

RhodoFest, May 3, 2009

Setup: We had 17 volunteers from 9 – 11 to set up on Saturday morning. Anne Forsyth worked longer to get all the pots looking perfect. June brought in the coffee and snacks for the volunteer room in the afternoon. Helen Reid and her family set up the tool display between noon and 3 pm.

Event volunteers: We had 31 volunteers on Sunday, many of whom were also there for the setup.

Volunteer room: The BRAGS-only volunteer room worked out well as soon as we figured out where to plug in the various appliances without blowing a circuit! I think the volunteers enjoyed having this room. I know that I did.

Silent Auction: Susan Brandl, Diane Allison and Judy Wellington drove to the nurseries to pick up the plants on the Thursday and Friday before the event. They were able to deliver the plants to Shadbolt on Friday but Judy stored hers overnight at Marybeth Lavender's house. We auctioned 80 items in total: 77 plants from 20 nurseries, two bouquets from Burnaby and a silk plant arrangement from an individual. We raised \$1416 before expenses; last year 450 items raised \$3500. The average raised per item was \$17.70; last year it was \$7.77. The plant arrangement was attractive. It was nice to have the Bouquet Competition and the Tool Display in the same room.

Antique Tool Display: Helen Reid and her family put on a stunning display of antique tools complemented by vegetables, flowers and some other fun items.

Truss Display: The three tables were full of lovely trusses; people were taking pictures of them all day. We may get some emails asking where they can buy the ones they particularly liked.

BRAGS table: The table was well attended and quite a bit of interest was shown in the club. We may get some new members as a result. There were four garden tours that attracted 35 people. Several old BRAGS t-shirt were sold.

All in all the festival was a success and I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

Wendy Thompson

Spring Bouquet Competition at RhodoFest

We received 15 high-quality entries with 534 votes; last year we had 6 entries with 317 votes. All of the entries were very well received by visitors and all were amazed with the variety and originality of the entries; they were all truly beautiful! Four of our own members submitted entries: Linda Cholette, Judy Wellington, Janice Bobic, and Lily Auyeung. First and second prizes were won by Elsa Fogale. Third prize was Mas Tanizawa. Thanks to Don Wrigley and Verna Adamson for assisting me throughout the day. Pierina Ballan was interested in submitting an entry for our next competition. Suggestion for next year: entrants only allowed to win one prize.

June Dodson

Editors' Note

Finally, after some snow and cool weather, we get to see things growing in our gardens. At this moment, tulips in my garden are still blooming. I am waiting for them to fade before planting the colourful annuals or adding shrubs.

I hope that most of you attended at least one gardening event in May. I've got three Rhodos from the Silent Auction at Rhodofest – all of them went to my sister's garden. (Also, my adopted Rhodo is growing.) I attended the annual Vancouver Orchid Show. The display was stunning, the supplies were cheaper at the show (five 8" clear containers for \$1 each) than at the garden centres (6" containers for \$4 each at garden centres), and the large blooming phalaenopsis were as low as \$15 (no tax!). There will also be the Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale on October 17 (9am -5pm) and 18 (10am – 4pm) at George Preston Recreation Centre (42nd Ave and 207th St, Langley).

June is a busy gardening month; you can tell by the number of events listed in **Out and About**. Please do share your experience in any gardening event you attend.

This is our last issue before the summer. We hope that you can attend our amazing BRAGS Burnaby Garden Tour on July 19 and our picnic on August 16.

Have fun gardening! - Lanny



BRAGS would like to thank our May speaker, Tony Loades, who introduced us to the Honeybee Centre and the wonderful things done by honeybees.

More info is available at www.honeybeecentre.com

ATTENTION ALL PICNICKERS!



After a short hiatus, the BRAGS picnic has returned, and all members and their significant others are invited to attend, rain or shine!

The date is Sunday, August 16th in the garden of Helen Vaughan at 5385 Frances Street, North Burnaby. Frances Street runs east/west, and is located 1 block South of Hastings, West of Holdom, and East of Springer. There is ample street parking.

