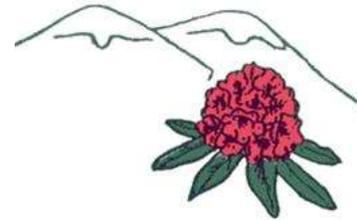


# THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH  
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS  
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[www.marsrhodos.ca](http://www.marsrhodos.ca)

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**Christmas Party** - Executive

**Dollar Table** – Barbara Kulla

**Newsletter Editor** - Linda Derkach

**Garden Tour** – Sherry Thompson

**Truss Show** – Kathy & Guy Loyer

**Greeter** – Guy Loyer

**Historian** –

**Library** –

**Meeting Coordinator**-Tony Ansdell

**Membership** – Tony Ansdell

**Milner Gardens** - John England

**Plant Prizes** – Sherry Thompson

**Program Chair** – Glen Jamieson

**PR** - Marilyn Dawson

**Refreshments** –

**Goodies** – Jane Walker

**Species Garden** – Tony Ansdell

**Sunshine** – Judy Wood

**Webmaster** – Diane Henders

**Welcome** – Joanne Hamilton

## This Month:

# How the Big Nurseries Do It!

**MARS members  
Rose and Art Prufer  
share propagation  
and other secrets  
of the big nurseries  
in California.**

**See Page 3 for more  
information.**

## MARS Website

**Check out our updated and  
exciting renewed website  
at [marsrhodos.ca](http://marsrhodos.ca)**



Leaves of *Indigofera kirilowii* bring interest to the garden even after the flowers are gone.

## MARS Meetings

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

### Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,  
October 10**



A member of the pea family (Fabaceae) *Indigofera kirilowii* is a deciduous woody shrub with rosy-pink pea-like flowers along the stems and attractive pinnate leaves that bring architectural interest to a sunny spot. Great amongst rhododendrons!

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## Upcoming Programs

### ❖ Wednesday, October 10

- *Propagation*
- Rose Prufer and Art Prufer

### ❖ Sunday, October 28, 2018

- **Fall Mini Conference**
- Parksville Community & Conference Centre **SOLD OUT**
- **Waitlist being taken**

### **Membership Renewal**

If you have not already renewed your membership in MARS, please see **Tony Ansdell** at our general meeting on **October 10**.

The deadline is looming to ensure you don't miss a copy of the **Journal of the American Rhododendron Society**. Membership is still \$30 for one or two people. Cash or cheque is fine.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can re-new by going on line at **marsrhodos.ca** and clicking on the Membership page. Or mail your cheque to: Membership, Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society  
PO BOX 342  
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S8.

## Last Minute Reminder: 2018 Fall Mini Conference Sold Out Waitlist Being Taken

Hosted by MARS and Nanaimo RS, the fall Mini Conference is all set to go and promises to be a great day filled with exceptional speakers, practical information and time hanging out with other passionate gardeners.

**Date:** Sunday, October 28, 2018

**Time:** 10 am to 4 pm

**Place:** Parksville Community and Conference Centre

**Theme:** *Navigating Garden Myths*

#### Speakers:

- Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, WSU
- Douglas Justice, UBC Botanical Garden
- Jeff de Jong, teacher and radio personality
- Donna Balzer, TV personality
- Dany Fortin and Shane Tillapaugh, Comox horticulturists

#### What to bring?

- Please bring your own bag lunch

#### We will provide....

- Coffee, tea
- Door prize – Silent Auction

**MARS Presents:**

## **Rose and Art Prufer**

### **How the Big Nurseries Do It**

**Wednesday, October 10**



Local club members Rose and Art Prufer will present a slideshow of the nurseries they visited during their trip to the [2009 IPPS Western Regional Conference](#).

### **Rosemary and Art Prufer**

Rosemary's passion for plants started at a young age in North Vancouver. After working at several jobs she realized that working with plants was something she needed to focus on. In 1995 she completed the Horticulture program at BCIT and never looked back.

Her first job came as a custom propagator of rhododendrons in Maple Ridge. The owner Lloyd Smith had decades of experience with propagation under his belt and taught Rosemary so much including the grafting of maples and conifers.

Years of taking various courses - including floral design to stay viable and up to date with modern horticulture - kept Rosemary busy.

Until recently Rosemary was a member of the IPPS which is the International Plant Propagators Society, Western Chapter, an organization that allowed professionals to visit various nurseries and exchange information and experiences.

Rosemary has also been a member of the ARS for over thirty years. She has been an active member in several chapters and has taken on every position except treasurer.

