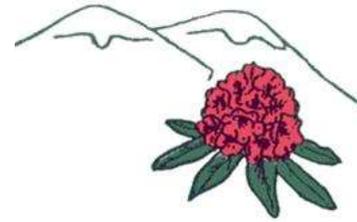


THE RHODOVINE



**THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

MARS
P. O. Box 342
Qualicum Beach, BC
V9K 1S8
www.marsrhodos.ca

Volume 30, Issue 10

DECEMBER 2019

President

Glen Jamieson
248-5593 glenj02@yahoo.ca

Vice-President

Kathy Loyer
738-0138 kathyloyer@telus.net

Treasurer

Ray Walker
248-5138 irjiffy@shaw.ca

Secretary

Marilyn Dawson
752-3694 dawsom@shaw.ca

Directors

Tony Ansdell
752-4475 ansdella@shaw.ca

Jane Walker
248-5138 irjiffy@shaw.ca

Linda Derkach
752-3545 lindaderkach@shaw.ca

Dawn House
738-2933 dl.house@telus.net

Rose Prufer
738-2393 ramapo@telus.net

David Landry
947-5828 david.landry@shaw.ca

Guy Loyer
738-0138 guyloyer@gmail.com

Lars Stefanyk
923-0939 lestefanyk@outlook.com

Dollar Table – Barbara Kulla

Newsletter Editor - Linda Derkach

Garden Tour – Louise Cotterill

Truss Show – Kathy & Guy Loyer

Greeter – Guy Loyer

Meeting Coordinator-Tony Ansdell

Membership – Tony Ansdell

Plant Prizes – Sherry Thompson

Program Chair – Glen Jamieson

Propagation – Sherry Thompson

PR - Marilyn Dawson

Goodies – Jane Walker

Species Garden – Tony Ansdell

Sunshine – Judy Wood

Webmaster – Diane Henders

Welcome – Joanne Hamilton

This month: **Christmas Party!**

**Sunday, December 8
5:00 pm**



Winter Visitor Elaine Derkach

**Jane and Ray Walker are once
again our gracious hosts for
the MARS Christmas Party.**

**This is great fun!
Don't miss it.
More details inside....**

MARS Meetings

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

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday,
January 8, 2020**



Oxydendrum arboreum is a spectacular small tree that features panicles of white flowers followed by vivid red leaves in autumn. It is native to eastern North America and found in woodlands and near streams. This beautiful specimen thrilled passersby in Qualicum in November. It is not common but very worthwhile seeking out.

Inside...

Events	Page 2
MARS Turns 30 ..	Page 3
Hummingbirds in Winter.....	Page 4
Propagation.....	Page 5
Minutes.....	Page 7
ARS 2020 Portland	Page 8
Milner Christmas Magic	Page 9

Upcoming Programs:

Sunday, December 8

- *MARS Christmas Party*

Wednesday, January 8

- *Members' Photo Night*

Wednesday, February 12

- *Pruning - or as we say in MARS - Prunerizing with Rose Pruffer*

Wednesday, March 11

- *MARS Circle of Knowledge*

Wednesday, April 15

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS THE THIRD WEDNESDAY IN APRIL - NOT OUR USUAL NIGHT

- *Lionel de Rothschild of Exbury Gardens, England*



MARS Christmas Party

You are invited!!

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Appies: 5 pm Dinner: 6 pm

Home of Jane and Ray Walker

824 San Malo Crescent, Parksville

This year features the same Fun

Auction we did last year with

Auctioneer Extraordinaire

David Landry

So please bring a roll of Loonies

Also please bring....

- The potluck dish you signed up for
- A beverage of your choice
- Warm clothing, food and/or money for those less fortunate
- An item for the Fun Auction – garden-related or not!

Note: When you arrive, please park straight in and close together right off the road. Parking is at a premium so please consider car-pooling if possible.

MARS Turns 30 in Style!!

Story: Marilyn Dawson
Photos: Linda Derkach

Every birthday deserves a cake and when you reach 30, surely that's worth two cakes. And that's what MARSians and guests wolfed down at the general meeting-cum birthday bash in November - 30 years to the month of its inception as a rhododendron society.



NRS Rosina Schmidt and members of the Nanaimo club treated us to a scrumptious Black Forest cake that disappeared almost instantly.

MARS had ordered a white cake with lemon filling, and then several members of the Nanaimo chapter headed by President Rosina Schmidt

arrived with a huge black forest cake. Hugs and a huge thank you to Nanaimo!



A huge crowd of members and guests had already sampled several plates of organic apples brought by guest speaker Harry Burton from Salt Spring Island, but that didn't stop them from eating cake, so much so that the table ran out of plates. No matter, what's a napkin for?

There are only five founding members who are still MARS members, Everett and Pat Jefferson, Dan Schwarz and Terry and Verna Richmond. Unfortunately, the Richmond's were unable to attend.

The fun evening closed with a lively plant auction and raffling of vintage wine glasses etched with the MARS logo.

