

March 2020!
Soon Spring Will Arrive!



Spring! We are SO ready for Spring! Hopefully you all survived our first two months of 2020, and that we have said goodbye to that January and February snow and the cold snap. A huge thanks to all of you who helped our birds in the deep freeze, especially the hummingbirds. Having a second feeder certainly helped with our temperatures hitting minus 9 in Burnaby, as it didn't take a feeder long to freeze.

The only thing that a snowfall in Vancouver is good for: we stop complaining about the rain! As the weather improves it's now time to get out and about in our gardens and inspect what took place over the winter, and start the spring cleanup. I've noticed the grass is already looking greener and it's growing, all good signs. And my 2010 Olympic Hellebore is in full bloom, spring signs for sure!

Again, Rosemarie has written an article about a recent trip she took. Thank you Rosemarie!

***The Gardens of the Sheraton Baganviliyas
Resort & Convention Center –
Puerto Vallarta***

We recently had another holiday in Puerto Vallarta staying at the Sheraton hotel. I enjoy the location as it is on the water and has lovely garden areas. While I was taking pictures of the flowers, Abelardo stopped to talk. He was intrigued that I enjoyed the gardens. He mentioned there was a

resource book on the gardens and if I liked he would give it to me to pursue and would also arrange a tour with the gardeners.

I, of course, agreed to this immediately. The gardens were redesigned 10 years ago by Arg. Jorge del Real. The binder – “Nuestras, Plantas ou plants – Recorrido Botanico”, had pictures and a description of all the plants and the sections of the complex where they were planted. The scientific name – common name – Spanish name – English name – country of origin and description were listed for each plant. Also, some of the medicinal properties were mentioned.

I enjoyed reading the binder and it was interesting to see where the plants originated from, - for example, Madagascar, Brazil, Mexico, New Guinea, South America, India.

After reading through the binder I joined 2 (Juan & Gustavo) of the 9 gardeners for my tour. We spent an hour touring the complex. They pointed out the various plants to me and gave me further information on them. I mentioned to them that some of the plants were available in our garden shops but could only be grown inside due to our climate. It would be wonderful if some of them could be grown outside in Vancouver.

The hotel does have a nursery off site where plants are started etc. As is here, plants bloom in certain seasons. For a more effective display a lot of the plants were in the same area. Throughout my stay I saw the gardeners busy with maintaining the different areas.

Some facts about some of the plants were quite interesting to me. At the entrance to the hotel was Palma del Viajero (Madagascar). Thirsty travellers could find water deposits in many parts of these plants. Coripha Palm which lives to 40 – 70 years was quite impressive to see at the entrance. Before it starts to die off, millions of creamy flowers appear. Then it dies little by little. Fortunately it was still thriving on my tour.

I found out that the Hibiscus (Asia) leaves are edible and are often substituted for spinach. The flowers are edible raw or cooked.

The Screw Croton (Malaysia) is used in Cuba for cooking. It is a diuretic used to expel stones in the urine and for the treatment of diabetes.

The Country Almond (India) has fruit that is edible. The wood is resistant to water and in Polynesia canoes are made with it. The leaves & bark are used for medicinal purposes.

Buganvillea (Brazil) which comes in various colours, is used orally (infusion of tender leaves/bracts) for the treatment of gastrointestinal health problems.

Zoysia Grass (Southeast Asia) can be considered a magical lawn. It endures drought – resistant to footsteps – can withstand a variety of temperatures – little fertilization is needed, and has few irrigation needs.

All the gardeners I met during the week were happy that I enjoyed the various plants. I look forward to having another stay there to enjoy the beauty of the gardens.



- Photos & article by Rosemarie Daviduk

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.

Burnaby Blooms 2020! **Sunday, May 3, 10 am to 5 pm**

BRAGS participation will be on Sunday, while the event runs the whole weekend of May 2 & May 3. All events are outdoors, tents will be set up for entertainers and workshops. The City has recruited a well-known florist to spearhead the event with entries from local and international florists. They will be provided with metal ecosculptures to decorate. The City Horticulture Department will be heavily involved.

We are pleased that the City has granted our request to participate on Sunday only. We will run all our usual events; the plant sale, 2 silent auctions and the spring bouquet contest, though the schedules may differ somewhat from last year. We will be located on the breezeway on the east side of the Shadbolt Centre. It is a covered area. This means that we will have to **set up on the morning of Sunday May 3**. Logistics of this to be discussed further.

We need **all volunteers Sunday, May 3** at the Festival. Remember your lunch and drinks, as the Encores Café will be closed. There will be some food trucks on site.

If you are able to volunteer, please sign up at the meeting or contact Verna Adamson at 604-318-3472, email at v_adamson@shaw.ca or to Bev Glover at bglover@telus.net. Questions, thoughts and ideas greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to our usual well-oiled machine working together again this year!

Verna



**BRAGS
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Bev Glover

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Burnaby Blooms
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Plant Sale
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Newsletter
Cheryl Fiddis
Anne Forsyth
David Forsyth

Welcome Desk
Judy Wellington

Refreshments
Faye Kilpatrick

Speakers
Beth MacLaren

Website
David Forsyth

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.

***Upcoming Meetings
Events/Club News***

March 4, 2020

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

April 1, 2020

John Bimacombe presents "Mediterranean Style Gardening"

May 6, 2020

Linda Stanley Wilson gives a talk on "Native Plants".

June 3, 2020

Marilyn Holt presents "Geraniums & Pelargoniums".



Out & About Etc...

Gardenworks Customer Appreciation Day

March 19, 2020

Mark the date for 15% savings all day. A garden centre is a lovely place to visit to get ready for Spring!



January hummer all fluffed up in the cold on my patio...CF