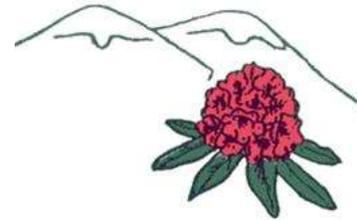


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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Milner Gardens - John England

Plant Prizes – Sherry Thompson

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Propagation – Sherry Thompson

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Goodies – Jane Walker

Species Garden – Tony Ansdell

Sunshine – Judy Wood

Webmaster – Diane Henders

Welcome – Joanne Hamilton

MARS Potluck Windup Summer Party

Saturday, June 15
5:00 pm

Home of
Al and Linda Derkach

*More information
inside....*

2019 ARS Fall Conference

in

PARKSVILLE

Register at

www.marsrhodos.ca/ars2019

*You may also register in person
at the June party with Tony.
Just bring a cheque with you.*

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting:

Saturday,
June 15
Party



This peony in the garden of Trudy and Doug Hodges put her best party dress on for our 28th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour in Qualicum Beach and Parksville.

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Activities and Events

- ❖ *MARS Potluck Windup Party*
 - Saturday, June 15
- ❖ *MARS Bus Tour to Victoria*
 - Tuesday, June 18
- ❖ *ARS Fall Conference, Parksville*
 - September 27-29, 2019

Shade has its Charms....



Those lucky enough to visit the Cherry Creek garden of Dan and Vel in spring are treated to the spectacle of hundreds of jewel-toned primula along with rogersia, ostrich ferns, and hosta companions.

It's Party Time!

After a thoroughly exciting Marsian winter and spring... it's now time to come together, chat with friends and celebrate our awesome rhododendron club.

When: Saturday, June 15

Where: Al & Linda Derkach
1051 Surfside Drive
Qualicum Beach

Appies: 5:00 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Apres Dinner: Fun Auction of Garden-related items - plants, books, etc. Please bring something for the auction.

We hope you will all come. Please email Marilyn Dawson at dawsom@shaw.ca and let her know what dish you would like to bring.

Also bring....

plates, cups, glasses, cutlery and beverage of your choice.

ARS Bronze Medals for Ann and Don



Ann de Brincat with Marilyn and Glen

Ann is one of the unsung heroes of MARS. A cheerful, willing volunteer, she has worn many hats and contributed to MARS in many ways. She has served as director for twelve years, including two years as Secretary and one as Vice President. She was Program Chair for four years and has been a long-time worker at the annual Rhododendron Show and Sale, both displaying her tender rhododendrons and working a cash register. Ann has also led several propagation workshops. She has always been generous with her time, participating particularly at the Christmas social by donating the turkey for this annual dinner. Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society happily recognizes this outstanding service with the chapter's highest honor, the Bronze Medal.



Don Bridgen with Linda and Glen

This medal is in recognition of Don Bridgen's long-standing service to MARS, a willing volunteer, always helping out wherever he could. For seven years he served as a director on the executive, choosing the monthly raffle plants and holding them until needed. He has a particular interest in propagating rhododendrons from cuttings and has conducted many propagation workshops for MARS members and the public. Most recently he has joined other MARS members in Victoria in rooting rhododendron cuttings. Don is generous with his time and on many occasions he has acted as a judge at district truss shows. With great pleasure we recognize this outstanding service to MARS with the chapter's highest honor, the Bronze Medal.

Memories of Another Fabulous MARS Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour

Words & Photos: Linda Derkach

Wonderful spring weather, great gardens and amazing artists are a successful recipe for our outstanding Garden Tour planned and executed with style and pizzazz by MARS. While there were many, here are but a few highlights from the 12 gardens on the tour...



Trudy and Doug Hodges hosted another successful fundraising tea for Haven House in their park-like back yard. The creative vignette above was found in a quiet corner of the garden.



Many gardens featured local artists.



Rhododendron 'Qualicum's Pride' is always a hit in the garden of John and Arlene England.