Participating in plant sales and giving the occasional talks and demos has helped her learn so much and make so many wonderful friends.

Rosemary's husband Art is almost always at her side helping with plant sales and games, etc. even though he describes himself as a 'dragee'. Art's background in the IT industry has helped Rosemary set up newsletters, slideshows for the rhododendron clubs.

Retired now, Rosemary loves sharing her knowledge and experiences with other folks who are like minded.

**\*Bonus Plant Reunion:** At the May 2018 meeting, Rose did a pruning demonstration on some plants that members had brought to the meeting. **If your plant was part of the demo, please bring it along so we can all see the results!**

*From Rose and Art*

# Propagating Rhododendrons from Stem Cuttings

Sandra Stevenson, Cowichan Valley RS

Note: This article was written by Sandra for the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners.

**Supplies:** Cuttings (scions), secateurs or sharp knife, clean starting medium, pot, plastic bag, chopstick, label

## Why propagate rhododendrons from cuttings?

This vegetative method of propagation produces plants that are identical to the “Mother Plant”. It will allow you to start a number of plants from your favorite rhododendron for minimal cost. Keep in mind that some rhododendrons root much more readily than others. You can have success in anywhere from six weeks to a number of years; with some cuttings you may have no success at all, but it is fun trying.

## When to choose your cuttings?

Most cuttings of *Rhododendron hymenanthus* can be taken as semi-hardwood to hardwood cuttings. In this climate that would be when the tissue is nearly firm from September to November. You can take the cuttings earlier but the weather is friendlier once fall arrives. If you do take the cuttings in August, remember to keep them moist and not to let the cuttings cook in their little domes. If you are propagating *Rhododendron pentanthera*, also known as deciduous azaleas, the timing for collecting differs from subgenus *hymenanthus*. Take the cuttings when the new growth is young and pliable. This coincides in a number of cases with flowering in early June. These can be much trickier to grow from this method.

## Method of propagating tip cuttings:

Begin by choosing some tip cuttings from your rhododendron. (Approximately 1” to 4” long) Cuts taken from closer to the root ball or shoots that have grown in shaded areas (etiolation) of the plant appear to root more readily. (Rational: thin cuttings require less energy to maintain them; therefore, excess food can be directed toward the rooting zone. Cuts from nearer the root ball have more hormones concentrated in the area. This too will enhance rooting.) Do not use growth with buds, or remove the buds to have the nourishment redirected to producing roots rather than developing the bud.

Remove lower leaves and cut upper leaves in half to provide more room and better air circulation when planted. Carbohydrates required to nourish the leaves will be redirected to once again enhance root formation. Good air circulation will ensure carbon dioxide does not build up and reduce photosynthesis abilities. Be cautious because too much air will reduce humidity and also reduce foliage need for feed while the scion is directing energy into producing roots. Cut a wound at each side of the base of the cutting, approximately ½” to 1”, to expose the cambium layer. Dip the cuttings in rooting hormone (I use #2). This replicates auxin, the hormone that makes rooting easier. You can root without rooting hormone as well. It’s fun to experiment with and without rooting hormone.

## What type of soil do I use?

Use new bark, clean peat (coarse if possible), Perlite or coarse clean sand. The goal is to have a medium that has some humus (bark or peat) to hold moisture and an inert matter (perlite or sand) to provide air spaces and drainage. Make a hole in the soil with a stick or pencil. This will allow the rooting hormone to stay in place when sinking the cutting. Ensure at least one node on the stem is below soil line. Gently press and firm soil around cutting.

## What environment do my rhododendron cuttings prefer?

The best results are realized if you use bottom heat kept constant at 70 F. Keep in mind many cuttings will root without bottom heat. Mist foliage to keep it moist and avoid a situation that is too wet or soggy. Cover containers with plastic to keep moisture in and increase the humidity. Keep cuttings out of direct sun light. I generally will plant about six cuttings in a one gallon pot, cover the pot with a shower cap, and place on the north side of my house. Now and again I check to make sure it is moist and lift plastic cap to provide an exchange of air. I have moderate success with little need for too much attention.

## How do I know if my rhododendron cuttings have rooted?

Some Rhododendron cuttings root easily within about six weeks, and others may take up to a year or more. Tug gently on the root to determine if you meet with resistance. If you feel resistance, roots have taken hold.

Reference: [Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons](#) – Species and Hybrids, Third Edition; Harold E. Greer

Thanks to Sandra Stevenson, Cowichan Valley RS and Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

## The Autumn Garden: Creating Year-Round Interest in Your Garden

Words and Photos: Linda Derkach

We lucky Vancouver Islanders can be in our gardens year-round - well almost...apart from those rainy, windy, snowy, freezing cold days!

