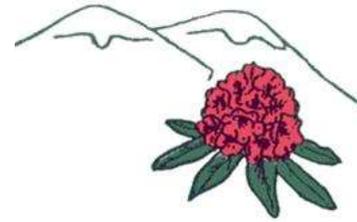


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS
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Volume 29, Issue 9

NOVEMBER 2018

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Christmas Party - Executive

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Garden Tour – Sherry Thompson

Truss Show – Kathy & Guy Loyer

Greeter – Guy Loyer

Historian –

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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:

Geoff Ball

Executive Director, Milner Gardens



Geoff and members of the Grieg family at the opening of the Grieg Species Rhododendron Garden at Milner Gardens and Woodland.

Geoff will speak on...

***The History of
Milner Gardens
and
Woodland***

MARS Website

**Check out our updated and
exciting renewed website
at marsrhodos.ca**

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,
November 14**



Cotinus 'Grace' is considered by many to have the best fall colour of this varied family of easy to grow and very accommodating shrubs.

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Upcoming Programs

❖ Wednesday, November 14

- **History of Milner Gardens**
- Geoff Ball, Executive Director of Milner Gardens and Woodland

Membership Renewal

If you have not already renewed your membership in MARS, please see

Tony Ansdell

at our general meeting on

November 14

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.

MARS Christmas Party

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Plans are already underway for another awesome Christmas Party for Martians.

We are planning on a fun auction so please think about a *novel or interesting item* you can donate to the auction and bring to our November 14 meeting.

Greig Species Garden Welcomes the Latest Arrival



Rhododendron mallotum is a new arrival at the species garden at Milner. Donated by MARS member Terry Richmond, this lovely species is welcomed here by John Deniseger, Calvin Parsons, Art Lightburn, Marilyn Dawson and Glen Jamieson.

Bus Tour Memories....



Rose Pruffer is enjoying flashbacks to our club Bus Tour of the Lower Mainland in June! This gorgeous blue salvia was blooming in late October!

MARS Propagation: Update from Sherry Thompson

We are planning another propagation trip to Victoria for November 10. Thanks to Ken Webb for volunteering to help us with his expertise and propagator. *Please take new cuttings, labelled, wrapped in a damp paper towel, and enclosed in a plastic bag to Sherry at 324 Morison Ave in Parksville, or Marilyn in Qualicum Beach, by Friday, November 9.*



Our yearling cuttings are coming along. About 202 are still growing, 42 in gallons after our November 2 potting efforts, and the rest in 4" pots. Thanks to Don for tending them through our long hot summer, and to our additional volunteers hosting babies through the winter. See the photos of our rhododendron yearlings and our potting up crew! Thanks to Kim and Milner Gardens for hosting our potting up efforts!



Fall into Gardening

Story: Marilyn Dawson

Photos: Linda Derkach

It all started with an idea last year when members of MARS and NRS met over lunch: would a fall conference, not just on rhododendrons but on gardening in general, work in this area? Could the two mid-island rhododendron chapters make it work? The answer came on Sunday Oct. 28 when 100 gardeners from Victoria to Campbell River attended the first "Fall into Gardening Conference" at the Parksville Community and Conference Centre and pronounced it a huge success.

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, a horticulture scientist from Washington State University was the first to speak, holding her audience spellbound for an hour discussing the facts and fiction of landscape myths. She was followed by Donna Balzer, a host of HGTV's Bugs and Blooms whose subject was growing better food faster.



Glen Jamieson welcomes an enthusiastic crowd of around 100 passionate gardeners from all the rhododendron clubs on the island, plus many friends from other gardening clubs in the area.

After the lunch break, BC Botanical Garden associate director Douglas Justice gave a spirited presentation on his trip to Tibet following in the footsteps of earlier explorers and explaining some of the problems of modern-day travel. He was followed by Jeff de Jong, site manager of Abkhazi Gardens and CFAX radio personality who discussed companion plants for rhododendrons. The final speaker was Dany Fortin of Comox who divided his

presentation between a short film and a hands-on way to create a crevice garden.



