

2019 Fall Rhododendron Conference

A Vancouver Island Celebration of Gardening



The Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) is bringing hundreds of gardening enthusiasts together for the fall conference of the American Rhododendron Society.

Rhododendrons by the Seaside

September 27 to 29, 2019

Parksville Community and Conference Centre

Register at www.marsrhodos.ca/ars2019/

With the theme of “Rhododendrons as the World Warms,” the lineup of speakers, workshops and tours promises a busy and exciting weekend for everyone. This conference is one of the biggest bargains of the year. An early registration fee of \$95 will entitle you to 10 speakers over three days, including two workshops, choice of one of three bus tours, two continental breakfasts and lunch on Saturday. As well, there’s access to a plant sale, a display of international rhodo photos throughout the facility and a silent auction.

The evening banquets on Friday and Saturday night will have two keynote speakers each night after a full course buffet dinner, for an additional \$50 for each night.

The conference theme relates to climate change implications, but the context is for all gardeners who are interested in growing healthy plants of any type in our area. Speakers include a wide range of local and internationally-recognized experts in their fields, including Dr. Richard Hebda, Curator Emeritus from the Royal BC Museum; Dr. Linda Gilkeson, author and entomologist; Mike Stewart, rhododendron nurseryman; Steve Hootman, Executive Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG) in Federal Way, Wash; Dr. Nancy Turner, UVic ethnobotanist; Marc Colombel, author and hybridizer, France; Ron Long, botanist and wildflower photographer; and Nancy Moore, landscape designer and horticulturist. Bulb and seed propagation workshops will be conducted by Bernie Dinter, nurseryman and Dennis Bottemiller, propagator extraordinaire recently of the RSBG.

For those who need a place to stay, the MARS website has a list of various accommodations near the conference site. For best choice and best price, we suggest booking early as late September is still busy with tourists.