And fall is the best time of year for planting - especially shrubs, perennials and rhododendrons. The ground is moist, still warm and easy to dig, and very welcoming and kind to new plants. Here are some perennials and shrubs that will add colour and interest to your autumn garden.



*Helianthus decapetalus* is a real show-stopper! At five feet tall and wide and clothed with masses of bee-friendly, cheerful and long-lasting simple, daisy-like blooms, this statuesque perennial sunflower is easy to grow, withstanding wind and rain to continue brightening the garden as summer wanes and frosty nights approach. *H. decapetalus* likes neutral to alkaline soil, and performs particularly well after a long, hot summer. If you love this plant, you will also long for *H. 'Lemon Queen'*.



*Kolkwitzia amabilis 'Maradco'*

*Kolkwitzia amabilis* (Beautybush) has long been grown for its profusion of bell-shaped, pink blooms in spring and early summer. A member of the honeysuckle family, it grows 6' to 10' tall. Autumn leaves turn an undistinguished yellow and then drop. But now we have a new selection - *K. 'Maradco'* that possesses ever-changing foliage, emerging in spring with copper tones. Leaves turn yellow in May and mature to a green-tinted golden chartreuse by summer. In autumn leaves take on orange, coral and gold tints. In a large pot, *H. amabilis 'Maradco'* can light up a dull corner of your fall garden.



*Cyclamen hederifolium*

*Cyclamen hederifolium* is a shade garden mainstay. Particularly welcome is this white-flowered cyclamen that shines under the protection of a rhododendron.

Hydrangeas are a perfect companion for rhododendrons. Happy in acidic soil and requiring dapple or shade from the hot afternoon sun, they take over when our rhodies are mostly done for the season. And there is a hydrangea for almost everyone - colours range from white and pink to blue and mauve. Some are giants needing a large garden to strut their stuff, while some newer cultivars are suited to a smaller garden.



*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight' above and below.



This spectacular hydrangea blooms on new wood so pruning is done in spring. Removing old flower heads and trimming the shrub to a more compact framework will give you a profusion of large blossoms. One blossom will fill a vase!



*Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Little Honey'

Possessing lime green/golden leaves, *H.* 'Little Honey' does not really need to bloom to earn its place in your garden. At 6' by 6' it is definitely not little... but who cares when the leaves are so stunning.

In full bloom in July, *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Ayesha' is lovely in pink or blue depending upon your soil. Florets are unusually cupped – appearing to be painted blues and pinks by a watercolour artist. Great as a cut flower as well.



*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Nikko Blue' is a vigorous shrub to 6' with large, rounded blue flowers. In mid-summer, blooms begin to turn green with a pink tinge and are attractive well into winter.



Heleniums are a favourite perennial, blooming from early summer and well into fall. The yellow/orange/bronze flower heads are much loved by our pollinators. Clump-forming and sun-loving, they are extremely easy-care. Regular dead-heading will keep the bloom going for months.

And – below - still going in October, *H.* 'Ayesha' is one of the loveliest hydrangeas to grace a garden.



Deer resistant *Rosa rugosa* produces colourful rose hips if you stop dead-heading in August.

**Mt Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society**  
**meeting held at the**  
**Qualicum Beach Civic Centre**  
**September 12, 2018 at 7:30 pm**  
**Minutes**

The first session of the 2018-19 season saw a good turnout of MARS members to hear President Glen Jamieson talk about the gardens of Scandinavia. He and his wife Dorothy took part in the spring ARS convention in Bremen that attracted about 175 members, mainly from North America. Not a travelogue, his talk focused on aspects of gardening with relation to the private and public gardens he visited in Denmark and Sweden – lighting, different fencing material, the use of stone and interesting plants.

After the coffee break, Linda Derkach explained the Privacy Policy now posted on the MARS website and the membership application form that all members will be required to fill out this year when they pay their membership fee. By ticking one box the member gives permission to use one's pictures taken during MARS activities. Linda stressed this move was not compulsory and every effort would be taken to abide by the member's wishes.

**AGM:** This was also the night of the Annual General Meeting, usually held in May, but delayed for several reasons. There were no elections this year as everyone on the executive has another year to serve. Treasurer Ray Walker delivered the financial report for the year ending 2017, the expenses and revenue for 1918 so far and provided a budget for the current season. MARS finances are healthy. It was moved by Ray Walker and seconded by Linda Derkach that the financial report be approved as presented.

