

March!

The origin of March: For the Roman god of war, Mars. This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter.

Well here on the West Coast, the only thing perhaps interrupted by winter, was our spending endless time in our gardens. Now that Spring will officially arrive this month we can all look forward to both longer days and spending more time outside gardening and entertaining. While I often find myself impatient with March, those wonderful early Spring days we can experience certainly give us all hope for the better months ahead.

Our mild weather this year was kind to our bird population, and many species stayed close by and were plentiful in my garden this winter. Of course 'my' hummingbirds remained and were constant visitors to the covered and heated feeder over the cooler months. One day as I pruned my Hydrangea in the back yard, one wee fellow appeared ready to land on my outstretched hand, as if to say Thanks for helping my friends and I out again!

Top 10 Timeless Garden Classics!

Upon glancing through an old garden magazine, I found an article that mentioned the Top 10 Classic plants for your garden. Not surprisingly, these Top 10 could easily be the Top 10 today. Here they are!

Columbine

By far, this one is my favorite. One of the easiest wildflowers to cultivate, Columbine's distinct, bell-shaped flowers are a favorite of hummingbirds. Colors to enjoy are yellow, red, pink, blue, purple and white; single hues or bicolored.



Bellflower

Better known as Campanula, the family of bellflowers includes annuals, biennials and perennials, all sharing the familiar bell-shaped flower. For a long bloom, blue flowers and evergreen foliage, try the Serbian bellflower.

Wax Begonia

This low growing plant is known for its uniform, rounded shape and long-bloom season. This plant is a reliable, maintenance free choice for most gardens, and is available in white, red, pink, and salmon.

Salvia

These tall vibrant spikes produce season long color in any landscape. An added bonus, hummingbirds love the nectar-producing blooms. Although most commonly seen in lavender, other colors are red, orange, white, pink and blue.



Foxglove

This early bloomer is often found growing wild in many gardens, often transplanted by the bird population. For a late summer crop, cut the main flower spike back to the first set of leaves when only a few blooms remain at the top. Personally, I let mine go to seed each year. Foxglove is available in many colors such as white, cream, yellow, apricot, pink, purple, red, golden brown and coppery rose.



Pinks

Pinks produce flowers with a variety of markings, including stripes, contrasting edges, and contrasting centers. You will find Pinks available in red, pink, white, and yellow.

Delphinium

Known as the queen of garden plants, this towering showstopper makes a dramatic statement anywhere you plant it. Delphinium is commonly a deep blue, but you will also find mauve, lilac, pink, blue, purple, cream, white, red, gray, orange-red, yellow and green.



Hollyhocks

Hollyhocks feature a funnel-shaped flower and with their impressive height, create a lush backdrop for a border garden. They also attract butterflies and bees to your garden. Colors are available in yellow, purple, pink, white, apricot, red or chocolate-maroon.

Bachelor's Button

This deep blue flower, - also known as a cornflower, is long-lasting when cut. It holds its color as a dried flower as well. You will find colors in dark blue, violet, pink and white.

Four O'Clocks

A care-free favorite that blooms open in the afternoon, attracting hummingbirds and bees. Colors are purplish red, yellow, pink, white and lavender.

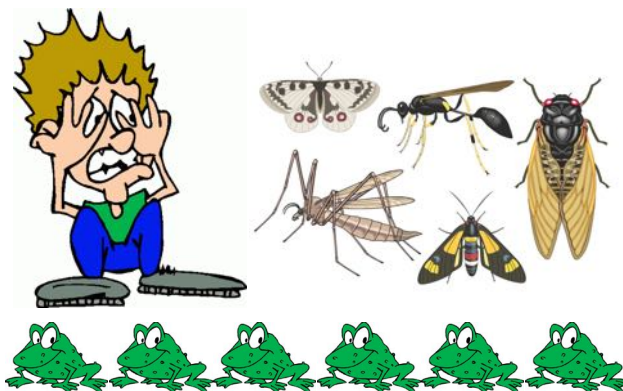


If you have something interesting for your fellow BRAGS members to hear about, please share with us! We welcome your input.

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ ecfiddis@telus.net

True But Strange Garden Phobias...

<i>Fear of Flowers:</i>	<i>Anthophobia</i>
<i>Fear of Plants:</i>	<i>Batonophobia</i>
<i>Fear of Dirt:</i>	<i>Rupophobia</i>
<i>Fear of Trees:</i>	<i>Dendrophobia</i>
<i>Fear of Worms:</i>	<i>Scoleciphobia</i>
<i>Fear of Frogs:</i>	<i>Ranidaphobia</i>
<i>Fear of Germs:</i>	<i>Mysophobia</i>
<i>Fear of Sun:</i>	<i>Heliophobia</i>
<i>Fear of Water:</i>	<i>Hydrophobia</i>
<i>Fear of Insects:</i>	<i>Entomophobia</i>



Fear is only as deep as the mind allows...

~ Japanese proverb

BRAGS Membership

The dues are due! Please visit Anne at the membership desk if you haven't yet paid your 2016 dues or to join up – 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! Please join us if you are looking to join a local garden club.

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

Upcoming Meetings/Events



March 2, 2016

Howard Wills of Fernwood Nursery in the U.K. will speak on "Sempervivums".

Join us for an interesting evening to learn about the history of these beautiful and hardy alpine succulents.



April 6, 2016

Paul Buikema on 'Pest Management'. This presentation will include tips on how to deal with Burnaby's infamous Chafer...be sure to invite a friend to this one!

Out & About Etc...



GW Customer Appreciation Day,

March 17, 2016

Be sure to mark the date for GardenWorks 15% savings all day. Don't forget your membership card to get your discount!

Sunday, May 1st, 2016! Rhodofest! Help needed!

BRAGS is in desperate need of a coordinator for the Plant Sale held in conjunction with the Silent Auction at Rhodofest. It is a fun job. You would be responsible for ensuring that plants donated by members are delivered to the Shadbolt Centre. Please note that you are not expected to do it all yourself, except ready any plants that you are donating. Once the plants are onsite, with the help of other knowledgeable volunteers, you would arrange the plants so that they look appealing and ready to sell. The Shadbolt Centre will be helping us this year with the labelling. At the end of the sale, the remaining plants have to be taken offsite. Last year the Burnaby Village Museum took them; we just had to deliver them. There are many BRAGS members who would be more than willing to help the person who takes on this role. Please, we need YOUR help!

Additionally, sign up sheets to volunteer at Rhodofest will be available soon...we look forward to your continued support to make this annual event another huge success! Please talk to Verna and June if you already know you are available to help, - this fun event once again requires a co-ordinated effort by our whole BRAGS team that day.



A huge Thanks to John Crawford who assisted at the February meeting with the delivery of the compost bags into members trunks. It couldn't have rained harder that night! And thanks to Keith and all the others who also helped out that evening. Happy composting!