This Month:

Our Ever Popular Expert Panel

Once again, MARS presents local experts in the Rhododendron field to respond to all your questions

Bring your queries and your friends!

MARS Meetings
2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Rhododendrons and evergreen azaleas are the stars along with giant redwoods and magnolias in the coastal gardens near Eureka, California.

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Upcoming Programs

February 14, 2018
❖ Expert Panel

March 14, 2018
❖ David Sella

April 11, 2018
❖ Carmen Varcoe
Former Chair of Finnerty Gardens Society, Victoria

May 9, 2018
❖ Nancy Moore – Shade Gardens

Events and Activities:

February 3, 2018
❖ Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday

April 21, 2018
❖ MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale, Parksville

May 12 and 13, 2018
❖ MARS Mother’s Day Weekend Garden Tour

May 20 to 27, 2018
❖ ARS 2018 Convention
Bremen, Germany

Seedy Saturday Volunteers

Marilyn Dawson

If you haven’t already offered, don’t forget that MARS will need volunteers for its table at Seedy Saturday on February 3. Shifts are fairly flexible, usually one or two hours from 10 am until 3:30. A 2-hour shift usually allows time to check out the hall. We will be selling a few plants; they are usually mostly rhododendrons, with a few companion plants as well.

The job is fairly simple. Hand out Dates to Remember, our guide to the Rhododendron Show and Sale in April and the Garden Tour, and sell plants. It’s a good idea to know the date of the next meeting and the speaker - that’s always asked.

The most important asset for a volunteer in this instance is a ready smile. You don’t have to be an expert; a knowledgeable person is often within reach if the question is more than one volunteer can handle. It helps to know a little about MARS and meetings, and the MARS web site has lots of information.

To volunteer or donate a plant, contact Marilyn Dawson at dawsom@shaw.ca or 250-752-3694. And pray for good weather!
Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society
General Meeting
Held at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
January 10, 2018
Minutes
A blown fuse that affected the projector caused a quick reshuffle of the agenda Wednesday night. The business portion of the evening came first.

1. President Glen Jamieson reminded members that MARS is hosting the 2019 Conference, when several speakers will be invited to attend and will need accommodation. About 6-8 offered to billet.

2. Marilyn Dawson asked for those interested in taking a shift at the MARS table at Seedy Saturday on February 3 to see her later.

3. Treasurer Ray Walker reported the chapter to be in sound financial shape.

4. There will be a volunteer shift at Milner Gardens on Tuesday, January 16 as work continues on the Species Garden fence. A mulching session is expected also this month, weather permitting.

5. The annual bus tour is planned for June 19, 20 or 21. It’s over two days on the mainland. Members indicated there was no preference for which days. Linda Derkach is working out the details.

6. The Windup social is also in June. Would it be before the bus trip or after? Members indicated either date was acceptable.

7. Snacks for the evening were provided by Joan Rich, Judy Wood, Diane Henders, Don Bridgen and Arlene England.

Glen then proceeded with his short educational botany series, this one on the structure of the flower, the corolla, corona and the calyx before the main event, a selection of photographs provided by MARS members.

Glen had put together an interesting photo presentation of individual blooms, members’ gardens, their travels, their favorite places on vacation. It was well received with individual photographers adding bits of information throughout.

Glen suggested Photography Night was a worthwhile annual event and urged members to take photos all year with a view to contributing to next year’s presentation.

Prizes: The door prize was *Rhododendron* ‘Cilpinense’ won by Jane Walker. Other prizes were *R.* ‘Hills Bright Red’, *R.* ‘Rosewine’, *R.* ‘Whirlaway’ and *Camellia* ‘Donation’. Prize winners were Bob Baird, Ann Zimmerman, Ray Walker and Kathy Loyer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.
Remember All Those Cuttings?

Marilyn Dawson

Late last September a group of earnest ‘Marsians’ drove to Victoria to a propagation session at Ken and Madeleine Webb’s home.

The goal was simple: root enough plants so they can be handed out as table favours at the 2019 ARS Conference at the Parksville Community Centre. The number of cuttings that had been bandied about was 350 - 400 to allow for certain failures. Instead more than 800 cuttings were delivered, trimmed, registered and stuck in rows in Ken’s propagation unit.

The cuttings, big and small-leaf, had been taken from a wide range of rhododendrons and azaleas of varying ages. Not all were expected to root but about a month ago we were told that many were already successful. Then just recently Ken sent photos of three with substantial root balls attached, ‘Bob’s Blue’, ‘Kusianum ‘Komo Kulshan’ and ‘Golfer’.

We don’t know how many have taken, but were so pleased with ourselves (and the Webb propagator) that we wanted to share it with everyone.

Photo: Ken Webb

16th Annual Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday 2018

Theme: Sow, Grow, Enjoy!
When: Saturday, February 3, 2018
          10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Where: Qualicum Beach Civic Centre,
        747 Jones St. Qualicum Beach

Admission by Donation
* Seed Swap * Speakers
    * 70+ Vendors
    * Master Gardeners
    * Seedy Café
* Milner Gardens Shoots with Roots
  Children’s Program
* Door Prizes * Raffle

Speakers
Donna Balzer: 10:30 am - 12:00 noon
    Three Tips to Sow and Grow a Better Food Garden

Kathy Claxton: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
    Keep Calm - Plant On . . .
    Make Gardening Fit YOU!

