

It's The Merry Month of May!



Pansies, Pansies, Pansies!

Common Name: Pansy

Botanical Name: Viola x wittrockiana

Most of us are familiar with these enchanting colorful flowers with the wee 'faces' on their blooms, but the pansy family tree can be confusing. They are actually a member of the viola genus, which in turn belongs to the violet family. Pansies, violas and violets are all similar looking, and to make things more confusing, violas are often called tufted pansies. And some varieties of violas are informally known as garden pansies. However, true pansies are actually the result of crossbreeding of four different viola species. Developed in the early 1800's by an English gardener, pansies originally came only in three colors, - white, purple, and yellow. But today you will find almost 400 varieties to choose from.



Pansies have long been associated with love, and many ancient cultures used the heart-shaped pansy leaves to cure a broken heart. Legend has it that all pansies used to be white until they were pierced by Cupids' arrow. This made them purple and yellow as well, and gave them the power to be used in love potions.

Springtime Flower Fun

Now that spring is officially here, it's time to test your flower knowledge. Try to guess the answers to the questions listed below. The answers are further along in the newsletter!

- A) How you might describe a silent person.
- B) Name for a lady who weds for riches.
- C) Everyone has these on their face.
- D) You might find these on a safari.
- E) An appropriate gift from a banker.
- F) Unmarried male fasteners.
- G) A country of automobile lovers.
- H) Good name for a guy's biking club.
- I) He's an awfully sugary Bill.
- J) They're the dairy best blooms.
- K) A peevish fairy-tale creature.
- L) A woman's nightly footwear.
- M) They hate to wait.
- N) A fine-looking jungle ruler.
- O) Cross between a violin and a clarinet.

In German and Scottish folktales, pansies were known as stepmothers. The large lower petals on either side symbolized her well-dressed daughters and the two small plain petals at the top were the 'poor stepdaughters'.

On a more current note, pansy leaves and flowers are edible, and they are a good source of vitamins A and C. In a summer salad, they make a both decorative and tasty accent, and a conversation piece as well!

If you plan to grow pansies, there are a few tips to remember. They prefer cool, moist organic-rich soil, and good drainage. Plant them in full sun or partial shade – they also do well in pots to compliment other less colorful plantings. Those cheerful little faces will always be welcome no matter where you plant them!



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*Answers to the flower quiz:*

- A) Mum B) Marigold C) Tulips D) Tiger Lilies  
E) Money plant F) Bachelor's buttons  
G) Carnation H) Cyclamen I) Sweet William  
J) Buttercups K) Snapdragon L) Lady's slipper  
M) Impatiens N) Dandelion O) Violet  
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*“What are you most looking forward to this Spring/Summer?”*

We put the call out to our members to see what you are all looking forward to as our spring and summer arrives. Here's what you told us!

*~ This year will be a rebuild on the herb garden to include blueberry & haskcap bushes with herbs/veggies on the sunny outer rim. Each year the borders seem to expand because the list of possible plants grows also. Who needs lawn anyway! I do try to include plantings that are high nutrient, or edible right off the leaf. Dehydrating herbs is a pastime in late spring & late summer, - keeps me busy!*  
*~ Bev Glover*

*~ We will be working on a couple of new gardening projects this spring. Last fall we had about thirty 45 foot old cedar trees removed and a simple black rod*

*iron fence installed. We now have so much natural sunlight coming into our diningroom, office and kitchen that I keep thinking we have left the lights on! I absolutely love it and when I look out my kitchen window, because our house was built much higher than my neighbours, we can literally look down the entire block and see into everyone's back yards! Terrific views of my neighbours' gardens! However, back to our spring gardening projects. We want to plant some small 5 foot trees, or shrubs of some kind - not exactly sure what type yet - to semi-block out the vacant space alongside the new fence. Our second project is out front and down the side of our property - our rockery is about 27 years old and is starting to slide down, look messy and needs sprucing up with possibly some alpine plants and redistribution of the rocks. Whew! I do believe we have our work cut out for us but my husband and I really enjoy getting our hands dirty and building and completing projects like this!*

*~ Linda Cholette*



*Linda also sent in a picture of this lovely Magnolia that she purchased at the Rhodo Festival about 4 years ago, which finally bloomed last summer. Beautiful!*

Hopefully we will have more stories to share next month!