In the garden of John Fox and Linda Moore an old wheelbarrow became an opportunity for creativity. *Page 4*



In the Dodds' garden, this rockery greets visitors with a lovely display of alpine plants.



Rhododendron 'Tara To' thrives at the home of Barb and Ken Kulla. Although the hybridizer is officially unknown, this plant is available on Vancouver Island. It is much admired with handsome foliage and a gorgeous pink/coral truss.



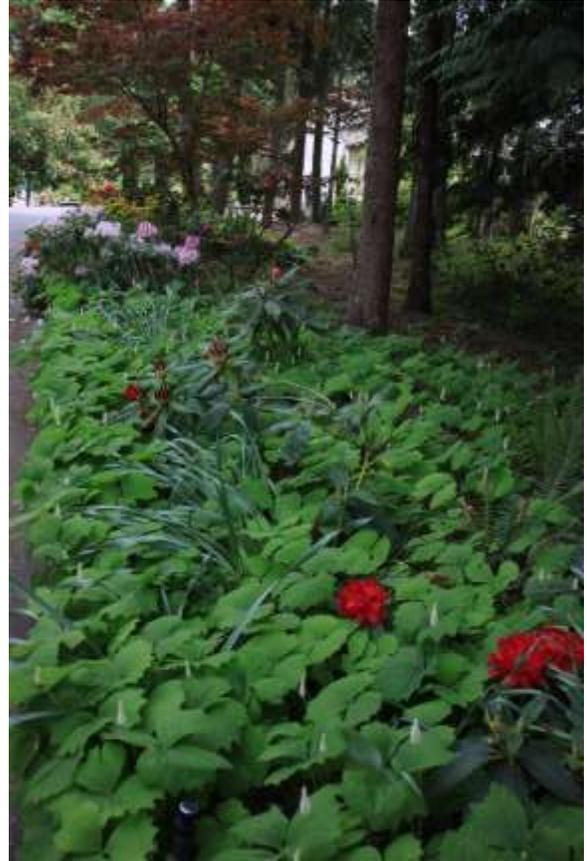
Deb and Ron Christie have nurtured this exquisite rhododendron. And in the backyard below they have created an amazing sanctuary with garden art, veggies, places to relax and a stream guarded by a conscientious raven.



Newly revitalized raised beds keep the White household supplied with lots of veggies.



Creative touches are found everywhere on the large plot of Kimberly and Brian Miller. Quirky birdhouses entice feathered friends above while strawberries seem pretty happy in a clay pot below.



Rhododendrons have a living mulch of native vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*) at the country home of Karen Bennett and Kel Roberts.



Rhododendrons enjoy life on the edge of the forest at the home of Bob and Jean Heard.



The Bosworth's love their shady patch that also has room for a small orchard - and a rhododendron or two.

No MARS event would be complete without a party....and at the home of Kathy and Guy it looks like everyone had a great time!!



Skeletonized!

Linda Derkach

Imagine my surprise and horror when I discovered that half of my beautiful *Rhododendron occidentale* had been skeletonized by a gang of nasty little green caterpillars.



Rhododendron occidentale – not yet eaten!

Following some investigation and research, we are pretty confident that this is the Azalea Sawfly larvae chewing its way through its favourite food – *Rhododendron mollis* and *R. occidentale* (deciduous azaleas). So if you have these species in your garden, this would be a good time to check them out for this gang of green thugs.

According to the website of the Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks, Azalea sawfly adults are small, black, fly-like insects. The larvae are green and closely match the leaf colour of their host plants. (Yes – very hard to spot at first.) Generally, one or two larvae per leaf feed along the edge up to the midrib leaving only the midribs as in the photo below in my garden yesterday. Damage is restricted to the tips of branches but occasionally plants can be

entirely defoliated. And without me interceding on behalf of this plant, that's where we were headed.



Leaves denuded with only the midribs remaining.

Sawflies overwinter in cocoons in the soil and emerge just as the new leaves emerge – how convenient 😊 Eggs are laid singly along the leaf edge and the small larvae begin to feed along the leaf edge. That's where you will find them. Thankfully there is only one generation per year.

