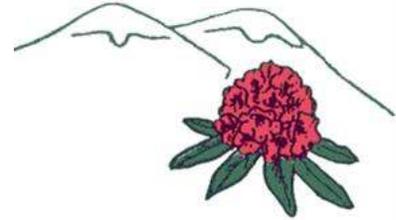


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH

MARS

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 342

Qualicum Beach. BC

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2016/2017 Executive

President

Linda Derkach

752-3545 lindaderkach@shaw.ca

Vice-President

Glen Jamieson

248-5593 glenj02@yahoo.ca

Treasurer

Ray Walker

248-5138 irjiffy@shaw.ca

Secretary

Marilyn Dawson

752-3694 dawsom@shaw.ca

Past President

Tony Ansdell

752-4475 ansdella@shaw.ca

Directors

Ann DeBrincat

724-5594 darryl59ann@telus.net

Kathy Loyer

738-0138 kathyloyer@shaw.ca

Sherry Thompson

586-5811 sherrywt100@gmail.com

Bob Baird

248-3389 bob.baird@shaw.ca

Bursary

Christmas Party

Dollar Table – Barbara Kulla

Newsletter Editor - Linda Derkach

Garden Tour – Kathy Loyer

Truss Show –

Greeter – Guy Loyer

Historian - Cassy Lacouvee

Library – Donna deBoer

Meeting Coordinator- Tony Ansdell

Membership – Tony Ansdell

Milner Gardens - John England

Plant Prizes – Sherry Thompson

Program Chair – Glen Jamieson

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Refreshments – John de Boer

Sunshine – Judy Wood

Welcome – Joanne Hamilton

This Month:

Mike Stewart

Speaking on...

**Rhododendrons
and Their Journey
to Your Garden**



Mike and Maria Stewart
with species
Rhododendron sinogrande

More inside....

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,
October 12**



Acer 'Koto No Ito' is one of
many Japanese Maples bursting
with autumn glory!

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October Speaker:

Mike Stewart



Mike is a past President of the American Rhododendron Society, and is the current President of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden holds the largest collection of species rhododendrons in the world. Mike and his wife Maria have traveled to Sichuan, Yunnan, and eastern Tibet in search of species rhododendrons. Their last expedition in June 2015, took them to Sikkim, in the Himalayan Mountains. Sikkim is a very high elevation northern state of India, just east of Nepal, on the Tibetan border. There, along with others from the Rhododendron Species Foundation, they located 33 of the 36 known species in that region.

“Rhododendrons and Their Journey to Your Garden” will focus on species rhododendrons and the legendary explorers who discovered them. The presentation is complemented with many exceptional photographs of both rhododendrons in the wild, and the mountainous regions in Asia where they were discovered. Come and enjoy this unique and informative presentation.

Upcoming Programs...

❖ **October 12**

- **Mike Stewart**

❖ **November 12**

- **Dennis Bottmiller of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden on Propagation**

Exciting Events...

❖ **Sept 30-October 2, 2016**

- **ARS Western Regional Conference, Newport, Ore**

❖ **April 27-30, 2017**

- **ARS Spring Convention in Eureka, California**

A Note From Your President...

Linda Derkach

Our garden activity year is well underway at MARS....and we hope that you will take advantage of one of our many activities and join in the fun.

This is the best way to make lifelong friends!

Here is a brief summary of some activities in the planning stage.

Propagation Group

More than 20 MARS members will attend the first planning meeting for propagating rhododendrons for ourselves and the club. Please come and join us - or just get on the news list so that you can participate when it works for you.

Thursday, October 6 at 1:30 at Paramount Orchids on Renz Road.

Please contact Margot Moser for more information.

MARS Mother's Day Garden Tour

Our garden tour is the highlight of the gardening year here in mid Vancouver Island. Our committee is just starting to select gardens. There will be lots of important tasks coming up in January and we would love to have some new folks join our committee. Please contact Kathy Loyer.

Rhododendron Show and Sale

April 22, 2017 is the date for our show and sale, and we need lots of helpers. Tasks include set-up, plant sales, cashier, hall decoration - and of course the truss competition along with lots of buying of unusual, hard to find and irresistible plants from specialty nurseries - lots of fun!

And Always...Great Programs!

See you on Wednesday, October 12 for a fascinating journey through the Himalayas in search of rhododendron species.

