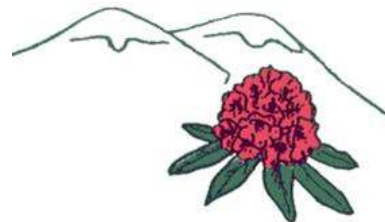


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS
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Meeting Coordinator- Tony Ansdell

Membership – Tony Ansdell

Milner Gardens - John England

Program Chair – Glen Jamieson

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments – John de Boer

Sunshine – Maria Bieberstein

This Month:

The Amazing Gardens of New Zealand

Presented by:
Glen Jamieson &
Linda Derkach

Enjoy this sojourn in
the fabulous gardens
of the North and
South Islands through
the eyes of Glen and
Linda during the 70th
New Zealand
Rhododendron
Conference in 2014.

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,
January 13, 2016**



Azaleas like this coral beauty are scene stealers in the New Zealand garden of Alan Trott.

Inside.....

Activities..... Page 2
ARS 2016 WilliamsburgPage 3
Trott Garden... ..Page 5
Species GardenPage 7
MARS Christmas Party.....Page 8

Upcoming Programs...

❖ January 2016

- *Glen Jamieson & Linda Derkach on New Zealand Gardens*

❖ February 2016

- *TBA*

❖ March 2016

- *Panel of Experts*

❖ April 2016

- *Bill Dumont on Gardens in England*

Dates to Note...

❖ Saturday, February 6, 2016

- *Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday*

❖ April 20 to 24, 2016

- *ARS Annual Convention
Williamsburg, Virginia*

❖ April 23, 2016

- *MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale*

❖ May 7 & 8, 2016

- *MARS 25th Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour*

Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday February 6, 2016

Meeting Garden Challenges

Speakers:

Connie Kuramoto: *Water, Water, Everywhere*

Linda Gilkeson: *Do You Really Know What the Problem is?*

For more information please check our website:
<http://www.qbseedysaturday.com/>

Please contact Lori Pross at nickorlori@shaw.ca if you can volunteer to help out; work shifts are only 1 ½ hour or 2 hours long.

Williamsburg 2016



A Joint Meeting of the
American Rhododendron Society
and the *Azalea Society of America*
April 20-24, 2016

ARS 2016 Convention Williamsburg Virginia



Joint ARS/ASA Convention April 20-24, 2016

We cordially invite you to a joint meeting of both the American Rhododendron Society and the Azalea Society of America in historic Colonial Williamsburg, VA. The meeting will be held from April 20-24, 2016, typically peak season for our dogwood and azalea bloom.

Our convention site is the Fort Magruder Hotel which is located near the Williamsburg Historic District. Our theme is "Legends and Legacies," and we hope to reflect on those who have enriched our lives and our gardens.

Garden Tours

Tours to the Historic District will be offered daily but we encourage attendees to explore these attractions on their own in small groups. Our primary garden tours will focus on public and private gardens in other nearby areas.

On Thursday, we will head to Richmond, the capital of Virginia, and the 80-acre Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. We will also visit two private gardens, one which has an extensive evergreen azalea collection and the other which is an elegant Japanese garden.



Conservatory at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

On Friday, we will explore the 155-acre Norfolk Botanical Gardens with its waterfront setting and many collections including the McDonald Azalea Garden. We will also visit a waterfront garden near Suffolk with an artistic landscape featuring rare companion plants.



Azaleas and Fountain in the Norfolk Botanical Gardens



Masses of Daffodils at Brent and Becky's Display Garden

Saturday's tour will head to the town of Gloucester and the display garden of Brent and Becky's Bulbs. We will tour several charming private gardens, each with a different focus.

Speakers:

We have many distinguished speakers, and Thursday night's focus will be the legacies of great plant explorers. Our first speaker will be the famous colonial botanist, John Bartram, humorously portrayed by **Kirk Brown**, Vice President of the Garden Writers Association. He will be followed by one of our most celebrated modern plant explorers, **Steve Hootman**, Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, WA.

Rick Lewandowski, the former Director of Mt. Cuba Center, will be Friday's keynote. He will discuss landscapes utilizing native azaleas and other native plants. Rick is now Director of the Shangri La Botanical Gardens in Texas.

