

January/February 2020!
Happy New Year!



Well, February is almost here and winter is in full swing here in the Lower Mainland. Hopefully you all enjoyed the Christmas season and all the visiting that goes along with it. I was just thinking how incredible it is that Y2K was 20 years ago...what fear there was to welcome the year 2000, and here we are, all these years later, still in one piece! 2020 has a nice ring to it, so I wish you all a wonderful '2020', and as they are saying, may you have '2020 vision'!

One thing that is changing in our world, is the weather of course, with much talk of climate change, global warming and 'extreme' weather systems. During my November visit to Palm Springs the weather was 15 degrees *above normal*, enjoyable for those visiting, but a concern for the wildfires and dry conditions that trouble California. Fast forward to the week after I left, - plunging temperatures, snow in the local mountains, and rain creating flash floods! The temperatures dropped to considerably *below normal* levels, and Thanksgiving travel conditions for our U.S. neighbours were chaotic.

As I write this issue, Australia is experiencing incredibly devastating wildfires.

For us here in B.C. the changes are not so extreme, but there are changes happening. Our wildlife is

adapting, and our gardens are adapting as well. For those of us who have lived here all of our lives, we only have to remember 'way back', to see the changes that have occurred. Year by year, perhaps not so noticeable, but looking back decades, it's clear to see.

Let's hope our 2020 is not too earth changing, and that we can all do our best to adapt as well.

- Cheryl



...Palm Springs hummer at a patio feeder...

Remember, if you have anything to share, - stories or pictures that you think our BRAGS members might enjoy, please send them on! If you've been on a vacation, or visited a local attraction, or saw something of interest, don't be shy. We'd love to hear all about it!

Send to Cheryl Fiddis at ecfiddis@telus.net.

The Winter Garden

By Rosemarie Daviduk

It's winter here in Vancouver and it's been a very wet one in the Lower Mainland.

January 1st was an exception – the sun was out! I decided to do a short tour of my garden. A lot of plants had died down since the Fall, and will emerge in the Spring as the weather/temperature improves.

Plants that caught my interest during my short tour were:

Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) continues to bloom. This slender deciduous shrub is native to China. It is also named yingchun – the flower that welcomes Spring. It is an easy shrub to grow. The arching green shoots have dark green leaves. The flowers – yellow or white – have 6 petals. This hardy shrub grows well in the sun or partial shade.

Rhubarb. This vegetable which is used as a fruit is often cooked with sugar and used in pies, cakes etc. is starting to sprout after dying down to the ground in the Fall. Once can see the bright pink new growth. Tho' being January 1st it seems a bit early to be sprouting. The precise origin of rhubarb is unknown. Rhubarb which is grown in the lower mainland can be harvested in April/May and late June/July. The stalks vary in colour – crimson red, speckled pink and light green. Rhubarb needs well drained soil and preferably full sunlight.

Coral Bells (the botanical name is *Heuchera*). I bought 3 of these plants in the summer to brighten up our winter garden. They will grow well in any amount of light. I planted them in an area that receives no direct sunlight. They have done well. The leaves of these plants are rounded and come in a variety of colours - purple, rose, gold, lime green and variegated. The plants have a woody rootstock or crown. Their small bell shaped flowers on a tall stem are attractive to hummingbirds. These plants grow well in soil that is well drained to prevent their roots from rotting.

Daffodils – narcissus – a spring perennial, are starting to sprout. The bulbs were planted in early fall. They will be blooming within a few months. Daffodils are pretty well self-sufficient once planted. I don't add any bulb food or bone meal. They are planted in areas that receive full sun. I look forward to seeing a beautiful display of tall yellow flowers in the spring.

Winter pansies. These will flower for the majority of the winter season. These hardy plants were purchased in early fall and were planted in a fence container which receives lots of direct sunlight. Winter Pansies are low maintenance. One can give them some liquid fertilizer. I just remove the wilted flowers as the season progresses. The bright yellow flowers brighten up the dull grey days of winter.

Hellebores (winter/Lenten rose). These are another low maintenance plant with attractive flowers, and are growing in various areas of the garden. Their buds are starting to appear. Hellebores are perennials which come in a variety of colours, - white, pink, and purple. They bloom late winter/early spring. These plants can grow in the

shade, sun or with filtered light. Hellebores are hardy as they are frost resistant and they do survive the varying temperatures of the lower mainland. I'm looking forward to seeing them in full bloom.



Pictures by Rosemarie

BRAGS Membership

Still only \$12 per year, BRAGS 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 on the 1st Wednesday (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!