Take care, Linda

You're Invited!

Mid-Island Floral Art Club

Thursday, October 13
2:15 pm

Stephens United Church Hall
150 Village Way
Qualicum Beach

Demonstration:

Laura Dempsey
of Petal and Kettle on
Sticks and Stones -
Minimalist Design with
Maximum Effect

For information call
Joanne [250-757-8969](tel:250-757-8969)

**Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society
General Meeting
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
September 14, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Minutes**

President Linda Derkach opened the first meeting of the 2016 -17 season welcoming all members and noting the presence of new members, Art and Rose Prufer and Ann Zimmerman. She also introduced Sherry Thompson as the new “goody person”, charged with contacting members to provide treats for the coffee table each month.

Art and Susan Lightburn of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society were the presenters for the evening discussing their recent extensive trip to Bhutan via Kolkata and Assam in India. Susan’s photos covered a wide range of life in Asia, the exotic flowers and some endangered species, the golden langur to name one, said to exist only in western Assam.

Linda explained the need for members to embrace reading the digital version of JARS and forgoing a magazine copy. Cost of printing and mailing the quarterly absorbs a good deal of the membership fee. She asked members to indicate their awareness of JARS online. Of the 40 members in attendance, only five have tried and found it difficult. Most were aware that it existed but preferred the magazine. 17 of the 40 indicated they would take just the digital version if it were offered. Linda also asked for an indication who was receiving Rhodo Notes, email alerts from the ARS of various items. Because few were, she will send them out to members when they arrive from the ARS.

BUSINESS: 1. Glen Jamieson urged members to look at a new on-line magazine [Rhododendrons International](#) which represents chapters worldwide and appears once or twice a year.
2. Treasurer Ray Walker sought a motion from the floor that “the money received from

the 2015 Convention in Sidney be directed to the Species Garden at Milner Gardens and Woodland. The money was awarded with the stipulation that it be used to enhance and promote the genus rhododendron. Moved by John DeBoer and seconded by Kel Roberts. It carried unanimously.

3. Wanted: someone to coordinate the **2017 Truss Show and Sale** on April 22 and others to form a committee to do the early planning. The arena has already been booked.

4. At the May meeting members were enthusiastic about hosting the **2019 Fall Conference** in Qualicum Beach and Parksville. The ARS has been informed and we have formed a steering committee consisting of Kathy Loyer, Tony Ansdell, Marilyn Dawson, Linda Derkach and Glen Jamieson to initiate the procedure.

5. Tony Ansdell gave a brief update on the Species project at Milner. Late last spring a possible midden was discovered in the immediate area. The appropriate groups were informed, including the local First Nations. VIU has decided to check the entire 70 acres because there are other expansion plans ahead. VIU will absorb all costs. Planting on the species project is expected to be delayed at least six months, but some aspects of the project can move ahead.

Draw prizes: The Door prize, *Rhododendron* ‘Golden Wedding’ was won by Donna DeBoer; other prizes were *R.* ‘Midnight Mystique’, a red azalea and a mixed planting. Winners were Sherry Thompson, Ann DeBrincat and Brenda Moore.

Meeting adjourned: 9:40 pm

Totara Waters - New Zealand's Subtropical Paradise

Words and Photos: Linda Derkach

New Zealand's North Island offers a warm climate and home to many subtropical plants. Totara Waters was the first stop on our garden tour of New Zealand in 2014.



This gorgeous Vireya rhododendron greeted us upon arrival at Totara Waters – a subtropical garden just north of Auckland, New Zealand on Waitemata Harbour.



Handsome jars and intriguing bromeliads were everywhere.



This enormous agave was a show stopper!



Totara Waters is home to many aloes.
This is the spectacular spiral aloe - *Aloe polyphylla*.



A view through the garden to the tranquil waters of Waitemata Harbour.



Echevaria thrives here outside all year round.



Many cycad palms call the garden home.



A dish of sundew and a huge variety of echevaria and other succulents populate the rocks and crevices of Totara Waters.



A huge variety of bromeliads thrive in the garden and even on a weathered tree trunk.





A staghorn fern thrives on a stump surrounded by bromeliads.



The view down to Waitemata Harbour just north of Auckland. Rusted metal sculptures echo the old hulk lying at rest on the banks of the tranquil water.