Hummingbirds Through the Winter

Linda Derkach

Hummingbirds have been overwintering here on Vancouver Island for many years now, choosing the hospitality of our gardens over the long and hazardous haul to Mexico. And how blessed we are as many parts of the world do not have hummingbirds at all.



Hummer enjoying Bergamot (Monarda)

A critical responsibility for gardeners and homeowners who have enjoyed these amazing, feathered phenomena through the summer is to make sure they have food available through the dark days of winter when not so much is in bloom.

When freezing temperatures are predicted, it is important that their nectar does not freeze. And unless

you want to take the feeder in at night, and then get up before dawn in the freezing cold to put it out, here is a solution that might work for you. My resident "Birdman" created and erected a system for keeping the hummer food from freezing - thus ensuring their survival till spring.

A brooder or heat lamp connected to a thermostat hangs near the feeder, and during those frigid days and nights of winter, the thermostat automatically turns on the light when the temperature dips to 2 degrees. Burning brightly and keeping the life-saving sugar water at "hummer temp", our heat lamp keeps our feathered friends 'humming' along - and let's Birdman sleep in.



And in a show of Christmas spirit, Birdman added a shiny, red bow to make sure all the hummingbirds in the neighbourhood know where they can get a warm meal.

MARS Propagation Team Strikes 594 Cuttings

Story: Katherine Wasiak

With sharp tools, numerous tiny pots, and piles of fresh rhododendron cuttings, 13 MARS members spent the morning of November 18 at VIU's G.R. Paine Horticultural Training Centre greenhouses, preparing and striking almost 600 cuttings.



MARS members striking and recording the cuttings

Although old hat for some, this was a fascinating learning experience for others. We discovered (the hard way) that it is smart to pour water into the perlite bag before scooping it out to dampen down the unhealthy dust. We learned the recipe for a good

propagating medium - 5 parts perlite (large and small) to 2.5 parts fine coconut coir. We saw that the best cuttings are taken from semi-ripe and not woody stems, and we were shown the correct way to trim cuttings (don't squish stems and wound on one side of stem by cutting into the outer layer, not the deeper cambium layer, which carries nutrients).



Each orange label represents a MARS cutting

With assembly-line precision, cuttings were taken, wounded, moistened and dipped in rooting hormone before being carefully placed in pots. We also realized the importance of keeping careful records, labelling cuttings and creating a master list of plant numbers and varieties.



MARSians came together after a good morning's work striking over 600 cuttings!

What fun it was working together, laughing, sharing information, learning new skills and accomplishing a lot in a short period of time. Now the hard part - waiting patiently to see results of our efforts. Fingers crossed!



The trimming, labelling and dipping team



These cuttings struck by Nanaimo RS and MARS are on their way to becoming rhododendrons...we hope.



Our fearless leader Glen admiring our handiwork!

Photos: Ron Sutton, Rose Prufer & Linda Derkach

**Mt Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society
General Meeting**

held at the QB Civic Centre
November 13, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Minutes

MARS celebrated its 30th anniversary with apple grower Harry Burton of Salt Spring Island discussing the merits of an organic orchard. He brought with him several pounds of apples for the large crowd to sample. An extended social break followed as members added cake and other goodies to the coffee break.

For the record, MARS began its existence as a non-profit society in November 1989, about three months after Everett and Pat Jefferson and several interested people got together to form a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Before that, early members would drive to Courtenay for the North Island meetings. The Jefferson's were in the audience, along with another founding member, Dan Schwarz. Terry and Verna Richmond were unable to attend.

After the break, David Landry raised \$130 by auctioning off five plants left over from the RSBG collection at the conference and one hybrid donated by the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and brought to the meeting by District One director Chris Hodgson and his wife Margaret.

BUSINESS:

1. Propagation

Sherry Thompson told members that the propagation group would be preparing cuttings for the trip to Nanaimo on Monday, November 18 where arrangements have been made for their propagation in a VIU greenhouse. Drop-off sites for cuttings were offered for Qualicum, Parksville and Nanoose.

2. Mother's Day Garden Tour

Louise Cotterill, Chair of the Garden Tour Committee reported several gardens have been visited for the 2020 tour; she was confident most would be chosen by year's end.

3. Christmas Party

Marilyn Dawson urged those who were attending the Christmas party on Sunday, December 8 to sign up for the potluck part of the meal. MARS members have volunteered turkey vouchers so the birds can be cooked by Quality Foods.

4. Surprise Draw

A surprise part of the evening was the draw for 24 wine glasses etched with the MARS logo that were donated back to the chapter by former members. The glasses were originally purchased for the 1995 ARS Conference in Parksville and never used.

5. Draw Prize

Winners were: Maria Bieberstein, Dan Schwarz, Dawn House and Bob Baird



Hosted by ARS District 4 at the Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA.

