

And now for something different...

Submitted by member Janice Bobic... a perfect bit of prose for a spring newsletter. This poem was written by her mother 30 years ago this month!

WINDY DAY

*The sun was bright
and the sky was blue
A man flew a kite
for his boy aged two*

*Soft gray clouds
sailed along in the breeze
The sunlight and pollen
made the boy sneeze*

*The kite flew higher and higher
as a thousand feet of line unwound
not a bird in the air
was to be found*

*Like a giant caterpillar in agony
the kite nosed its way in flight
As gray clouds became ebony
the sky turned dark, the breezes light*

*Soon the boy tired and quiet
began with his dog to play
The man reeled in the kite
to await another windy day.*

Composed by:
Frances Wuzinski (1917- 2000)
March 30, 1971

Thanks Janice for sharing!

Send me your secrets!

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ ecfiddis@telus.net

Thank You's...

BRAGS would like to take a moment to recognize long time members Anne & David Forsyth. From faithfully attending meetings and volunteering at all BRAGS events, to chairing the Membership Committee position, (which they have both done), to the administration and maintenance of our BRAGS website (David), and to the production of our newsletter each month...to chairing the Rhodofest for 2 years (David), to several years of kitchen duty for the BRAGS meetings (Anne), to being the official photographer for 7 years for the Garden Tour and the related slide presentation (David)...and more...Wow! We say Thank You Anne and David!

**RHODOFEST
SUNDAY, MAY 1st!!**

We want to recognize the great response to our call for volunteers for the upcoming Rhodofest to be held Sunday, May 1, 2011, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts. Even though we have quite a number of volunteers already signed up, we will need more. The more we have, the less work there is for each one of us, especially on setup day. If you haven't signed up yet, please contact Wendy or June by phone or email. When we get closer to finalizing our plans we'll be in touch to assign specific duties, etc.

For those of you that have helped in past years, and still have your BRAGS t-shirt, we would ask you to wear it on May 1st. We do have a limited supply for those that need one.

Thanks so much!

Wendy Thompson 604-420-6513
wwthompson@shaw.ca
June Dodson 604-939-2597 junedodson@shaw.ca

Meet Our President!

Here's an introduction to our new president, Verna Adamson!

"Graham and I moved to our home on the south slope 7 years ago. The home and the garden had been neglected for many years, and we got to work renovating both the home and the garden. There were good bones in the garden that were well established, including magnolia, dogwood, camellia, rhodos and azaleas, as well as large Douglas Firs and Western Red Cedars. We had 3 cedar trees taken down, which let in more light and opened up the garden. Not to mention the neighbours who were thrilled to get their views opened up.

Our first priority was to clean up the street side of the garden for the neighbourhood's benefit. Graham removed "the juniper that was trying to eat Burnaby", much to our neighbour's delight. We planted a tidy low-maintenance garden on the street that looks great in all seasons. Plantings of heather are showy in the spring, which are taken over by Sedums and grasses in the summer and fall.

We have a lot of children in the neighbourhood, so I plant lots of spring bulbs and summer flowers on the street for their enjoyment. Being situated on the corner of McKee Place and Sunflower Ave, I feel it my duty to grow sunflowers for the kids and birds to enjoy. I love sunflowers!

We have many "rooms" to our garden, all very different, which makes for a nice variety of plantings and spaces. Along the driveway is a raised bed with hellebores and other winter and spring plants and bulbs that we can admire from the car as we come and go, as I have to admit that we really are wimpy "fair weather gardeners".

The cedar grove in the back is left natural, and the birds, squirrels, raccoons and skunks are a great joy to us. We have let a few volunteer hazelnut trees grow for the squirrels and a red flowering currant is our natural hummingbird feeder.

We have had a pair of Anna's hummingbirds here at our feeder all winter. It was so amazing to see them at the feeder in the middle of a snow storm. In the summer we have lots of hanging baskets and pots with fuchsias, geraniums, and petunias for the

hummys. We also have many hardy and annual fuchsias and other plants for the hummys and flowers for the butterflies. The only danger is the cats that lurk underneath!

