



March! Yes!

A most very welcome month indeed, March always seems to be a hopeful month that reminds us that Spring is perhaps just around the corner. The days are certainly much longer, and the temperatures kinder. I often find myself hanging out in my local garden centre, taking in the sights and smells of the baskets, containers and cut flowers. What better way to get a 'spring fix'? March also brings us Saint Patrick's Day, - and buying a small shamrock plant is always a fun thing to do. Even if you are not Irish, everyone can enjoy the day. March is also the time when we see more birds in our gardens, busy choosing their nesting spots and staking their territories for their new families. If you have any nesting boxes or bird houses, and if you haven't yet cleaned them out, *now* is the time or you will be too late and your feathered guests will have moved in. Whatever Spring means to you, just be sure to get outside and enjoy!



If you have anything to share, - stories or pictures, that you think our BRAGS members might enjoy, please send them on! We'd love to see them!

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ ecfiddis@telus.net

Nasturtiums, Nasturtiums!

An old fashioned favorite, nasturtiums belong to the genus *Tropaeolum*, meaning trophy, and comprise about 85 species that are indigenous to the mountainous regions of Central and South Americas. Forms of our common garden nasturtiums, *T. majus*, a South American native found from Columbia to Boliva, have been grown and selected in the Americas and Europe for hundreds of years. All of the plant (except the root) is edible, and it is likely that past gardeners looked upon nasturtiums as a food source. Did you know that nasturtium flowers contain about 130 mgs of Vitamin C per 100 grams? Last summer, the chef at our local golf course restaurant, garnished our lunch plates with these tasty and pretty flowers, - flowers picked fresh from the hanging basket outside. A wonderful treat, both to the eyes and the taste buds!

Quick germinators, these annuals have handsome, shield-shaped leaves with unique, helmet-shaped flowers in bright, vivid colors. Commonly grown in containers, nasturtiums do best in soilless potting mix or well moistened peat moss. If you plan to use the leaves and flowers to add color and taste to a salad, be sure to harvest them as soon as they open. In the West Coast Seeds Gardening Guide for 2017 which just arrived, you will find many varieties to choose from, including the *Empress of India*, - an heirloom variety, *Jewel Mix*, - a particular hardy variety, *Alaska Mix*, - recommended for containers, *Salad Blend*, - a mix of tangerine, soft salmon, deep gold, deep mahogany, bright scarlet, cream and cherry-rose, - all perfect for your summer salad!



Rhododendron Festival!

Sunday, May 7, 2017 is the 29th annual Rhododendron Festival at the Shadbolt Centre in Deer Lake Park. BRAGS will participate with our combined Silent Auction and Plant Sale. These are our major fundraisers, and part of the proceeds will be awarded to worthy environmental and community projects within Burnaby. We need volunteers for tasks on Saturday, May 6 for setup and especially for Sunday, May 7 at the Festival. The tasks required are diverse (i.e. distributing posters, picking up and organizing plants, skirting tables, directing traffic, cashiering, answering questions, cleanup). It really is a fun social day, as we interact with our community.

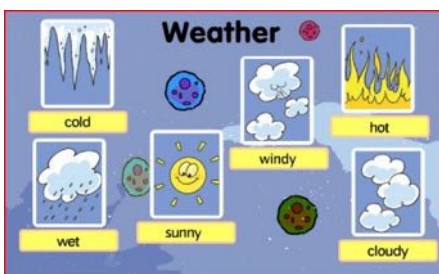
If you are able to volunteer a few hours, please sign up at the March or April meetings or contact Verna Adamson at 604-544-4006, by email at v_adamson@shaw.ca or Bev Glover at bglover@elus.net.



Interesting Weather Phobias

Fear of rain:	Ombrophobia
Fear of snow:	Chionophobia
Fear of cold:	Frigophobia
Fear of heat:	Themophobia
Fear of wind:	Ancraophobia
Fear of clouds:	Nephophobia
Fear of sunshine:	Heliophobia
Fear of fog:	Homichlophobia

Over the past winter I'm sure many of us experienced Chionophobia, fearing that it would snow again!



BRAGS Membership

The 2017 dues are due! Please plan to make your payment soon, or if you are new, also visit Anne at the membership desk to join up – still only \$12 per year. Exact change is appreciated! 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
Bev Glover
604-540-2883

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OTHER COMMITTEES

Plant Sale

David & Anne Forsyth

Newsletter

Cheryl Fiddis
604-435-2801

Anne & David Forsyth

604-298-6350

Welcome Desk

Janet Hayes
604-420-5995

Refreshments

Faye Kilpatrick
604-434-5921

Speakers

Beth MacLaren
604-253-7036

Website

David Forsyth
604-298-6350

Upcoming Meetings Events/Club News

March 1, 2017

Ursula Easterbrook, - Garden Photography

**At the February meeting, orders were taken for the purchase of the soil amender/compost that will be delivered by Gelderman Farms to our March meeting. The cost is \$6 per 30 L bag, exact cash or cheque only upon delivery. If you placed an order, please be sure to attend the meeting or arrange for someone to pick yours up!*

April 5, 2017

Nicholas Funke, Managing Fruit & Young Trees

May 3, 2017

Janice Bobic, our longtime BRAGS member will talk on "My Father's Garden" and Beekeeping.

May 7, 2017 – Rhodofest!

Save the date!

Speaker Program, Update!

Thank you so much to Beth MacLaren who has stepped into the Speakers position! Welcome Beth to your new role! We also say thanks to Bev Glover for the wonderful job she did while holding this position, and who kept us entertained and looking forward to the next meeting. Our club wouldn't survive without members like you both. If you have some new ideas for future speakers, please speak to Beth, or email her at bethmaclaren@gmail.com.



Out & About Etc...

GW Customer Appreciation Day, March 16th, 2017

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

An Irish Quote...

May flowers always line your path and sunshine light your day. May songbirds serenade you every step along the way. May a rainbow run beside you in a sky that's always blue. And may happiness fill your heart each day your whole life through.

