

Message from the President

By Susan Brandl

Greetings everyone! It seems like I've been away for months and with the weird weather and busyness of the last month I feel completely disconnected from the garden. I've hardly been to the garden centres, except to put up posters, but I have managed to pick up some plants while on various errands and look forward to getting out and playing in the dirt now that the snow has stopped.

Many other people must be thinking the same as our plant sale went well, with some 800 or 900 plants sold and gross sales of \$3000. As always I was very impressed by the way the Brags team came through, with many more plants than we expected and a huge number of helpers for the sale itself. Everyone seems to know what to do and gets right down to work so things went very smoothly. I got several nice plants for myself (no they're not planted yet but hey, I haven't finished unloading the truck either) and found myself wondering just how much was sold to club members. None of us seems to be able to resist a good plant.

One of the things I liked best about traveling was the opportunity to see what was growing in other parts of the world. In Ushuaia, at the southern end of Argentina, the gardens mainly consisted of lupines, roses and hardy fuschias. A few crazy people had planted scotch broom. Initially I was disappointed to fly thousands of kilometers only to see the same plants and weeds as we have at home, but once out of the towns the native vegetation reappeared and I knew I was somewhere different. Strange evergreen beech forests predominate in the south end of Patagonia and

while others took in culture (actually pubs) and statues I happily hopped from plant to plant. It was funny to see garden plants like impatiens and crocosmia as roadside weeds, drive through groves of monkey puzzle trees, and push through huge fuschias that hung over the highway. I saw my beloved salvia species growing with cactuses in semi-desert conditions, which pretty much explains while they melt away every winter in my garden. I was often frustrated though to see an interesting plant out of the bus window and not be able to stop to examine it. So I have to go back.

I hope you all have had some time to get out and enjoy the plants you love. This is our busiest time of year but after the Rhodofest we can take a breather. I again would like to thank the many people who put in so many hours to make these events happen. Do think too about what you want to do for next year, what direction you would like the club to go, and how we can help you become better gardeners.

Happy digging

Susan



Garden Tour

July 20, 2008, 10am – 4pm

There are now seven gardens picked for the 2008 Garden Tour, thanks for all the leads from everyone so I could track down these gardens. I will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers to sit at these gardens at the May 7 meeting.

- Faye Kilpatrick

RhodoFest 2008

20th Annual Burnaby Rhododendron Festival

Sunday, May 4, 9³⁰ am – 4pm

New this year – Gardening Guest Speakers

Carolyn Herriot of "Get Up & Grow"

"Food Gardening for the Future-The New Victory Garden"

Alan Reid of Gardenworks

"Companion Planting" – plants that love shrubs

Rhododendron Leafhopper

By Diane Allison

If your Rhododendrons are suffering from an inordinate amount of bud blast despite your best efforts, this little critter may be the culprit!

Order: Homoptera
Family: Cicadellidae
Species: *Graphocephala fennahi*

Larvae:

mature nymphs are cream white, about 8mm



Leafhopper:

10-12 mm
head and legs are pale green, thorax and wings are blue-green with red



Damage:

- on immature foliage and new shoots due to larvae feeding – some puckering and misshaping
- may see stippling marks on foliage where stylets penetrate leaf cells, yellowish markings
- thought to cause damage to flower bud – vector for transmission of *Pycnostysanus azaleae*, fungus that causes bud blast disease in rhododendrons and azaleas

banding

Life Cycle:

- June to October
- there is only one generation per year with adults laying eggs in the unopened buds of the *rhododendron* in late summer
- eggs hatch in April
- larvae and adults feed on the sap from the undersides of the leaves
- larvae undergo incomplete metamorphosis - each successive molting results in nymph looking more like the adult
- this species of *Graphocephala* limits its feeding to rhododendrons and azaleas



Control:

- remove infected buds and dispose of in garbage – infected buds do not rot and can remain on shrub for 2-3 years
- paying little boys to catch all the ‘pretty red and green grasshoppers’ that they can!



Arbour at Butterfly Garden

Our \$1100 donation has been used to build the arbour at Butterfly Garden. It will be painted and decorated with plants, once the weather becomes warmer. The garden is located at Piper Ave., (south of Winston St.) by the Burnaby Lake Nature House.