Horticulturalist Dany Fortin demonstrates the intricacies of creating a crevice garden

It was a full day and the committee got its answer: yes there is interest in a fall conference with good speakers. The committee, Glen Jamieson, Chris Southwick, Tony Ansdell, John Deniseger and Marilyn Dawson hope to repeat the experiment in 2020 and thereafter annually in a larger room. (Next year, MARS hosts the ARS Fall Regional Conference in Parksville at the same facility.)



This crevice garden in a pot can winter outside, requires little attention and contains about a dozen little alpines – satisfying even the most enthusiastic plant-a-holic.



Survey sheets filled out by the sold-out crowd were enthusiastic about the quality of the speakers and suggested names and topics to pursue for the future. Committee members welcome topic ideas and speaker suggestions.



Members of the organizing committee for Fall into Gardening - Chris Southwick, Tony Ansdell and Marilyn Dawson – sharing a laugh and are clearly pleased with the enthusiastic attendance at the conference.

**Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society General
Meeting Minutes**

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
October 10, 2018 at 7:30 pm

With the President, Glen Jamieson away, Tony Ansdell chaired the meeting which began with Rose and Art Prufer as presenters. Rose, who got involved with growing things because “plants don’t talk back”, talked about her years in the nursery business, Art interjecting from time to time and masterminding the technical aspects of the program. Entitled “How the Big Nurseries Do It”, her talk covered a wide range of plants from the B.C. coast to Southern California.

After the break, Linda Derkach brought the members up to date on the progress so far with the ARS 2019 conference, which will be held September 27-29 at the Parksville Community Conference Centre on Jensen Street. There will be a range of speakers, including Marc Columbel from France, Richard Hebda, Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Botanical Garden, Federal Way, Wash. as well as a judged photo display and silent auction. Various tours will take up Saturday afternoon. Banquets on Friday and Saturday evening round out the schedule.

Linda reminded members that volunteers will be needed for various jobs before and during the conference. The immediate need was for someone to help Barbara Kulla with the silent auction.

Other Business:

1. The Rhododendron Show and Sale will have its first meeting of the new season on October 24 to plan for the event next April.

2. The Species Garden Advisory Committee meets at Milner Gardens and Woodland on October 23 to plan the next steps in the Greig garden.

3. MARS Garden Tour: Members were urged to recommend gardens suitable for the 2019 Garden Tour and alert the chair, Sherry Thompson. Gardens are usually selected in the fall for the upcoming year.

4. MARS Members’ Bus Tour: Linda said the bus tour next spring will take place over two days in the Victoria area, probably mid-week in late June. Gardens may include Royal Roads, Abkhazi and Government House.

5. The Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 9 at the home of Ray and Jane Walker. 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. Almost immediately she had offers to provide enough turkeys for the meal.

6. The 2018 Mini-conference in October is sold out and Tony has a wait list in case there are cancellations.

7. Baked goods for this meeting were provided by Joy Dunlop, Ann DeBrincat, Carol Hansen, Yvonne Landry and Dan Schwarz.

8. Door prize: *Rhododendron* ‘Noyo Brave’, donated by Al Murray was won by Trish Marrion; other prizes were two sets of bulbs, *R. ‘Cloudburst’*, *R. ‘Wren’*, *R. ‘Ruby Hart’* and a *skimmia*. Winners were: Trish Marrion, Ed Liedke, Diane Henders, Joan Rich, Joy Dunlop and Caroline Dumanowski.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:20 pm



Rhododendrons in autumn have many charms. *Rhododendron* ‘Nico Red’ sports brilliant, fire-engine red leaves in November. And in May, the most exquisitely lovely, tiny, perfect cherry red flowers.



Seedy Saturday 2019

Robin Benke, Volunteer Coordinator

The Seedy Saturday Committee is already working to prepare for the upcoming event on February 2, 2019. The success of our Seedy Saturday 2018 was due in large part to the dedication and support of the volunteers from your garden club. We could not have done it without you. Have you visited the website for the 2018 pictures and details about the 2019 program?

[Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday](#)

I will be contacting all past volunteers via email for their assistance again this year. There is also a link on the Volunteer page where individuals interested in volunteering can send their contact information.

The committee is always welcoming new volunteers. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the website with any questions or ideas. We look forward to seeing you at **Seedy Saturday, February 2, 2019** at the Qualicum Beach Civic Center.