Of course there is lots of catnip, nepeta and lavender for the cats, our helpful gardening supervisors. The neighbour cats also seem to be addicted to the kitty pot.

Graham also has a mason bee house mounted and a nice pot of clay for them.

Next projects: pathways throughout, and 2 ponds with a stream connecting them. But first, we have to get to the weeds!"

Thank you Verna!

BRAGS Membership

Annual membership cost \$12. Members share various gardening interests and enjoy 10% discount of regularly priced items at Garden Works by presenting their membership cards. If you haven't yet renewed your 2011 membership, be sure to do so at the next meeting!

Upcoming Meetings

April 6, 2011

Shirley Mackenzie, Associate Master Gardener will provide a light hearted talk on the growing conditions that various vegetables require and go through the A-Z's of vegetables.

May 4, 2011

Gary Lewis of Phoenix Perennials will entertain us with:

"Weird & Wonderful Plants of the World: Botanically Intriguing Options for your garden".

June 1, 2011

Wendy Leroux of Botanus

Topic tba

All meetings start at 7 pm, at the Burnaby Village Museum, - Main Building, 2nd floor.

Refreshments are served. All are welcome.

Don't forget to bring your own mug to be eco-friendly and save a Styrofoam cup!

**BRAGS
2011 EXECUTIVE**

President
Verna Adamson
604-294-5550
Vice-President
Lanny Hui
604-415-8287
Treasurer
Kim Taylor
60435-0728
Secretary
Linda Cholette
604-298-9059
Past President
Judy Wellington
604-434-8287

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership

Anne Forsyth
604-298-6350

Nominations

Judy Wellington

Publicity

Lanny Hui
604-415-4564

Rhododendron Festival

Wendy Thompson
604-420-6513
June Dodson
604-939-2597

OTHER COMMITTEES

Garden Tour

Vacant

Plant Sale

Lanny Hui

Newsletter

Cheryl Fiddis
604-435-2801

Anne & David Forsyth
604-298-6350

Welcome

Faye Kilpatrick
604-434-5921

Sheila Chowdhury
604-298-1196

Raffle

Joy Makepeace-Smith
604-433-5869

Refreshments

Helen Vaughan
604-299-2014

Speakers

Rosemarie Daviduk
604-431-6207

Website

David Forsyth
604-298-6350

Out and About

April 21, Thursday

Customer Appreciation Day at all Gardenworks locations.
15% Discount!

Free Garden Clinics for Adults at Gardenworks

Visit www.gardenworks.ca for more details!

Here's a sample few...

April 2, Saturday @ 1pm (Mandeville)

Lawn Care & Chafer Beetle Repair

April 2, Saturday @ 1:00 (Lougheed)

Landscaping That Sells

April 7, Thursday @ 6:30 pm (Lougheed)

Vegetable Gardens

April 9, Saturday @ 12 noon (Lougheed)

Rose Partners

April 16, Saturday @ 12 noon (Lougheed)

Gardening for the Birds

April 30, Saturday @ 12 noon (Lougheed)

Berry Wonderful Gardens

And something special for Easter...

April 16, Saturday @ 1pm (Mandeville)

Easter Surprise Arrangement

*Registration fee: \$10 plus cost of materials. Pre-registration required no later than 1 week before class, (subject to cancellation). Cost of materials varies depending on flower selection.

April 9 & 10th - Saturday & Sunday The Vancouver Dahlia Society Sale

The Vancouver Dahlia Society's annual tuber sale will take place at VanDusen Botanical Gardens @ 37th & Oak.

Call Evelyn @ 604-437-8395 or visit www.vancouverdahliasociety.com for information.

BRAGS Plant Sale!

This year the BRAGS Plant Sale will take place at Rhodofest in the same room as the Silent Auction. Donations of plants are required as per other years. For information regarding donating, potting up and delivery of items, please contact Lanny Hui @ 604-415-4564 or p_lanny@yahoo.com.