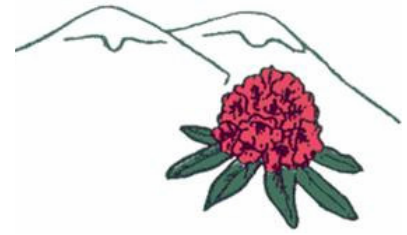


THE RHODOVINE

THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

MARS
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Qualicum Beach, BC
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This Month's Speaker

Les Clay

Les has been in the nursery business for 50 years, but he is best known to MARS members as the operator of Rhodohaven Gardens in Langley and the purveyor of fine plants at the annual rhodo truss show and plant sale.

This month, he will give a brief history of the propagation of rhodos, followed by a demonstration of the different methods used, from seeds to ground layering, air layering and cuttings. Les has been involved with rhodo propagation since the 1970s. In 1975 he was western president of the International Plant Propagations Society. Two years later developed a tissue culture laboratory, which he has since sold.

MARS members are encouraged to bring a few cuttings to the meeting so Les can show how to prepare them. They should be about four inches long, preferably without a bud (look at the back of the plant) and kept moist in a plastic bag. Cuttings from small-leaf rhodos and the smaller plants are encouraged.

Membership

It is that time of year once more – membership renewal. Don't forget to give your cheque to Bert Harding at the next meeting or you can mail it to:
Bert Harding
583 Juniper Drive
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 2J2

MARS Meetings

Second Wednesday of the Month
7:30 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

October Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 11th, 2006
Speaker Les Clay
Subject Propagation of Rhodos

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 8th November 2006
Linda Derkach and other members of the Master Gardeners Association will discuss winter gardens

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Send your submissions for the Rhodovine to the newsletter editor before the last Friday of the month.

Email annierobertson@shaw.ca or give them to Ann Robertson at the meeting.

President's Message

ARS Western Regional Fall Conference September 22-24, 2006,

This conference was hosted by the Fraser South Rhododendron Society and held at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort and Spa. The theme of the Conference was "Rhododendrons Around the World".

MARS was well represented with 16 of our members attending. Glen Jamieson from MARS was one of the featured speakers and gave a well-attended and very entertaining presentation on "Vireyas – The Natural Progression of a Rhodoholic."

The weather was great, the hotel is an excellent venue for this type of conference and we were constantly kept busy with the program and planned activities. Des Kennedy was the guest speaker at the banquet on Saturday evening and his presentation was titled "Passionate Encounters in the Garden". If you get a chance to hear this presentation, I recommend you do so. Like most of his addresses, it is clever and humorous.

The next Spring Conference is in San Francisco in April '07. I suggest you consider attending as it sounds as though it will be a very entertaining experience.

The following article appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter in September 2000 under the name of "Rootstalk by Indumentum", with the title "Time is our friend". I think it's an excellent article on how to consider winter as a positive thing.

Time is Our Friend

Creation of a garden requires so many components to make it happen. We need plants obviously and there are all kinds of those, but we also need soil, air, micro organisms, macro organisms, sun, rain, wind, vision, energy and a spouse. As Harold Johnson used to say, "Never develop a garden bigger than your wife can maintain".

But there is one element that we tend to forget or rather view it negatively. Time is one of the most misunderstood components of the successful garden. When we develop a new garden, our natural tendency is to be impatient. We plant out a bunch of plants, look at them every day, and wonder why nothing is happening. Years later we are spending all our time pruning and removing plants because of the heavy growth.

Time, however, is our friend in the garden. Once we get things in place, time takes over and all we need to do is provide a little guidance now and then. People (generally non-gardeners) who complain about how much work a garden is, tend to forget how much work is still going on when they go back indoors or off on holiday. Every minute of the day, those plants and organisms are working away to construct your vision, Yes, it does take time to establish a carpet of groundcover, but most of the work is done for you.

Once you think of time as your friend, one of the happiest times of the year is the Fall when you realize that you have several months to establish the new projects before the plants really get going again. You have time to think, create and develop while the garden is resting. Then in the Spring, you can sit back and let time work its magic.

(Rootstalk, September 2006)

Ron McMaster

For Sale and Wanted

Rhodos for Sale. Charmaine and David Hambly are starting extensive renovations to their garden. They wish to sell 2/3 of the Rhodos which were labeled and cared for by Vic and Nancy Vickers. If you are interested in purchasing any of them please contact them at 752-5825.

**MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES****September 13, 2006.****MEETING** called to order at 7:30 pm.**WELCOME GUESTS:** Margo Moser, Beth Lindsay and Pauline Nodwell**MINUTES** of the last general meeting, May 10, 2006, were approved as circulated; no corrections necessary.**BUSINESS ARISING:** none.**CORRESPONDENCE:**

BC Council of Garden Clubs August / September bulletin
September 2006 North Island Rhodo Club newsletter "The Rhodoteller"
September 2006 Fraser South Rhodo Club newsletter "The Yak"
September 2006 Victoria Rhodo Club newsletter
Communities in Bloom quarterly magazine "Celebration"
Invitation to the Donor Appreciation Reception at Malaspina University on
September 21, 2006

2006 / 2007 MARS EXECUTIVE and COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Most of the presently active MARS members (on executive and committees) have been in the club for some time. We must find ways to get newer members to fill some of these positions.

- 1) Ann Robertson is now a director again.
- 2) Meeting Coordinator: we still need one.
- 3) Door Control, sign-in, etc.: Marlys Diamond
- 4) Back-up for librarian: we still need one.
- 5) Dollar table back-up: we still need one.
- 6) Barbara Kulla requires a helper with refreshments for each general meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Ansdell gave the August 31, 2006 financial report and it was accepted.**WAYS AND MEANS:** Tonight's door prize was Rhododendron 'Ken Janeck'. The raffle prizes were Rhododendron 'PJM Elite', Rhododendron 'Inkspots' and a 3 kg package of Norm Todd's rhodo fertilizer.**REFRESHMENTS:** Barbara Kulla: this evening's goodies were brought by Dorothy Griffin, Velda Rhodes and Marilyn Dawson.**SUNSHINE:** Judy, reporting for Maria, said a card was sent to Joan Collin.**GARDEN TOUR:** Art Lightburn said the first meeting will be in the 1st week of October. Maria Bieberstein, Marilyn Dawson and Terry Richmond are on his committee now but he would like some more help. Any volunteers?**TRUSS SHOW and SALE:** Bert Harding and his committee (Judy McMaster, Barbara Kulla and Marilyn Dawson) had their first meeting of the season on September 12th. The following are some decisions made there.

They will determine how they can physically set up the arena to make it less "bare" when they know how many vendors will be at the sale.

With the exception of splitting the "Best in Show" category into 'large' and 'small' leaf groups (as suggested by Ron Knight); they will stay with the same categories as for 2006.

They will remain with the same supplier of ribbons as in 2006.

They will be working on further innovations (e.g. a greeter at the door) to improve the Truss Show for the public.

Finally, Bert and committee will "call in as many marks" as they can in order to have more suitable weather...(is this rhodo voodoo???)

MEMBERSHIP: Bert Harding told us dues (\$30) are payable before December 1st, 2006. Cheques are easier to keep track of than cash. So renew now to ensure that your subscription to ARS magazine is not interrupted. **Milner Gardens** fall fundraiser plant sale will be on September 30 and October 1 in the gardens from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission by donation.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: will be a pot luck dinner at Rotary House on December 6th. Maria said there will be a silent auction but no Chinese auction. She also said we will be doing the “gifty thing” and bringing non-perishable food donations for the SOS.

SPRING BUS TOUR: Ron McMaster said we have to pick a date that works with our Garden Tour and Truss Show / Plant Sale. Locations that might work best are the Kitty Coleman Woodland Garden just north of Courtenay, Harry Wright’s garden and one other private garden; there are lots of other possibilities as well. A possible date might be sometime the week after the Garden Tour. Ron would like feedback.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Oceanside Garden Show, Saturday and Sunday April 28 and 29, 2007. We are considering participating in this show again next spring. It was reasonably successful for us last year. For 2007 we are considering getting two tables and selling perennials which could come from our members’ gardens. If we decide to sell anything other than Greer’s books and Garden Tour tickets, we will need a chairperson to organize it; therefore, if we can get a volunteer to run it, we will go ahead.
- 2) We have had some requests to consider putting in members’ favorite recipes in our monthly bulletins. We should have a lot to draw from, based on the quality and variety that we have at our potluck dinners. Call Ann Robertson and she will put them in the bulletin.
- 3) At our last executive meeting we discussed the auction that we had at this year’s windup potluck dinner. It was overwhelmingly approved to continue because of the fun that was had by all. We probably will have a line-up of potential auctioneers. Thanks to Barbara Kulla for the suggestion and the excellent job she did in organizing it.
- 4) We are considering applying to the ARS for a grant that would be used by the Ucluelet George Fraser Days committee to help them care for some of the rhododendrons in public areas (possibly sprinklers?). As well, there would be some additional funds to help with specific events at George Fraser Days. Wanda McAvoy, one of the very active G.F.D. committee members, has become a member of our chapter, and another person from there may become a member as well. We will keep you posted.
- 5) Saturday April 21, 2007 has been confirmed by ARS District #1 as the day for our plant sale.

