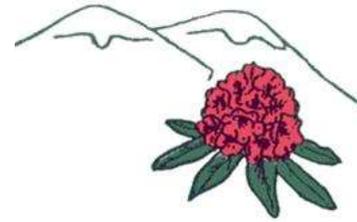


THE RHODOVINE



THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

MARS
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www.marsrhodos.ca

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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

2019 ARS Fall Conference in PARKSVILLE September 27 to 29, 2019

You don't want
to miss 12
outstanding
speakers, tours
and events this
close to home!

Register at
www.marsrhodos.ca/ars2019

You may also register in person
with Tony. Be sure to bring
a cheque with you.

MARS Meetings

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday,
September 11



Beauty of the Desert
in the American
South West

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Upcoming Programs:

Wednesday, September 11

- *Glen Jamieson on Deserts*
- *Linda Derkach on Gardens of the Delaware River Valley*

Wednesday, October 9

- *Margaret Cadwaladr on Dart's Hill*

Wednesday, November 9

- *Harry Burton on Apple Luscious Organic Orchard*

MARS September Meeting



Glen Jamieson will present on North American deserts, focusing on characteristics of each, plus plants of Joshua Tree National Park and Anza-Borrego State Park where a spectacular flowering season resulted from substantial winter rains.

Linda Derkach will take us on a meander through the Delaware River Valley in Pennsylvania and focus on some of the features of gardens in that part of the eastern US.

Don't Miss It!

**ARS Fall Regional Conference
September 27 to 29, 2019**

**Parksville Community and
Conference Centre**

Register at

www.marsrhodos.ca/ars2019

MARS Steering Committee is putting the finishing touches to the ARS Fall Regional Conference at the Parksville Community Centre, September 27-29.

With the theme *Rhododendrons as the World Warms*, the 12 speakers will be focusing on coping with climate change in its many forms. Although the early bird deadline has passed, there is still time to register at www.marsrhodos.ca/ars2019/ to hear 12 renowned speakers and take in the workshops, plant sales, bus tours and silent auctions. Also included in the bargain registration price of just \$110 are two continental breakfasts and Saturday lunch. Two banquets on Friday and Saturday are extra. Be sure to include any special dietary needs on the registration form.

Those who plan to donate to the **Silent Auction** please contact Barbara Kulla at kkulla@shaw.ca or 250-752-7369.

Those who plan to enter the **Photo Exhibition** should contact Linda Derkach at lindaderkach@shaw.ca.

Individual chairs will be choosing their volunteers for specific duties. If you want to volunteer and do not have an assignment, talk to a steering committee member. Linda Derkach is chair, lindaderkach@shaw.ca

ARS President Delivers Cheque to Milner Project

Marilyn Dawson



Geoff Ball, Milner Gardens Executive Director, accepts the ARS cheque from Ken Webb to buy more plants for the Greig Species Garden. From left are Geoff, Glen Jamieson, Chris Southwick, Tony Ansdell, Paul Wurz, Marilyn Dawson, Craig Clarke, John Deniseger and Art Lightburn, all members of the Species Advisory Committee. Alan Campbell is behind Paul.

Several years ago the five chapters of the American Rhododendron Society agreed to partner with Milner Gardens and Woodland and its parent Vancouver Island University to create a rhododendron species garden to show the diversity of the genus. The Greig Species Garden opened last year to much fanfare with about 150 species in the ground. It's an on-going project that has taken countless hours of planning and physical work by

many volunteers. This past spring about 450 companion plants were added to flesh out the garden, including a selection of hostas, much to the delight of a marauding deer.

More species rhododendrons will be added and in July at the species advisory meeting, Ken Webb the new President of the American Rhododendron Society drove up from Victoria with a cheque from the ARS Endowment Fund to purchase particular species when they come available. Ken is a member of the Victoria Chapter. The cheque was the result of a successful grant application.

In the garden of John and Arlene...



Rhododendron luteum blooming this spring to the delight of garden visitors in John and Arlene's garden.

Photo: Corey DeCluyvers

Rooting

Rhododendron Cuttings

by Don Hyatt

Late summer and fall are usually good times to root cuttings, but it is often possible to root cuttings almost any time of year.

Selection:

Choose smaller cuttings without flower buds

I prefer cuttings made from the smaller shoots on my plants rather than big strong growths. I look for branches on the back side of the plant or in shaded spots and try to get stems that do not have flower buds. For one reason, smaller cuttings seem to root more easily for me since they don't need quite so many roots to support a new plant. Also, I hate to cut off any branches that might bloom the following spring. If any cuttings do have flower buds, I remove them since the energy wasted on flowering can go toward root formation.

Preparation:

Make short cuttings – trim larger leaves

Rhododendrons are shallow rooted plants and therefore cuttings do not need to be very long. I make short cuttings about 1.5 to 2 inches in length. I also trim the ends of large leaves to make them more manageable. Long shoots can sometimes be cut into several sections to get additional cuttings. If a variety is scarce I might try a few leaf-bud cuttings too. A leaf-bud cutting is single leaf with

some woody stem and a growth bud. Leaf-bud cuttings will often root just like normal ones but it is important to keep that bud above the soil line. If that bud rots, new growth will never emerge.



