron Society, click on Activities then Meetings and look at Convention 2015. There's lots of information and the registration form as well. Or you can obtain a registration form from Marilyn Dawson and mail in. Contact Marilyn at 752-3594 or email dawsom@shaw.ca

There are 28 gardens on the tour - a convention close to home and not to be missed!

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

General Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach at 7:30 pm

Minutes

Despite the cold weather, several members brought interesting specimens from their gardens, among them the brightly seeded *Euonymus europaeus*, holly, *Cyclamen hederifolium* and clumps of zebra grass. It was a colourful way to launch the evening. Guest speaker Ken Webb was introduced by Program Chair Glen Jamieson. Ken is the Western Vice President of the American Rhododendron Society and also the current District One Director. His passion is propagating rhododendrons and this night he wanted to show off his propagation unit and also convince members to perhaps form a propagation group within the membership.

Ken's two-part program consisted first of his personal initiation into this pastime, starting slowly with a Styrofoam box and a heating cable and finally graduating to the more sophisticated propagator and internal heating that he has today. It holds 1,000 cuttings.

Some members had brought cuttings, bagged and labeled and Ken and his wife Madeleine will propagate them and return them to the chapter when they are rooted in a few months. He had some advice for potential propagators:

1. Choose skinny cuttings.
2. Dip cutting in rooting hormone. (He prefers powder over the liquid)
3. Make clear labels and notes about the cutting.
4. Plant in a light medium, of perlite and peat moss and leave until well rooted. (As the quality of available peat moss deteriorates he has been experimenting with coconut coir.)

Business: After the coffee break, Ray Walker moved and Tony Ansdell seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as circulated. Carried

Linda Derkach finally caught up with Joan Rich to present her with her framed Award of Appreciation. Mike Rich, who was also recognized for his map-making skills for the Garden Tour, was not present.

ARS 2015 Convention: Ken Webb had brought a sheaf of registration forms for the 2015 convention in Sidney next May to encourage members to get their registrations in early ahead of what is expected to be a busy time in the new year. Ken and Bill McMillan are organizing the extensive garden tours for the event. He said plans are moving along with some hitches from time to time, but that was to be expected.

Garden Tour: Chair Kathy Loyer asked for suggestions for the garden tour, which will concentrate in the areas of Eaglecrest, Chartwell and Columbia Beach. The tour is slightly shorter this year because the date conflicts with the 2015 convention.

Newsletter: Linda reminded members again that she is always looking for ideas for the newsletter and welcomes photos, not just of plants but also members on holidays or taking part in special events.

Christmas Party: The format of the party on Saturday, Dec. 6 will be much like last year. Meet at the Rotary Hall on Fern Street at 5:30 for dinner around 6pm. Turkey, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes and cranberries are all organized in advance; members bring the rest as a potluck. Those who were at the meeting filled out a sign-up sheet indicating their choices. Members are asked to bring a gift of \$10 or less for the gift exchange, and any or all of the following: \$10 for charity, winter wear for the Manna Ministry homeless, food for the food bank. There will be a raffle as usual and several prizes.

REFRESHMENTS: Provided by Anne Gutsche and Barb Delgatty **PRIZES:** The door prize was won by Dougal Meekison; other prize winners were Maria Bieberstein, Mazie Walsh and Ray Walker.

Garden Journal

Linda Derkach, President

Strangely, the snow flurries of Friday night took me back to our fabulous tour of New Zealand. Even though it was early spring with lots of plants in bloom, we were greeted by snow in one of the gardens during the convention - just up a few metres from sea level Dunedin.

One of the gardens on the tour was Lindenfield, the garden of Tony Fitchett, Convention Chair and Bron Medicott-Fitchett. At more than eight acres, it contains an exciting array of species and hybrid rhododendrons and a stunning memorial avenue of *Prunus serrulata* 'Shimidsu Sakura' - in bloom - and all on a former pony paddock and valley with narrow paths and steep slopes.



There was much conjecture about the name of this beauty.



....but no disagreement about this beauty - *Rhododendron* 'Loderi Pink Diamond'.



This hybrid of *Rhododendron fargesii* charmed us with perfect leaves and tons of blooms. Extremely hardy, this specimen was far bigger than the 10 feet in five year prediction.



Rhododendron burmanicum x dalhousiae - another beautiful specimen at Lindenfield.



I loved *Rhododendron formosum* - a slightly tender species of the Maddenii group - hardy to minus 10 C. but of course flourishing at Lindenfield in the fairly mild climate of New Zealand.



This beautiful yellow was flourishing on the side of a very steep gully where only passionate gardeners and mountain goats would venture. Clearly we were rewarded for our efforts!

Don't forget...

❖ Volunteer to help at the ARS 2015 Convention in Sidney



Eliciting 'oohs' and 'aahs' was *Rhododendron fortunei*. This very large specimen - or rather tree - was clearly happy at Lindenfield.



Looking up at *Rhododendron fortunei*...

❖ Think about helping out at **Seedy Saturday** on February 7, 2015