Saturday's keynote will be **Mike Stewart**, past ARS President and noted nurseryman from Sandy, OR. He will share some of the contributions of legendary plant collectors and hybridizers, and their lasting legacies.

For an historical and horticultural experience, Williamsburg promises to be a great destination.

To find out more and register, go to www.rhododendron.org.

Under Society News click on **2016 ARS/ASA Joint Convention**

New Zealand's Trott Garden: A Garden of National Significance

Story and Photos: Linda Derkach

In October 2014, a tour of gardens "down under" brought us to the garden of Alan Trott in the Ashburton District on the South Island.

With water features, garden rooms reminiscent of Sissinghurst and Hidcote, a formal knot garden, and a spectacular woodland garden, one could spend several days taking in the bounty.

In Part 1 (Part 2 next month) we focus on some of the amazing species that inhabit this garden and keep a myriad of rhododendrons company.



Isatis tinctoria (Woad) is a frothy, lemon/lime member of the *Brassicaceae* family, used in the woodland garden to contrast the silver leaves of *Cynara* – a striking combination.



For those who do not fear the invasive ways of Lily-of-the-Valley, here is *Convallaria majalis* 'Albostriata' used very effectively as ground cover in the woodland garden.



When we first came across this *Viburnum macrocephalum*, the oohs and ahs were audible! Cascading blossoms mingle generously with rhododendrons and camellias.



In one of the many "garden rooms" at Trott's, this early flowering polemonium (Jacob's Ladder) has formed a healthy clump, providing colour in the early cool spring.



Thalictrum is a very useful perennial – practically no work, all frothy and happy in light shade, and coming in dwarf, small, medium and large sizes – something for every garden. *Thalictrum ichangense* ‘Evening Star’ is a useful rock garden plant with variegated leaves. *T. minus adiantifolium* at 12 inches is a front of the border plant. *T. delavayi* ‘Hewitt’s Double’ with tiny double blossoms can reach four feet. *Thalictrum* ‘Elin’ is an amazon easily reaching 7 or 8 feet and much loved by the hummingbirds!



Many azaleas live here in the Trott garden. Azaleas love New Zealand – and clearly New Zealanders are similarly smitten. It seldom gets cold enough to damage the fabulous blossoms. And Alan Trott has used his artist’s eye to create wonderful combinations. In this large estate with many garden rooms, the turning of each corner brings a new breath-taking thrill for the lucky garden visitor.

Azaleas in every colour thrive and abound in the Trott Garden.

Species Garden at Milner: Moving Forward

Story: Marilyn Dawson

Photos: John Deniseger



The proposed Species Project at Milner Gardens and Woodland took a few steps forward this fall when a number of trees were felled and the designated lot cleared of debris and roots. Earlier the advisory committee had approved spending up to \$25,000 for the job.

Bids were sent to area companies and the lower bid was accepted. The cleared site behind the reflecting pool and gift shop will now be left to settle over the winter, in case nearby tree roots were damaged with the falling and come crashing down in a storm.



Milner has erected a large sign on the site announcing the anticipated species garden. A cooperative project of ARS Chapters, Milner Gardens and VIU, the sign provides information about conservation, education and inspiration.



Next step involves more infrastructure, fencing for the holding area on an adjacent property and irrigation for the site. That should take place next spring. Tony Ansdell will apply to the ARS in the New Year for a grant to help finance irrigation expenses. Meanwhile the \$20,000 pledged by the chapters has been deposited in a MARS special account to be spent with matching funds from Milner.

If all goes to schedule, planting should begin next summer.

MARS Christmas Party: Fun, Food and Friends!

Story and Photos: Linda Derkach

Martians know how to work hard and play hard...and our annual Christmas Party was no exception to this rule. Our recipe for success: a great turkey dinner with all the trimmings, fabulous veggies and awesome deserts - plus our famous camaraderie. It all made our party at the home of Jane and Ray Walker great fun for everyone!



Don, Bob, Doug and Judy



Gillian, Chris, Elaine, Glen, Anne and Joanne



Our hostess Jane slaving away in the kitchen!



Gillian and Maisie



Guests from Victoria: Madeleine and Ken Webb – our ARS District 1 Director and Western Vice-President