While the larvae are difficult to spot because they match the colour of the leaves perfectly their frass is a dead giveaway – dark specks on leaf surfaces - a tell tale sign.

Management

Handpicking of insects is possible for small plants but larger specimens pose a bigger challenge. Chemical controls are not available in British Columbia. And using them will also hurt the beneficial insects and birds. Hopefully these green menaces will look appetizing to our chickadees and sparrows!

Reference:

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort>

Mid Island Floral Art Club

Thursday, June 13 at 2:00 pm.
St. Stephen's Church Hall
150 Village Way, Qualicum Beach

Speaker: Brenna Quan

Winner of the Pacific Northwest Floral
Design Competition 2019
presents

Forage, Fabricate, Flower

Visitors: \$10

For more information please contact
Deanne at 250-752-1858

Qualicum Beach Garden Club

Tuesday, June 11
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
Doors open at 7pm; meeting at 7:30pm
Guests \$3

Speaker: Jamey Lauinger

of Valley Succulents
on growing cacti and succulents

Valley Succulents is a specialty nursery
where a large assortment of cacti,
succulents and perennials are grown.
It is their goal to raise an extensive selection
of rare and unusual cacti
and succulents and offer these
to collectors and amateurs alike.
Due to Vancouver Island's wet and cold
winter weather we offer a full range of
succulents and a few cacti that are
cold and wet hardy.
Jamey will be bringing selection of plants
that will be available to purchase.

www.valleysucculents.ca

Eaglecrest Garden Club

Wednesday, June 19 at 7:00 pm
(doors open at 6:30 pm)
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
Guest fee: \$3

Speaker: Barry Roberts

Into the Hydrangea-Verse

Barry is "incorrigibly obsessive" about hydrangeas. Barry will explain why there is so much more to hydrangeas than the showy "mopheads" we all know. He will take us through the extensive family of hydrangeas, the notable species and those 'must-have' cultivars, as well as cultivation, pruning and propagation techniques. Barry is the owner of Heritage Hydrangeas, with a collection of over 100 hydrangea species in his garden.



Himalayan Blue Poppies enjoy a shady
glade with *Cardiocrinum giganteum*,
ostrich ferns and the much maligned but
statuesque skunk cabbage.

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Cowichan Valley nurseryman Bernie Dinter took MARS members on a brief trip down memory lane the last meeting of the current season before describing the vast changes that have taken over the nursery industry in a relatively few short years. In "The Changing Focus of Gardening" he outlined how and where we used to shop on the island for our plants and how, with population growth, increased prices and technology, our gardening focus has changed as our way of life has evolved. The nursery business has had to change to meet that challenge. At present he said there are four generations of gardeners, those aged over 80, those 60-70, followed by generation X and the millennials, all with different garden needs and interests. Some may have homes with large gardens, others have postage size gardens or even small balconies. Where once interest was high in a well-kept lawn, complete with the necessary chemicals and water to keep it that way, gardeners are now considering the environment and the challenges of summer drought.

The month of May is traditionally the month for the MARS Annual General Meeting and the election of the executive. The slate presented to the members was unanimously approved following a motion put forward by Karen Bennett and seconded by Ann Zimmerman. The newly elected slate: President: Glen Jamieson, Vice President, Kathy Loyer, Secretary, Marilyn Dawson: Treasurer, Ray Walker. Directors: Tony Ansdell, Jane Walker, Dawn House, David Landry, Rose Pruffer, Linda Derkach, Guy Loyer and Larry Stefanyk.

Treasurer: Ray Walker gave an early report on proceeds from the Rhododendron Show. Vendors were down in number, so plant sales were also down. However, the MARS table sales, which are 100 per cent profit were well up over last year. The door prizes also saw increased sales.