GUEST SPEAKER: Tonight’s guest speaker was Kristi Ozero. Her topic: “Gardening with Deer”. Well, there’s the really high fences (a variety of styles suggested), deer resistant plants (depending on which books your deer have read), a number of sprays (most effective on deer resistant plants) or a really large dog. Great pictures of her work trying to deer-proof an un-named golf course.

DOOR PRIZE: Beth Lindsay won Rhododendron ‘Ken Janeck’.

RAFFLE: Rhodo ‘Inkspots’ won by Judy McMaster; Rhodo ‘PJM Elite’ won by Wolfgang Ruff and the rhodo fertilizer was won by Susan Jacobs

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:45 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER: The next general meeting will be October 11th, 2006.

Secretary,
Ann De Brincat

President,
Ron McMaster

Chapter Chatter

Propagation is the seasonal buzzword. In last month's newsletter of the North Island Rhododendron Society, Harry Wright, who is president this year, published his recipe for willow tea, an important aid in developing healthy root cuttings.

He writes: "Northwest growers started experimenting with willow tea brew and reported up to 100 per cent success of rhodo cuttings that were nearly impossible to start before."

Here's the recipe: Remove tender tips from the weeping willow (*salix babylonica*). They should be pliable and bend easily. Remove leaves and cut tips in one-inch lengths, place them on a board and pound them until they are slightly flattened and the bark is loose. Put ¼ pound of pounded pieces into a quart jar, cover with water and heat to 120 degrees for 2 to 3 hours.

When cuttings are put into the willow tea, now at room temperature, soak only the rooting area for 12 to 24 hours. Wipe dry and apply commercial rooting hormones.

Tea will keep up to a month in a closed jar in the refrigerator.

(Marilyn Dawson)

Terry's Tips

- Fall is the best time to move established Rhodos, especially those 3-4 feet and larger.
- Plant Rhodos you still have in pots.
- Protect tender Rhodos from the wind by covering them in fine mesh, not a solid fabric, as they need to breath. You can also give them a wind break by using piece plywood to redirect the wind.
- Do not fertilize them at this time of year.
- In smaller Gardens you can clean up the debris under the Rhodos where the weevils and bugs may hide.
- Spread fresh mulch under the Rhodos to protect them.

Morsels from MARS

Summer Potluck Recipe:-Brussels Sprouts and Apple Salad (*Adapted from Gourmet, probably*)

- 1.7 kg small brussel sprouts, quartered
- 1/4 cup sherry vinegar
- 3 Tbs mayonnaise
- 1 cup olive oil (grape seed works too)
- 9 red-skinned apples, quartered, cored in 1/2-inch dice
- 1 ½ cups chopped celery leaves
- 3 ½ cups crumbled blue cheese
- 3 cups walnuts, toasted, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup dried cranberries

Steam sprouts in batches until just tender, about 6 minutes. Transfer to bowl and ice down. Drain and transfer to large bowl.

Mix vinegar and mayo in small bowl. Gradually mix in oil. Season with salt and pepper. (Sprouts and dressing can be made a day ahead. Cover and Chill.)

Add apples and celery leaves to sprouts. Add dressing, toss to combine. Mix in cheese and walnuts. Season to taste.

NB: This recipe serves about 30. For the pot luck, I cut it in half and used only about a cup of cheese, in case the blue cheese was overpowering for some tastes. I used gala apples, because the skins tend to less leathery than other varieties.

(Marilyn Dawson)



'Nancy Evans' (Ann's garden 2006. Photography by Lorraine Peters)

Deer Repellant

1 egg

1tsp baking soda

1tsp hot sauce

1litre water

Let sit and get "mature". Spay every time it rains or you have heavy dew.

Check out more repellants at www.deerrepellants.com

(Kristi Ozero)

Events

The Mid-Island Floral Art Club meets at 2 pm on Thursday, 12th October, 2006 at St. Stephen's Church Hall, Qualicum Beach. Noted floral artist, Margaret Norris-Jones, will demonstrate arrangements from a simple bouquet. Guests and new members welcome. (Guest fee is \$10.) Call 752-8162.

Qualicum Beach Garden Club-Tuesday 7.00pm October 10th Civic Centre
Speaker Christine North Topic: Autumn Cleanup and Pruning

Victoria Flower Arrangers Guild has their biannual Christmas Floral Fantasy Saturday 10am-5pm 17th & 18th November at the Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Road. Admission \$5.00 Christmas Tea \$3.00

MARS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday 6th December at the Rotary House, at the corner of Beach and Fern in Qualicum Beach.

Put it in your calendar. Marie Bieberstien is arranging a great party. It will be our one of our special pot lucks. More details to follow next Rhodovine.