

April!

The origin of April:

From the latin aperio, "to open (bud)," because plants begin to grow now.



Perennial Favorites

What gardener doesn't love perennials? Reliable, colorful, no-fuss perennials keep coming back year after year to make your garden complete. Here are a few of my favorites.

Aster

With more than 250 varieties available, Asters easily adapt to most gardens and growing conditions. Their extensive range of both size and color makes the Aster one of the most popular plants for late-season blooms. You will find Asters in red, pink, salmon, purple, white and yellow.

Bee Balm

Not only does Bee Balm add brilliant color to a garden, this full-sun perennial also attracts butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden. Available colors are scarlet, pink, purple and white.

Siberian Iris

A low-maintenance garden staple, Siberian Irises produce richly colored flowers that are also beautiful in arrangements. Popular colors are blue, pink, white, purple and yellow.



April is a glorious month for us all to have hope that Spring and Summer will soon be here. While I spend each April down south where there is no question of the weather being 'maybe' warm or 'maybe' sunny and bright, I'm still glad to say farewell to March. April is the time to stop dreaming and *really* start planning that garden. Instead of looking at catalogues and web sites, visit your local garden shop in person and make it happen!

Peony

Peonies are a favorite choice for colorful beds and bouquets with their big, showy flowers. Often entered in local Fairs, you will find Peonies in white, pink, red and yellow.



The Unusual "Shaving Brush" Tree

Thanks to June for sharing a very unusual and beautiful flower which is native to Mexico, and part of the Malvaceae family. It is a very fast growing tree and the flowers only last about a day, similar to the hibiscus.



Rhodofest May 1st, 2016!

The 28th annual Rhododendron Festival will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2016. Rhodofest is a fun, family-oriented event held at the Shadbolt Centre and Deer Lake Park in Burnaby. This year Simon Fraser University is celebrating their 50th year, and will be participating by holding educational talks on various environmental topics. BRAGS will participate with our combined Silent Auction and Plant Sale. Part proceeds of these two events will be designated to worthy environmental and community projects in Burnaby. We still need volunteers leading up to the event, the day before the event, and it will be all hands on deck on the day of the Festival. The tasks required are diverse (i.e. distributing posters, picking up and organizing plants, skirting tables, directing traffic, cashiering, answering questions, cleanup). If you are able to volunteer a few hours, please sign up at the March or April meetings or contact Verna Adamson at 604-544-4006, by email at v_adamson@shaw.ca or June Dodson at 604-939-2597, by email at junedodson@shaw.ca. Thank you advance for your continued support at this popular community event! Be sure to tell your friends, family and neighbours to save the date! We are still in need of a coordinator for the Plant Sale held in conjunction with the Silent Auction. It is a fun job, really! 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!

Beautiful! Thanks June!

If you have something interesting for your fellow BRAGS members to hear about, please share with us! If you travel, that is an ideal opportunity to bring some stories home. We welcome your input and any photos that you may have taken.

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ ecfiddis@telus.net



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

BRAGS Membership

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.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

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April 6, 2016

Paul Buikema on 'Pest Management'. This presentation will include tips on how to deal with Burnaby's infamous Chafer...you don't have to go far in Burnaby to see the devastation this detested Chafer has created. Be sure to invite a friend to this one!

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May 4, 2016

Stay Tuned for details! Rhodofest themed!



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June 1, 2016

Stan Stanley of the Point Grey Chrysanthemum Association will do a presentation on "Growing Exhibition Chrysanthemums". Come and learn what you can achieve with yours!

Out & About Etc...



GW Customer Appreciation Day,
April 21, 2016

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

Annual Dahlia Society Tuber Sale!
April 9, 2016

The Vancouver Dahlia Society will be holding their annual tuber sale on April 9, 2016 from 10 am to 4 pm in the Floral Hall, VanDusen Botanical Gardens, 37th and Oak St., Vancouver.