Rhododendron Show & Sale: Guy and Kathy Loyer thanked all the volunteers who participated at the

April 20 sale and spoke of the challenges this year, particularly a late spring with few blooms and a disappointing number of registrants for the truss show. She stressed it was important to bring blooms for exhibition even if none are expected to win a ribbon. A Best in Show, small leaf trophy and the Hammerhead plaque were awarded to Sherry Thompson. Best in Show large leaf went to Judy Millicheap, who was not present.

2019 ARS Fall Regional Conference: Linda Derkach stressed the need for members to register early to get the bargain registration rate of \$95 which includes 12 speakers, two workshops, Saturday lunch, choice of three tours and breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Buffet-style dinners are an extra \$50 each Friday and Saturday.

Garden Tour: Sherry Thompson said all was ready for the Mother's Day Garden Tour on May 11 and 12. Artists were situated at several gardens and Trudy Hodges was opening her garden again serving refreshments in aid of Haven House.

In a short educational, Glen Jamieson finished his discussion on fertilizing, the contents of which were circulated to the membership.

Business:

1. Sherry reported that Al and Maria Bieberstein offered cuttings from their garden when time comes to propagate.
2. Linda says the **bus tour** is completely sold out.
3. Tony Ansdell said **membership** now stands at 80.
4. On Tuesday May 14, there's a **work bee at Milner Gardens and Woodland** to put up shade cloth for the species rhododendrons. Marilyn Dawson has sent out notices to the work crew.
5. The **June windup potluck** is at the home of Al and Linda Derkach, 1051 Surfside Drive, Qualicum Beach.
6. Plants offered for prizes were: "Diamond Pink" azalea, *Rhododendron* "Christmas Cheer", *R. makinoi*, *R. "PJM Elite"* and *Cardiocrinum giganteum*. Winners are: Diane Henders, Audrey McMillan, Liz Campbell, Kel Roberts and Ann Zimmerman.

A Garden Thug Exposed

By Linda Derkach

What has shiny, evergreen leaves, fragrant yellow flowers and luscious black berries... and threatens the delicate eco-system here on Vancouver Island?



Meet *Daphne laureola* – in fact you might have it growing in your garden even though it is on the list of noxious, invasive plants in BC and many other places.

Daphnes are native to southwestern Europe but have been introduced as an ornamental plant to many parts of the world including this part of North America.

The bark, sap and berries of all daphnes are toxic to humans and small animals, and the sap is a skin irritant. But *Daphne laureola* has the very undesirable habit of spreading very easily thanks to hungry birds who eat the berries with impunity and then drop the poisonous seed to quickly germinate in new ground. It likes to colonize shady, moist areas of our Douglas fir/arbutus and Garry oak ecosystems, replacing native vegetation and forming a dense canopy blocking out light to the ground. I have seen huge colonies in Nanaimo gardens – having made itself immensely attractive to unsuspecting homeowners.

Plant scientists believe that *Daphne laureola* alters the soil chemistry and acidity, preventing establishment of native plant species. These kinds of habitat changes affect both native plants and animals in a very negative way.

Daphne laureola is sometimes even seen for sale in local garden centres, and customers are seduced by the fragrant yellow flowers, beautiful shiny leaves and amazing hardiness. But clearly it is not good for our children, pets or environment.

If you are not yet convinced that this plant should be banished from our gardens, *Daphne laureola* has the dubious distinction of being listed with the Canadian Poisonous Plants Information System, WorkSafe BC Toxic Plant Warning and the Invasive Plant Council of BC!

If you have found this plant growing in your garden, you can replace it with more desirable broad-leafed evergreens such as skimmia, hellebores and rhododendrons. Daphne seedlings can be pulled out by the root and larger specimens can be eradicated using large loppers to cut below the soil level. Watch for sprouting from the root and dig out as much as you can. Be sure to wear protective clothing and gloves – and please don't ask your kids to help you with this project!!

Sources:

- WorkSafe BC Website: Toxic Plant Warning
- King County Website: Environment/Animals and Plants
- Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team Website
- Photo from Wikipedia

This article is a re-print from 2012. But the “thug” was recently seen in Nanoose, prompting this re-newed warning.