Happy Mother's Day!

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word Mother- Unknown

Out & About

May 1 (Thur)
Cedar Series Lecture,
"Spirit in The Grass: the
Caribou Chilcotin's
Forgotten Landscape" with
photographer and author
Chris Harris. VanDusen
Floral Hall at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets can be purchased at
the Administration Office
or at the door. Members \$10
and non-members \$15.

May 3 & 4 (Sat & Sun)
Orchid Show & Sale by
Vancouver Orchid Society.
Richmond Curling Club,
5540 Hollybridge Way,
Richmond, 9am-5pm Sat,
9am-4pm Sun. Admission
\$7.

May 6 (Tue)
South Burnaby Garden
Club Monthly Meeting
Bonsor Rec Centre 7:30pm.

May 10 & 11 (Sat & Sun)
Geranium Sale & Art Show
by Can Geranium &
Pelargonium Soc.
VanDusen Floral Hall, 37th
& Oak, Vancouver, 10am-
2pm.



Volunteers
are needed to plant
containers and care for a
balcony rooftop garden in
the transitional care area
at Burnaby Hospital. This
would involve caring for
this garden through the
summer & fall. A budget
for plants is in place.

Anyone interested, please
contact:
Clare O'Kelly
604-412-6131
clare.okelly@fraserhealth.ca

May Meeting

Wednesday, May 7
Speaker:
Elaine Cramer of Surrey
Hydrangea Society
"Hydrangea"

Thank You

To Susan Brandl, Diane
Allison, Cheryl Fiddis, and
Lois Brown for
contributing articles to this
edition of the BRAGS
Newsletter. Contributions
from Members are always
welcome. - LH

Plant Sales

**Coquitlam Dogwood
Garden Club** Saturday,
May 3, 9am to 2pm.
Perennials, annuals, &
hanging baskets. Scout
Hall, Blue Mountain Park,
Porter & Winslow,
Coquitlam

**New Westminster
Horticultural Society**
Sunday May 4, 10am to
4pm. Glenbrook
Middle School Gymnasium,
701 Park Cr. (nr. 8th &
McBride) New
Westminster.

**SFU Campus
Community Bursary
Endowment Fund**
Wednesday May 7, 11am to
2:30pm. Town square by the
Cornerstone Building (8960
University High St.),
Burnaby Campus

**Lynn Valley Garden
Club** Sunday May 10,
10am to 1pm. St Clements
Church, 3400 Institute Rd,
N Vancouver

Nominations! Nominations! Nominations!

**By Cheryl Fiddis & Lois Brown,
Nominations Committee**

As previously mentioned, over the next few months
we will be providing details by newsletter and by
handouts, of the positions that will be available for
nomination at the year-end.

In this article, we spotlight the Executive roles. Please
do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions!

President

- The primary role of the President is to chair 10
meetings per annum, including the AGM.
Involves preparing an agenda in advance,
confirming with and allocating time for those
committees which require floor time, reviewing
correspondence received, communicating future
relevant community events, and presenting
requests for "Gifts to the Community" to the
membership.
- Represents the Club at any required functions, or
assigns a delegate.
- Provides support and guidance to the various
committees and groups within BRAGS.
- Ensures the By-Laws of BRAGS are followed.
- Performs sundry duties such as picking up the Club's
mail at Shadbolt and attending to any enquires by
mail or by phone.
- Ensures the annual agreement is completed for the
monthly meetings at Burnaby Village.

Vice-President

- Fills in as President during any absences, and
provides support as needed to the President and
other Committee members.
- If necessary, assume the role of the President, should
this role become unexpectedly vacant.

Treasurer

- Is responsible for the maintenance of all financial
records of the club, keeping all accounting up to
date and in order and available for audit.
- Issues cheques, as needed for any dues, insurance,
club expenses, disbursements or reimbursements
to members for expenses incurred. Completes
deposits for all funds received and issues receipts
as required.
- Ensures the Society Annual Report form 11 is
completed and forwarded to the Ministry of
Finance within 30 days of the date of the AGM.