Raffle Prizes
(BC Gaming License # 101262)

1st: Glass Art Piece by Ted Jolda valued at $200
2nd: QF gift certificate valued at $200
3rd: Lee Valley gift certificate valued at $100
4th: Wood Art Piece by Niel Stoutenburg valued at $100
5th: Mini Greenhouse Cloche donated by Dolly’s Home Hardware valued at $80

ONLY 1000 Tickets Available
    at $2 each

The Town of Qualicum Beach truck
    will be in the parking lot
    to collect pesticides and herbicides.

Contact:  Murray Chantler
Publicity Coordinator 250 248-7712
Email: publicity@qbseedySaturday.ca
Please visit our website at
        www.qbseedySaturday.ca
The 2017 Convention of the American Rhododendron Society held in Eureka, California took us to many fine gardens. For this leg of our journey, we visit a renowned garden with an Asian theme, and a spectacular mature garden backed by an ancient forest. Our first stop was the inspiration for the convention’s theme – *Rhododendrons in the Redwoods.*

Rhododendrons and Japanese maples enjoy the company of the giant redwoods in this back yard.
Rhododendrons and azaleas are layered with deciduous maples, stone pathways and Asian inspired statuary in this scene that can be viewed from the owner’s sunroom.

An artful eye has carefully situated objets d’art and exquisite rhododendrons.
Bamboo, Japanese Maples, Wisteria and rhododendrons transport us to the peace and tranquility of an Asian garden.
As two paths cross, a creative mosaic delights.

A traditional lawn cannot be found on the street side of the property. Instead, dry creeks, stone paths, bamboo, stumps and evergreens create a tranquil environment that invites the visitor to pause and contemplate.
Moving on to our next garden, we enjoyed the magnificence of an ancient forest and rhododendrons that have reached tree-size proportions.

*Rhododendron 'Patricia Marie'* was much admired, and found to be growing in many areas of the northern California coast.
This exquisite pink rhododendron boasts very attractive foliage - and not a weevil notch in sight!! Many of us on Vancouver Island would be very envious!!

The coastal redwood forest provides a backdrop for magnolias and rhododendrons - all thriving happily together in this secluded back garden glen.
• **Petals** (red) are modified leaves that surround the reproductive parts of flowers. They are often brightly coloured or unusually shaped to attract pollinators.
• Together, all of the petals of a flower are called a **corolla**.
• Petals are usually accompanied by another set of special leaves called **sepals** (green) that collectively form the **calyx** and lie just beneath the corolla.
• The calyx and the corolla together make up the **perianth**.

• When the petals and sepals of a flower are difficult to distinguish, they are collectively called **tepals**. Examples of plants in which the term tepal is appropriate include genera such as *Magnolia* and *Tulipa*.
• Some genera such as *Rosa* and *Phaseolus* (beans) have well-distinguished sepals and petals. Tepals also apply when it is possible to distinguish an outer whorl of sepals from an inner whorl of petals, the sepals and petals have a similar appearance to one another, as in *Lilium*. 
• Petals can differ dramatically in different species. The petal whorl or corolla may be either radially or bilaterally symmetrical.
• In many plants of the Aster family such as the sunflower, the circumference of the flower head is composed of ray florets. Each ray floret is anatomically an individual flower with a single large petal. Florets in the centre of the disc typically have no or very reduced petals.

![Sunflower](image)

• Petals of different species of plants vary greatly in colour or colour pattern, both in visible light and in ultraviolet. Such patterns often function as guides to pollinators, and are variously known as nectar guides, pollen guides, and floral guides.
• When the perianth is in two whorls, it is described as being “hose in hose”. A good example of this is the hybrid ‘Apricot Fantasy’, an especially attractive plant that many of us have in our gardens.
• While the calyx may be green, it may also be brightly coloured, and is then described as petaloid. Both the corolla and petals may have a role in attracting pollinators, but this may be augmented by more specialised structures like the corona.

![Rhododendron 'Apricot Fantasy'](image)
**Corona**
An additional structure in some plants (e.g. *Narcissus, Passiflora* (passion flower), some *Hippeastrum*, Liliaceae) is the corona, a ring or set of appendages arising from the corolla or the outer edge of the stamens. It is often positioned where the corolla lobes arise from the corolla tube. There is an outer ring composed of six tepals (undifferentiated sepals and petals), and a central disc to conical shaped corona.

- The **pappus** of Asteraceae, considered to be a modified calyx, is also called a corona if it is shaped like a crown.
- The Asteraceae pappus may be composed of bristles (sometimes feathery), awns, scales, or may be absent.
- In some species, the pappus is too small to see without magnification. In some species, such as Dandelion (*Taraxacum* spp.) or *Eupatorium*, feathery bristles of the pappus function as a "parachute" which enables the seed to be carried by the wind.

- The main role of sepals is to keep the parts of the flower safe before it opens.
- After flowering, most plants have no more use for the calyx, which then withers or becomes vestigial.
- Some plants retain a thorny calyx, either dried or live, as protection for the fruit or seeds. Examples include some of the Solanaceae (Nightshade family; potato, tomato, and for example, the Tomatillo, *Physalis philadelphica*).