

## New Year's Resolution

Well here we are, already well into a new year!

As in the past, many of us will make resolutions and promises, - from eating healthier to saving money. From introducing more 'green' into our lifestyles, to promises to perform acts of kindness.

And perhaps we will make good on that promise we all make often: 'Let's get together in the New Year!'

Whether making a promise or a resolution, they just won't happen unless action is taken. This new year, why not bring someone new to the next BRAGS meeting? A neighbor, a co-worker, another garden club member, a friend...

Have you perhaps said to yourself, 'I'll Ask Them To Come To A Meeting One Day'.

One Day.

One day when? Before we know it, the year will be gone. Time flies. It does. Honest.

So why not make a resolution to introduce someone new to the club, and bring them to the next meeting? This will not only help build up our membership, but also create new friendships and open up new opportunities for BRAGS.

(Just imagine if each one of us did this! Wow!)

Are you finding yourself saying, Yes, -

What a good idea! I'll just do that!

One Day.

Make a phone call. Now. Give that someone the date of our next meeting. Tell them you'd like to invite them along. Tell them you'll call them that day and confirm the time when you will pick them up. Tell them you are looking forward to bringing them to meet all the nice folks in our club.

While you're at it, phone or email a member you haven't seen for awhile. 'Hey, we've missed you at the meetings. How are you? Can you come to the next meeting? Let's sit together and catch up. We've missed you'.

Things don't happen without a plan. Make one.

This way we can all look forward to meeting many new guests at our next meeting! Who knows, perhaps we'll need more chairs ☺

Cheryl Fiddis

*Thank You,  
Thank You,*



BRAGS would like to thank our January speaker Bill Bischoff for introducing us to the fascinating world of Cyclamen.

Photos and notes from his presentation are available on the BRAGS website: [www.braggs.ca](http://www.braggs.ca) For those of you who would like to visit his garden to see his collection of cyclamens and hardy orchids, a tour may be arranged for BRAGS members later this spring.

## Cyclamen

### Excerpts from Bill Bischoff's notes

In succession, the different **Cyclamen** species will flower from mid January to mid December, with the occasional flower of **Cyclamen purpurascens** as late as Christmas. Most species have a dormancy period in summer which is a definite adaptation to the very dry and hot summer climate of the Mediterranean. Of the 22 recognized **Cyclamen** species, 18 are hardy enough to be considered outdoor plants in western British Columbia. To successfully cultivate these plants, please familiarize yourself with their origin. Plants from north of the Alps withstand longer cold and wet conditions than plants from a hot and dry island.

Most **Cyclamen** are very shade tolerant, so they can be planted under trees and bushes, even under Rhododendron. They are also very pH tolerant, but in extreme cases, a small top-dressing of crushed oyster shells will correct an over acidic condition without harming nearby acid-loving plants. When grown in full sun, expect smaller leaves, but more distinct leaf patterns. Once established in a garden, these plants will surprise one by where they decide to locate themselves. Just be careful when weeding not to rip the seedlings out.

Next January, wouldn't it be a welcome surprise to see some of these Mediterranean jewels beautifying your garden with scented flowers, and continue to do so for many a January to come. Only to be followed by other species throughout their growing season. Especially after a winter storm, nothing will lift your heart and spirit faster than seeing these little garden amethysts glowing, above a blanket of glistening fresh snow. No matter what your plans are, to buy plants or to just broadcast seeds at random in to your garden, you will be more than justly rewarded for your efforts. In time you might want to know more about these charming little garden wonders. There is help - just join the **Cyclamen Society** and as a bonus they will send you every year free seeds, where the value of the seeds just about equals the cost of the yearly membership.

The web site is at: [www.cyclamen.com](http://www.cyclamen.com).