And just a reminder, the dues are 'due'! See Anne at the membership desk to pay for this year. Cheque or exact change is always appreciated.

**BRAGS
Executive**

President
Wendy Thompson

Vice-President
Bev Glover

Treasurer
Susan Brandl

Secretary
Linda Cholette

Past President
Verna Adamson

Standing Committees

Membership
Anne Forsyth

Nominations
Verna Adamson

Publicity
Evelyn Crawford

Burnaby Blooms
Verna Adamson
Bev Glover

Other Committees

Plant Sale
Linda Cholette

Newsletter
Cheryl Fiddis
Anne Forsyth
David Forsyth

Welcome Desk
Judy Wellington

Refreshments
Faye Kilpatrick

Speakers
Beth MacLaren

Website
David Forsyth

*Upcoming Meetings
Events/Club News*

February 5, 2020

Ron Long presents:
“The Fabulous Plants of Western Australia”. Come be an ‘armchair’
traveller with no jet lag!

March 4, 2020

Conway Lum presents: “Taming the Beast, - Pruning”.
Congrats to Conway who has been awarded the 2019 Volunteer of the Year
by the BC Landscape and Nursery Association.

Burnaby Blooms, May 2 & 3, 2020

Save the weekend!

Out & About Etc...



Gardenworks Customer Appreciation Day

February 20, 2020

Mark the date for 15% savings all day. A garden centre is a lovely place to
visit when the weather is frightful.

A New Year - Thanks!

As we begin the new year it's time to say Thanks to all of the members who
continue to support our club, whether by holding a position, lending a hand
at events, or attending our meetings. We wouldn't have a BRAGS without
everyone! And a special thanks to Beth who has worked hard to arrange
our guest speakers, and also to find social events outside of our meetings,
for us all to attend. Well done everyone!

Farewell to our friend, Helen Reid

A long time friend of BRAGS, and one of the founding members, Helen
Reid, passed away on December 24, 2019 at the remarkable age of 99.
Helen will be remembered for her ‘lion's spirit’, and for her collection of
antique garden tools that she displayed at the annual Rhodo Festival.



We wish you well on your new journey.

BRAGS President's Year End Report, December 4, 2019

It has been my honour to serve as your president for the sixth year. Thank you to our Executive Committee, standing committee members and all those who contribute in so many ways to BRAGS. We have had another successful year!

Special thanks to Beth McLaren for coordinating the varied and interesting guest speakers. Bev and Bill Glover kindly provided their garden for the summer pot-luck picnic. It was a perfect day and our hosts were most gracious, as they have been in the past.

Thanks to Linda Cholette for coordinating the annual plant sale which we held again in conjunction with the Rhododendron Festival, and to all of you who donated plants and your time to make this a successful event.

Thanks to Verna Adamson, and her assistant Bev Glover, for continuing to coordinate the annual Burnaby Blooms Festival (formerly Rhodofest) with the City of Burnaby for the sixth year! We had an outstanding group of volunteers who worked hard on both the Silent Auction and the Plant Sale. Thank you to everyone for your time, commitment and dedication to this event. We made about \$150 more than last year for the combined auction and plant sale, due to your efforts.

The funds we raised go toward our expenses, namely guest speakers, and community donations. We didn't make any donations in 2019 and will have to do so in the new year.

Thank you to David Forsyth for his undying commitment to our website and email communications, Cheryl Fiddis, the tireless editor of our interesting and informative newsletter, Evelyn Crawford for publicity, Rosemarie Daviduk and Beth McLaren for attending the BCCGC meetings, Faye Kilpatrick for organizing the refreshments, Judy Wellington at welcome desk, Ann Forsyth for keeping track of the membership, and to all of you who contributed goodies and items for the draw throughout the year. I'd also like to thank our Treasurer, Susan Brandl, Secretary, Linda Cholette, and Vice President, Bev Glover for doing a great job for many years, and for agreeing to continue in their positions.

We are grateful to the City of Burnaby for supporting BRAGS by providing the use of the Discovery Room free of charge for our monthly meetings and for the successful partnership we have for the Burnaby Blooms Festival.

The City of Burnaby will soon be into active planning for the 2020 Burnaby Blooms Festival which will be taking place on Sunday, May 4. Burnaby has changed the format to take place totally outdoors which will present us with some challenges. Please bring ideas and your support to our planning committee as they work with the City to bring Burnaby another successful Burnaby Blooms.

Thanks again for your support. I'm looking forward to another great year with BRAGS! I am willing to carry on in this role for another year, however, if anyone else would like to take over the presidency, I would be happy to step aside.

Respectfully Submitted
Wendy Thompson
President