We are asking that everyone plan to arrive around 12 noon to set up, with lunch beginning at approximately 12:30. The picnic will be in the 'Pot Luck' format, so please bring your favorite dish to share. Beverages such as juices, coffee and tea will be available, but feel free to bring your beverage of choice.

We would also like to make this an 'earth-friendly' picnic, and are suggesting that everyone bring their own re-usable plates, cutlery and cups so we can reduce our carbon footprints that day. ☺ (But if you forget to bring your own, don't worry, we'll have some supplies on hand).

As well, don't forget your chairs if you can bring some! (Helen has some extras, so don't worry if you don't).

Thank you to Helen for offering her garden, and also to Ona Bogdanski and Tina Sherwood who also offered their gardens for consideration as well.

We look forward to seeing you all and catching up on the summer news!

If you have any questions, please call or email Cheryl or Helen.

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Cheryl Fiddis

Out and About

June 7, Sunday, Healthy Garden, Healthy Community - Pesticide Free Garden Care Workshop. Grow healthier and tastier vegetables and beautiful flowers, while keeping your yard safe and healthy for you and your loved ones. Topics covered will include: how to feed the soil not the plant; right plant right place; pest control; identification of common pests and their natural predators; and, identification of common disease and methods of control. Questions welcome. In partnership with the City of Burnaby and Master Gardener Catherine Dale. **Registration required at 604-664-8888 or online at www.burnaby.com - seating limited.** At the The Eagles Estate located on Deer Lake, 5655 Sperling Ave. One session, 1:00-4:00pm. Workshop is offered free to Burnaby Residents only.

June 11, Thursday, Cedar Series Lecture: Roses North and South. With rosarian Dr. Donald McLean. An amateur gardener with a long interest in roses, Dr. McLean has been a member of the Vancouver Rose Society since 1982 and currently writes 'Rose Tasks' in the Society's journal, The Rose Bed. In Floral Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available in advance from the Administration Office as well as at the door. Members \$10 and non-members \$15.

June 13, Saturday, Winter Vegetable Gardening – Workshop, Instructor: Heather Johnstone, Sat, June 13, 1pm – 3pm, Cost: \$20, Location: Eagles Estate Heritage Garden, 5655 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby, BC. Pre-registration required, phone 604-733-2313 or email ralph@conservancy.bc.ca. Heather Johnstone has spent years learning with organic farmers on the west coast, and is now working with home-scale urban gardeners to help them grow food. She is the coordinator of the Edible Garden Project on Vancouver's North Shore (www.ediblegardenproject.com), and has recently joined the Board of FarmFolk/CityFolk. This course is designed for people with some gardening experience who are looking to extend the growing season, plant a winter garden for the first time, or who want to learn simple ways of adding fresh food to their diets year round. This course will also explore simple designs for home-made cloches and greenhouses and will look at what to plant when (and how!).

June 13, Saturday, Burnaby Farmers Market. Find the best and freshest produce, meat, and prepared foods from local farmers right here in Burnaby, while browsing crafts from local artisans. The Farmers Market takes place in the north parking lot at Burnaby City Hall, 4949 Canada Way (at Deer Lake Parkway). Burnaby Farmers Market is run by Artisan Farmers Markets Society, and will continue right through the summer **every Saturday** from June 13 to October 24. For more information, go to www.artisanmarkets.ca.

June 13-14, Saturday and Sunday, Vancouver Private Garden Tour. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Don't miss this weekend feast of garden hopping in which carefully selected private gardens are open to discerning visitors. As always gardens have been selected to display the most desirable features, whether artistry, whimsy or environmental awareness. This is a self-guided tour where friends band together and spend a lovely, relaxed time over two days visiting gardens around the city. It is not wheelchair accessible. Tour goers are permitted one visit to each garden and must be over the age of 12. For Tickets: \$30 available at the VanDusen Garden

BRAGS
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**Rhododendron
Festival**

Wendy Thompson
420-6513

OTHER COMMITTEES

Garden Contest

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415-4564

Newsletter

Lanny Hui
415-4564

Anne & David Forsyth
298-6350

Raffle & Greeting

Sheila Chowdhury
298-1196

Refreshments

Helen Vaughan
299-2014

Speakers

Heather MacKay
438-1342

Website

David Forsyth
298-6350

(Administration Reception or Garden Shop) after May 15th or by mail by sending your cheque (payable to VBGA) with a self-addressed and stamped envelope to private Garden Tour, c/o VBGA, 5251 Oak St., Vancouver, BC V6M 4H1. Tickets are limited and sold on a first come basis so get your order in early. Sorry, no telephone calls please.