*Carried Unanimously*

**Other Business:** 1. John DeBoer asked for help to manage the library and fill in making coffee if he and his wife Donna are unable to make the trip from Port Alberni. The library is contained in totes and brought to every meeting. Interested parties should contact either John or Glen Jamieson.

2. The **Rhododendron Show and Sale** will be on Saturday, April 20 even though it is on Easter weekend. Co-chair Guy Loyer has canvassed vendors

and all are aware of the holiday and are willing to attend. A show of hands indicated members would be available for volunteer jobs on that day.

3. Rose Pruffer, who manages the plant sale at the Rhododendron Show urged members to start dividing and potting up now, being sure to name the plant and the specific variety, if possible.

4. Sherry Thompson, **Garden Tour** chair urged members to join the committee; she also asked members to suggest great gardens for the tour. Usually 10-12 are needed but a few more is useful in case of last-minute cancellations.

5. Although the two-day **bus tour** was enthusiastically received, Linda Derkach suggested that this year's tour be only one day because of other club commitments. She asked for suggestions.

6. The **Christmas Party** will be on Sunday, December 9. Ray and Jane Walker are happy to host again but were quite amenable to let another member do it. Glen asked members to consider the offer. Marilyn said the dinner would be similar to last year's with Qualicum Foods in Q.B. cooking the turkeys and the sides being provided in an organized pot luck. She asked members to consider donating some of their QF points for the turkey acquisition.

7. Seats for the 2018 mini-conference in October are going fast. Tony said he is now preparing a wait list in case there are cancellations.

8. Two new members signed up again raising the total to 71.

9. Baked goods for this meeting were provided by Jane Walker, Sherry Thompson, Marilyn Dawson, Kathy Loyer.

10. Door prize, *Rhododendron* 'Busaki' was won by Ray Walker; other prizes were two sets of cards with Elaine Derkach's paintings, *R. 'Belva's Joy'*, *R. makinoi*, *R. 'Blue Tit'*, azalea Bloomathon Lavender and an anthurium. Winners were: Dorothy Jamieson (2), Joanne Hamilton, Kathy Loyer, Willy Dunlop (2), Diane Henders.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:40 pm

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## Fall Events and Activities

Date & Time	Event	Location
<b>Monday, October 1</b> 1:00 to 3:00 Doors open: 12:30	<b>Spring Flowering Bulbs:            Beyond Tulips and Daffodils</b> <i>Alpine Gardeners of Mid Vancouver Island</i> Speaker: Bernie Dinter \$5 at the door	<b>QB Civic Centre</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 10</b> 7:30 pm	<b>MARS Meeting:</b> <b><i>How the Big Nurseries Do It</i></b> with Rose and Art Prufer	<b>QB Civic Centre</b>
Sunday, October 14 Sunday, October 21 Sunday, October 28 11 am to 3:30 pm	<b>Milner Gardens and Woodland            Fall Openings</b> Enjoy the tapestry of fall colours. Tea room open 11 to 3 pm for soup and scones.	<b>Milner Gardens            Qualicum Beach</b>
Wednesday, October 17 7:00 pm Doors open: 6:30	<b>Eaglecrest Garden Club:</b> <b><i>Gardening for Winter Interest in the Landscape</i></b> with Kathy Claxton Guests: \$3.00	<b>QB Civic Centre</b>
<b>Sunday, October 21</b> 12:45 to 4:00 pm	<b>Making the Case for            Naturescapes:            Integrating Native Plants in Our Gardens</b> <i>Vancouver Island Master Gardeners</i> To Register email <a href="mailto:wendy.strachan1@gmail.com">wendy.strachan1@gmail.com</a> \$10 at the door	<b>Beban Park Social Centre,            2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo</b>
<b>Sunday, October 28</b> 10 am to 4 pm	<b>Navigating Garden Myths</b> <i>MARS &amp; Nanaimo RS</i> <b><i>SOLD OUT - Waitlist being taken</i></b> <i>marsrhodos.ca</i>	<b>Parksville Community and Conference Centre</b>

## *October:*

### *Time to Divide and Pot Up*

MARS Plant Sale is just seven months away!! But now is the time to think about what you might donate to our sale. If you are dividing or propagating plants in your garden, now is the time to pot up so that your little divisions will look grand for our plant sale at Easter.

MARS member Rose Prufer is already hard at work, lifting and dividing her hostas below. This lovely cultivar has been potted up into six small pots to grow on. They will be much sought after at our plant sale. Please label your plants if possible.