If you have something interesting to share, from right here at home or a trip taken afar, please share with us!

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ [ecfiddis@telus.net](mailto:ecfiddis@telus.net)

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BRAGS Membership

If you haven't done so yet, please visit Anne at the membership desk to pay your 2015 dues or to join up

BRAGS EXECUTIVE

President

Wendy Thompson
604-420-6513

Vice-President

Bev Glover
604-540-2883

Treasurer

Susan Brandl
604-433-4250

Secretary

Linda Cholette
604-298-9059

Past President

Verna Adamson
604-294-5550

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STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership

Anne Forsyth
604-298-6350

Nominations

Verna Adamson

Publicity

Evelyn Crawford
604-437-8395

Rhododendron Festival

Verna Adamson
604-294-5550
June Dodson
604-939-2597

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OTHER COMMITTEES

Plant Sale

David & Anne Forsyth

Newsletter

Cheryl Fiddis
604-435-2801

Anne & David Forsyth

604-298-6350

Welcome

Faye Kilpatrick
604-434-5921
Sheila Chowdhury
604-298-1196

Raffle

Faye Kilpatrick
604-434-5921

Refreshments

June Dodson
604-939-2597

Speakers

Bev Glover
604-540-2883

Website

David Forsyth
604-298-6350

– still only \$12 per year. Members share various gardening interests and enjoy monthly guest speakers, plus are entitled to discounts of regularly priced items at GardenWorks and other garden centres, simply by presenting their membership cards. Monthly meetings (excepting July & August) start at 7 pm at the Burnaby Village Museum, - Main Building, up on the 2nd floor. Easy to get to with ample free parking and refreshments are served! All are welcome! Please join us!

Upcoming Meetings/Events

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May 6, 2015

Gary Lewis, - of Phoenix Perennials will give a talk:

“Hot New Plants: Cutting Edge Plants for Cutting Edge Gardens”.

Don't miss this special evening, and be sure to invite your garden friends and neighbours!

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June 3, 2015

Marilyn Holt will give a presentation on “Herbs, - Culinary, Medicinal & Cosmetic”. Find out what to do with your herbs!

BRAGS now takes a break over the summer...see you at the September 2nd meeting!

Rhodofest 2015! Sunday May 3rd!

Your Rhodofest team and Burnaby are counting on all of us to help make this another successful year! If you are not able to volunteer, please come and enjoy the festival with your family and friends.

BRAGS Picnic Sunday, June 14th 2015! 1:00 – 5:00!



Our kick off summer pot luck on June 14th, falls on the first day of Royal Ascot Week, London. Our hosts Bill & Bev Glover invite all members and significant others to join them in their themed BBQ pot-luck, “Pretend Ascot - A tribute to the royal games of horses”. They plan a rousing game of “polo”, as well as humane society friendly “find the foxes”!! Contest door prizes this year will go to best fascinator, top hat or parasols. No Royals will attend so dress code is casual. The horses will be less than blue blood also. The food?? Oh, do bring some! Dishes & pre-heaters provided. Have we peaked your interest? RSVP bglover@telus.net, or call Bev if you need further information @ 604-540-2883.

Address Info: 8627 – 12 Ave., Burnaby. Exit 37 of Hwy 1, up Cariboo Rd, left @ Armstrong, left @ Langley. OR take 10 Ave to Crest Plaza, hang left at Langley St, left @ 12th. White house with red shutters & balloons.

Thank you Bev and Bill for hosting our annual picnic this year!

Come join us as we welcome summer!



Out & About Etc...

GW Customer Appreciation Day, May 21, 2015

Be sure to mark the date for GardenWorks 15% savings all day.