Mid Island Floral Art Club

presents

Christmas Sparkle Arrangement

Thursday, November 8 at 2:00 pm

St. Stephen's Church Hall
150 Village Way, QB
Guests \$6.00 For more info...
Deanne 250-752-1858

The Qualicum Beach Garden Club

presents

a series of seasonally topical
Winter and Christmas projects
for Gardeners,
including creating wreaths & planters

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Doors open at 7 pm

Socialize and enjoy refreshments for
the first half hour...

Meeting and presentations take place
from **7:30-9:00 pm.**

All are welcome,

Non-members: \$3.

Striving for Fall Colour in Your Garden

Words & Photos: Linda Derkach

Japanese maples, katsura, liquidambar, climbing hydrangeas - these are just a few of the many lovely trees and shrubs that provide good fall colour - one of the most important criteria when choosing plants for your garden. Here are a few more that do not disappoint when autumn comes our way. Even in the gray and rain of November, these plants shine.



Not often seen this far north, *Lagerstroemia* 'Zuni' (Crepe Myrtle) is a cross between *L. indica* and *L. fauriei* and is one of several mildew resistant hybrids developed by the National Arboretum in Washington, DC. 'Zuni' is a compact cultivar featuring dark green foliage with lovely fall colour and exfoliating bark as it ages and lavender flowers if you are lucky. It is deciduous, upright, spreading and multi-stemmed. If you see a specimen at a nursery, snap it up. This shrub has done very well in a large pot for many years, and even bloomed during one very long, hot summer here on Vancouver Island.



Visitors to Milner Gardens and Woodland will have encountered a huge specimen of *Cotoneaster rhederi* that is the mother of hundreds of babies, purchased at the gardens, and now growing in gardens all over Vancouver Island. This specimen was container grown and pruned hard for many years. Now set free in a wildlife hedge, the early flowers feed bees and the autumn berries are beloved by robins. This multi-branched tree/shrub can grow to 15 or 30 feet but is also content with being pruned to keep in bounds. Great fall colour makes it a gold star three-season plant.



Mahonia x media 'Charity' is blooming now in coastal BC gardens providing much-needed sustenance for our hummingbirds that winter over. Almost no work with architectural attractive evergreen leaves, 'Charity' wants to be big so give it a sunny spot in the back of the border. *M.* 'Winter Sun' bears bright yellow flowers in densely clustered, arching racemes.



Enkianthus campanulatus

There are not enough superlatives to describe *Enkianthus campanulatus*. If you do not have one in your garden, put this exceptional plant at the top of your list.

A great companion for rhododendrons, enkianthus produce exquisite bell-shaped, creamy-yellow flowers in spring followed by delicate leaves that turn scrumptious shades of orange and red in autumn. This useful plant likes an open site in a woodland garden and can tolerate sun as well.

Enkianthus can grow 6' to 8' tall so give it room. *E.* 'Showy Lantern' is a narrower form with pink to cherry red blossoms and deep green leaves.



Cyclamen hederifolium 'Silverleaf'

I am not sure it matters if this cyclamen blooms - the leaves alone are magical. Just be sure to find a subtle way to mark its spot so you don't dig it up accidentally when dormant.



A wonderful small tree for any garden, *Acer griseum* has it all - fresh green leaves in late spring, beautiful late fall colour and amazing peeling, paper-like burnished bark, thus the common name Paper Bark Maple.



Cotinus 'Golden Spirit'

'Golden Spirit' holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society - and for very good reason. Leaves emerge in late spring a gorgeous lime green maturing to golden yellow in summer. Flowers in summer resemble puffs of smoke - thus the common name Smoke Bush. Then, in autumn, the grand finale! 'Golden Spirit' leaves turn orange, coral, red, salmon, and pink - easily one of the stars of your autumn garden. Easy to grow - loves most soil types, sun or part shade, drought tolerant once established. *Cotinus* increase rapidly in the growing season, but don't mind being pruned back, even several times through the spring and summer. Give it lots of room at the back of a border.



Acer japonicum 'Crimson Queen' was magnificent in her October scarlet cloak. And now, in November, the fallen leaves - still brilliant red - create a charming vignette with pulmonaria, geraniums and *Cyclamen hederifolium*.