20/20 Vision international speakers to include:

- Kenneth Cox from Glendoick in Scotland
- Lionel de Rothschild from Exbury in England
- Jens Nielsen, plant explorer from Denmark
- Steve Krebs and Juliana Medeiros from the Holden Arboretum
- Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
- Valerie Soza from the University of Washington
- and more.

Garden tours to include:

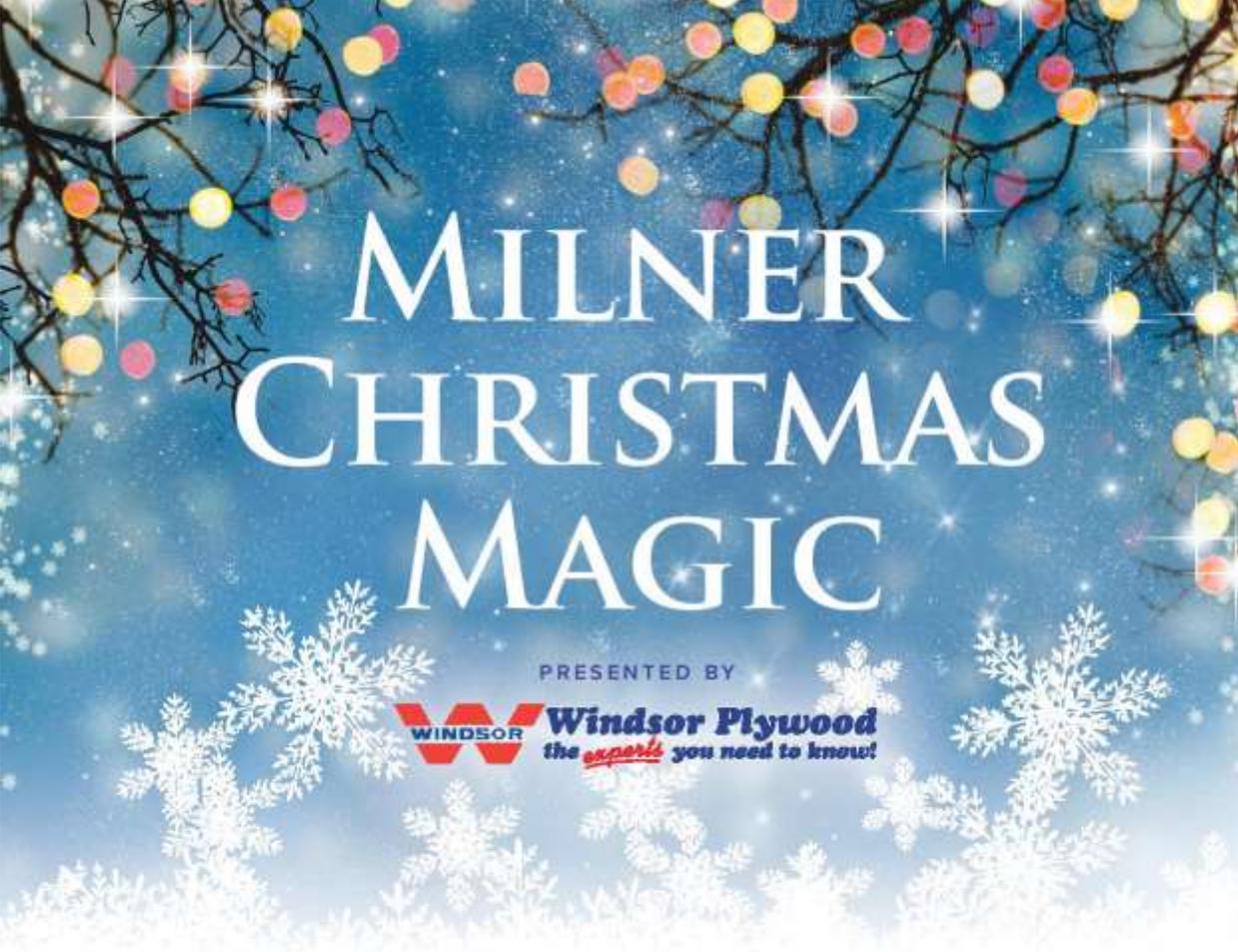
- Crystal Springs Botanical Garden
- Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
- Portland Japanese Garden
- Lan Su Chinese Garden
- Iseli Nursery
- Woodburn Nursery
- The Stewart Garden (formerly Dover Nursery)
- Sebright Gardens

Additional features: plant sale, photo exhibit & contest, poster session, special clinics,

Around the Sound pre-tour, Willamette Valley and Oregon Coast Excursion post-tour.

Information at: www.ars75.org

Registration opens December 2, 2019



MILNER CHRISTMAS MAGIC

PRESENTED BY



Walk through twinkling trees glowing with dazzling lights,
listen to live music and visit Santa.
Storytelling and refreshments onsite.

DEC 6-8, 13-15 & 18-22, 2019

5-8:30 PM (LAST ENTRY 8 PM)

For more info, visit milnergardens.org or call **250.752.6153**
2179 W. Island Highway, Qualicum Beach