Sterilization:

Soak cuttings for five minutes in a Clorox solution

After trimming leaves and stems, I usually sterilize my cuttings in order to lessen insect and disease problems. I mix ¼ cup of Clorox with about five cups of water to make a sterilizing solution. I submerge the cuttings in that solution for five minutes which usually kills most buds and mold spores. Then I rinse the cuttings well and shake off excess water. Cuttings will remain enclosed inside plastic bags for months, so sterilization minimizes potential problems.

Wounding:

Remove a thin piece of bark from both sides

As the cutting begins its healing process, new roots will develop from callus tissue that forms at the cambium layer of the cut stem. In order to have a larger area for callus development, I cut away a thin sliver of bark from both sides of the bottom part of the cutting. I use a sharp

knife so as not damage the remaining bark. Azalea cuttings do not need to be wounded in this way.



Hormones:

Dip cuttings for five seconds in Dip 'N Grow

To encourage root formation, most rhododendrons need a little help. I use the liquid rooting concentrate called Dip 'N Grow. For hard to root rhododendron cuttings I dilute in the ratio one part hormone to five parts water. Azaleas root well with a one to ten solution. I dip cutting ends in the solution, let them stay for five seconds, and then remove.



Potting Up:

Insert cuttings, enclose in a clear plastic bag.

I insert the cuttings in pots containing a porous medium of equal parts peat moss and perlite with a bit of coarse sand. The medium should be damp but not too wet since excess moisture can encourage rot. I enclose each pot in a clear plastic bag and place these mini-green houses under my fluorescent lights that stay on for 18 hours per day or on a north windowsill that gets bright light but no direct sun. Cuttings should require no water or care for months. I keep them under the lights until new growth emerges the next spring and then transplant. Some varieties root in two to three months but stubborn types might take a year. I often wait until the next spring to repot.



Note: This article is reprinted with permission by the author.

Words and Photos: Don Hyatt

Qualicum Beach Garden Club
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
QB Civic Centre
Doors open at 7pm
Meeting begins at 7:30pm
Guests \$3.

Speaker: Kristin Crouch
Vegetable Growing 101

Kristin is passionate about gardening - both food and flower - since they go hand in hand. She is an organic gardener who believes in trying to be as sustainable as she can. From re-using what mother nature provides to recycling in the garden, she wants to do her best for the earth.

Kristin is the founder and past president of the Ladner Community Garden and teaches sustainable gardening workshops for her community. She is a certified master gardener with a diploma in horticulture. She loves writing about her gardening experiences and welcomes questions on all aspects of gardening.

<https://www.thatbloomingarden.com/blog/>

You can also find her on twitter at @deltagardener and on Facebook at That Bloomin' Garden.

Mid Island Floral Art Club
Thursday, September 12
at 2:00

St. Stephen's Church Hall
150 Village Way, QB

Have a go at
Hand Tied Bouquet

Info Deanne 250-752-1858

Eaglecrest Garden Club

Wednesday, Sept 25 at 7:00 pm
(doors open at 6:30 pm)
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.
Guest fee: \$3

Speaker: Margaret Mills

Mason Bees:

Everything You Need To Know

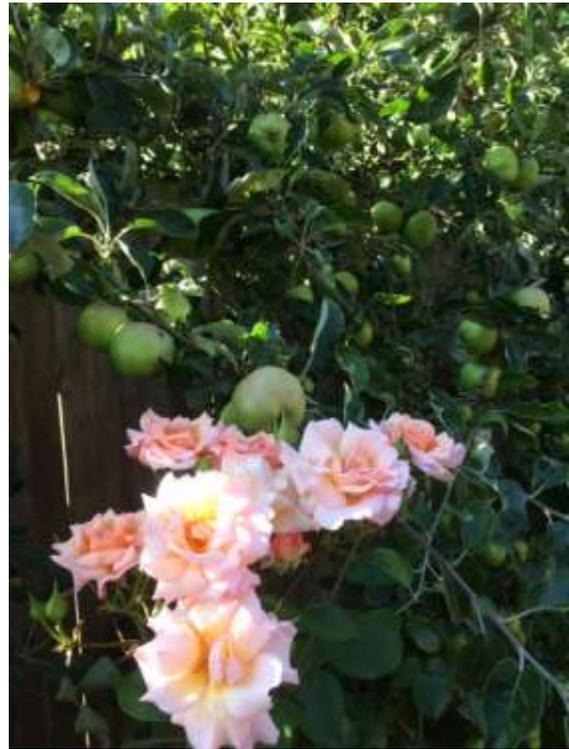
Margaret is a master gardener and Chief Horticulturalist for the City of Nanaimo. Honeybee populations on Vancouver Island are rapidly declining. Mason bees, of which there are species native to the area, are many times more efficient at pollinating fruit trees than honeybees. Margaret will discuss the bees, their life cycles, their nests, care of the next generation and many more interesting facts about mason bees.

Note that the meeting has been moved to the 4th Wednesday for this month only.



**In the Garden of Bob and
Marnie ...**

Rhododendron 'Nancy Evans' and
a white companion thrive
in Bob and Marnie's
backyard.



Apples and roses
make an unusual
and stunning combination.



In the garden and wild spaces of Diane and Phil's garden, bumble bees enjoy blue anemones and bears are regular visitors!