## Seeds

It's time to start browsing the seed catalogues again. **WEST COAST SEEDS**, our very own local seed company in Delta has been supplying local gardeners for 25 years through sales in local garden centers (including GardenWorks in Burnaby), their own shop in Delta, and online. The website has tons of useful information about growing the seeds that they sell, especially annual vegetables & flowers. Check it out at [www.westcoastseeds.com](http://www.westcoastseeds.com)

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### BRAGS February Meeting

**Clayton Houghland** of West Coast Seeds will be speaking on "Planning for and starting seeds". West Coast Seeds is a local company that specializes in selling seeds that are selected to grow in Coastal BC.

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### TLC Workshops

#### Eagles Estate Heritage Garden

##### Basic Pruning and Tree Care

Sat. Feb.7th, 1pm to 4pm, by donation.  
Laura Ralph, TLC Head Gardener will teach the basics of tree care. By looking at examples in the garden, participants will learn how to prune with clear objectives and an understanding of how trees will respond to basic pruning cuts.

##### Gardening with Roses

Sat. Feb 28, 1pm to 4pm, \$20  
Brad Jalbert of Select Roses nursery will discuss pruning, planting, selection, and care of roses. Disease-resistant varieties will be featured to promote sustainable gardening.

More info at [BRAGS.CA](http://BRAGS.CA)

To register, phone: 604-733-2313

**BRAGS  
2009 EXECUTIVE**

**President**  
Judy Wellington  
434-8287  
**Vice-President**  
Lanny Hui  
415-4564  
**Treasurer**  
Lois Brown  
298-6681  
**Secretary**  
Linda Cholette  
298-9059  
**Past President**  
Susan Brandl  
433-4250

**STANDING  
COMMITTEES**

**Fund Raising**  
Vacant  
**Membership**  
Anne Forsyth  
298-6350  
**Nominations**  
Susan Brandl  
433-4250  
Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801  
**Publicity**  
Vacant  
**Rhododendron  
Festival**  
Wendy Thompson  
420-6513

**OTHER COMMITTEES**

**Garden Contest**  
Vacant  
**Garden Tour**  
Faye Kilpatrick  
434-5921  
**Plant Sale**  
Vacant  
**Newsletter**  
Lanny Hui  
415-4564  
Anne & David Forsyth  
298-6350  
**Welcome Desk**  
Faye Kilpatrick  
434-5921  
**Raffle**  
Sheila Chowdhury  
298-1196  
**Refreshments**  
Helen Vaughan  
299-2014  
**Speakers**  
Heather MacKay  
438-1342  
**Website**  
David Forsyth  
298-6350

## NOMINATIONS! NOMINATIONS!

*We still have one Standing Committee vacancy to fill, which is our Publicity position. Jackie Walker will be at the February meeting with the resource binder and can answer any questions you may have concerning this position.*

*We also have one remaining "reward" that goes to whomever takes the position!*

### Publicity

This 2 year position is ideal for someone who prefers to be 'behind the scenes', as the majority of the duties can be performed by internet, phone or by mail. The primary function is to publicize BRAGS by advertizing our monthly meetings and special events such as the plant sale, garden tour, garden contest, in local newspapers, garden magazines, and community newsletters, and also by networking with other garden clubs and garden columnists. (Please note the City of Burnaby looks after the Rhodofest advertizing).

## Out and About

### **Feb 3 (Tue) South Burnaby Garden Club.**

Monthly meeting featuring guest speaker **Claude LeDoux**, the horticulturalist responsible for the beautiful hanging baskets in the City of New Westminster. Bonsor Rec Centre, 730pm.

### **Feb 10 (Tue) New Westminster Horticultural Society.**

Guest speaker **Ivan Sayers**, a knowledgeable and humourous fashion historian, will show us how fashion has interpreted the garden. Centennial Lodge, Queens Park, 730pm

### **Feb 18-22 (Wed - Sun) BC Home + Garden Show**

Winter-weary Vancouverites can expect displays & exhibits featuring an eclectic mix of plants, tips for functionality & design & an abundance of ideas from the Province's top landscape designers



We still need volunteers for fund raising, plant sale, and garden contest, If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact one of the executive members. Thank you.