

## From the President . . .

You will notice that this is a short form of our usual newsletter. We'll be going with this abbreviated two-page format until we find a new editor. It's not as big a job as you might think, if you have some familiarity with computers, and there is support available for anyone who thinks they might like to take this on. In the meantime, those of you who would like to submit an article or two can send them to me – we'll be very grateful for any items. We've had some great information in the past. It is amazing what some of our members know. That reminds me that the BC Council of Garden Clubs is always looking for new speakers, so if you can put together a talk you too can be famous, at least in the garden club circuit.

Many good things coming up in the year ahead. We will be going ahead with the plant sale, so keep potting up your divisions. It is scheduled for April 20, 2008. Susan McDougall has this organized so it is very easy to run. We do need gardens for digs, and people to do the digging. If you can either volunteer your garden (or your neighbours') or if you can lead a dig, let us know. If we all do a few hours we'll have plenty of plants and a great sale.

The Rhodofest is also on track. Judy Wellington and Diane Allison are heading up this year's show, so it will be a good one. Keep the first Sunday in May clear for our favourite festival.

We are still looking for someone to head up the Refreshment Committee. There is a great team of volunteers but it helps to have someone to co-ordinate things. And we need someone to organize next year's speakers. The BC Council of Garden Clubs supplies a list we can work from, so again, not too onerous a position if you don't mind a bit of phoning around.

On this topic, Dr Alan Reid from GardenWorks is our first speaker of the year, with tips on pruning. He is always a great speaker. In February we'll be visited from Heather Edwards from Burnaby Parks, discussing some of the horticulture-related projects going on in our city.

Susan Brandl

### **BRAGS**

#### **2008 EXECUTIVE**

##### **President**

Susan Brandl  
433-4250

##### **Vice-President**

Faye Kilpatrick  
434-5921

##### **Treasurer**

Heather MacKay  
438-1342

##### **Secretary**

Lanny Hui

##### **Past President**

Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

##### **Fund Raising**

Peter Barnsdale  
421-8987  
& Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801

##### **Membership**

David Forsyth  
298-6350

##### **Nominations**

Cheryl Fiddis  
435-2801  
Vacancies (2)

##### **Publicity**

Jackie Walker  
420-0275

##### **Rhododendron**

##### **Festival**

Judy Wellington  
434-8287

#### **OTHER COMMITTEES**

##### **Newsletter**

Editor – Vacant

Distribution – D & A Forsyth

##### **Plant Sale**

Vacant

##### **Garden Contest**

Judy Wellington  
434-8287

##### **Garden Tour**

Wendy Snyder  
Faye Kilpatrick

##### **Refreshments**

Vacant

##### **Speakers**

Vacant

##### **Website**

David Forsyth

## 2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back at 2007, I'm impressed by how busy we were and how much was accomplished.

In January we started off with a brand-new executive. Our vice-president Faye Kilpatrick and Treasurer Heather McKay had been very involved with BRAGS but I was a complete newbie with plenty to learn. For the first time ever our speaker was ill but Val and Norbert Wuensche filled in with a beautiful slide show of Hawaii.

By February Susan McDougall had started preparations for our plant sale well underway. We congratulated Carolyn Juhl who had her garden featured in Gardens West Magazine. Les Clay gave a talk on Rhododendrons and brought some plants for us to buy.

In March we began sending out the newsletter electronically to many of the members, saving both money and time. Digs continued for the plant sale despite poor weather. Our Secretary Bev Birce resigned as she had accepted a job in Campbell River and Lanny Hui took over the position. We had an interesting and fun talk from Sharon Hanna on starting seeds.

By April we were the proud owners of a new digital projector, which more and more of our speakers require. This month featured a talk from Dave Hutch on using native plants. We donated \$500 to the Eagles Estate to cover the cost of landscape fabric and seeds to help stabilize a bank near the staircase. Two benches were installed at Fairhaven and Peter Barnsdale organized a group to finish the plantings. Meanwhile Diane Allison led a team refreshing planters at New Vista Care Facility. Judy Wellington and crew were hard at work with the upcoming Rhodofest. The big event was our annual plant sale which occurred on a rainy Sunday and brought in \$4600.

May saw a successful Rhodofest, again in poor weather, but with the ever-popular Silent Auction, Bouquet Contest and Rhodo truss displays. We raised over \$3000. For our May meeting, Ayuko Inoue gave a great talk on garden design and small space gardening. Everyone was coveting the Mother's Day gift basket fundraisers Cheryl and Peter put together.

In June we continued to try and disburse some of the money we had earned. Membership agreed in

principle to contribute toward a sprinkler system at Fairhaven and Peter Barnsdale agreed to get quotes. A further \$1500 was donated to the Eagles Estate, to paint the fence which had finally been completed. By their Strawberry Tea June 24<sup>th</sup>, the fence looked beautiful. And, as if our gardens didn't cost enough already, Cliff Forbes and his talk on Art in the Garden introduced us to a whole new way to spend money on our yards.

July saw our garden tour. Approximately 190 visitors enjoyed this year's 7 gardens. Again a large number of members interrupted their summers to help make it happen, New this time was a gift drawing thanks to Cheryl and Peter.

In Sept we met and approved \$4200 towards Fairhaven's sprinkler system. Sheila Chowdhury took over the raffle table. Wendy Snyder gave up the job of Refreshment Co-ordinator – at least she tried to. We enjoyed a wonderful show of our garden tour, thanks to David Forsyth's skill and Diane Allison's narration, with several of the garden owners joining us for the presentation.

In October we approved a gift of \$2000 to purchase plants for a therapeutic garden at St. Michaels Centre. Congratulations were offered to member Catherine Dale, who won one of Burnaby's Environmental awards. Barbra Fairclough gave us a talk on Grasses in the Landscape.

In November we donated \$1050 to Wildlife Rescue towards the purchase of a propane water heater. A further \$600 went to the Butterfly Garden at Burnaby Lake to build a pergola for climbing plants. Our speaker fit nicely into this theme of helping wildlife: Randy Solomon gave us good information on attracting birds to our backyards.

And now it's December already. We mark the last issue of our newsletter by Margot Moser who has done such a wonderful job. Although we're busy celebrating, planning is already underway for next year's events. Thanks to all whose hard work and time make it all happen.

Susan Brandl  
President