June 13, Saturday, Burnaby Farmers Market.

June 13-14, Saturday and Sunday, Desert Plant Society of Vancouver Plant Sale, Cacti & Succulents sale. Floral Hall at VanDusen Botanical Garden, Sat & Sun 10am to 5pm. Information 604-825-1447 or 604-943-6929.

June 14, Sunday, Surrey - Gardens in Bloom Tour, A self-directed garden tour in Surrey. Tickets \$15 at Surrey nurseries. 10am to 4pm. Information 604-536-1358.

June 19 to 21, Friday to Sunday, World Rose Festival. Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre. The World Rose Festival offers an amazing variety of events, all highlighting the beauty of the rose. Thousands of rose blooms will be on display! * World-class judged rose show * Feature rose display gardens * Expert advice from local & international rose breeders * Informative workshops & lectures on the rose * Latest trends in floral design * Professional artwork exhibits * Extensive marketplace for choice roses, companion plants, gifts & accessories * Kids' garden * Entertainment for the whole family * Culinary treats at the Rose Bistro. Tickets can be purchased at Gardenworks or online ticketstonight.ca or by phone 778-338-4142. More info at www.worldrosefestival.com

June 20, Saturday, Burnaby Farmers Market,

June 20, Saturday, Plant Swap and Sale, Eagles Estate Heritage Garden, 10pm –3pm, Do your perennials need dividing? Here's your chance to trade your surplus with other gardeners for some new additions for your garden. The Land Conservancy will also have donated plants for sale to raise funds for the Eagles Estate Heritage Garden. Plant donations will gladly be accepted prior to the event. Eagles Estate Heritage Garden, 5655 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby, BC.

June 21, Sunday, Maple Ridge - Country Garden Tour Maple Ridge. 4th annual Garden Tour presented by the Maple Ridge Garden Club, this year in support of the Sunshine Foundation "Dreams for Kids". Come and see 8 beautiful gardens in the Maple Ridge area. Tickets are \$15 per person and will include a beverage & goodie at one of the 2 Picnic Garden. Tickets are available now at local nurseries in Maple Ridge or by contacting Gayle Lyons 604-467-2956 email gvlyons@shaw.ca, Margaret Spratt 604-467-1885, or Linda Lundeberg at 604-462-7888.

June 27, July 4, 11, 18, Saturday, Burnaby Farmers Market.

July 18, Saturday, Get Your Lawn Off Drugs - Pesticide Free Lawn Care Workshop. Learn lawn care tips and techniques to maintain a beautiful lawn in a safe and environmentally friendly way and still have a beautiful lawn. The course will cover methods of managing and maintaining your lawn, including mowing, mulching, renovating, pest control, aerating and fertilizing. Questions welcome. In partnership with the City of Burnaby and Master Gardener Catherine Dale. **Registration required at 604-664-8888 or online at www.burnabyce.com - seating limited.** At the Eagles Estate located on Deer Lake, 5655 Sperling Ave. One session, 1-4pm. Workshop is offered free to Burnaby Residents only.

July 19, Sunday, Burnaby Garden Tour, Visit Burnaby Gardens in an annual self-guided tour at your own pace. Details to be announced.

July 19, Sunday, Vancouver Shade Garden Society Annual Show and Sale. VanDusen Floral Hall, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission free. Information: Chris Jennings 604.602.6644 or email darkeyes@uniserve.com.

**Speaker at
the next
meeting
on June 3**

Fred Wein Sr. of Clearview Nursery will speak on the subject of Clematis, especially new Clematis varieties. Clearview Horticultural Products is a family run business spanning 4 generations and has grown to become the major Clematis propagators in North America.