

BRAGS Constitution: Name Change Discussion

The BRAGS Constitution reads:

The name of the Society is "Burnaby Rhododendron and Gardens Society"

1. The purposes of the Society are:
 - a. To promote Burnaby's official floral symbol –the Rhododendron- encouraging the planting, care and cultivation of rhododendrons of all varieties in Burnaby.
 - b. To support environmentally sensitive gardening practices in Burnaby.
 - c. To advance generally the reputation of the City of Burnaby as a city of parks, gardens and green spaces.
- There is a growing awareness among some of our members that the name of our gardening club BRAGS may be creating a false impression with the public that we are a specialist rhododendron grower's club rather than the general interest gardening club that we are, and which would be attractive to a wider segment of the gardening community. This may be a factor in our dwindling membership.
- On perusing the list of gardening clubs in BC, there doesn't appear to be any other club that includes a plant name in the club name unless that club has a special interest in that plant, e.g., Fuchsia & Begonia Society or the Aldergrove Daylily Society. An exception is the Dogwood Garden Club in Coquitlam.
- There are several rhododendron clubs in BC that truly do specialize in rhododendrons and maintain affiliations with international rhododendron umbrella organizations. These are the clubs for rhododendron aficionados.
- The BRAGS name problem has been noted by many members who have had to explain to outsiders that we are not really a specialist rhododendron club even though "rhododendron" appears in our name. We have also heard numerous times from speakers at our meetings who obviously feel that they are speaking to a crowd of rhododendron specialists. Some of our members even joined BRAGS expecting that they were joining a specialist rhododendron club only to find out later that this was not the case.
- The name issue has been discussed several times at meetings of the Executive and Committee Chairs and there is general consensus that the name is a problem and that consideration should be given to changing it to better reflect our general interests. There has never been any significant discussion at our monthly or annual meetings.
- Although the easiest name change would simply involve the dropping of "Rhododendron and" from our name to create "Burnaby Gardens Society", there are probably a number of other possible names that might be considered.
One thing that should be kept in mind, although not essential, is the creation of an acronym. The acronym "BRAGS" has served us well in that it is an easily remembered word that identifies our club and even serves as the URL of our website. The acronym doesn't have to be limited to the first letters of each word in the name of the club. For example the name Burnaby Gardens Society could be reduced to the acronyms BuGS, BuGa, BurGar, or BuGar to mention a few possibilities.
- Also to be considered, although not essential, is the availability of our acronym as a URL or website address. For example, we could not use the names bugs.ca or bgs.ca as these names are already in use by other organizations.
- Upon researching the BC Society Act, we found that it is possible to change our name:
"Changes in constitution
20(1) By special resolution, a society may (a) change its name, or (b) change its purposes so as to include a new purpose that may conveniently or advantageously be combined with the existing purposes of the society, or so as to restrict or abandon a purpose specified in the constitution, but a charitable purpose referred to in section 73 (3) must not be abandoned."

Please give this topic some careful thought and be prepared to give your feedback when we discuss this as a group.

**Thank you,
Your BRAGS Executive**

Send me your secrets!

We are still looking to hear from members when it comes to sharing your 'secrets' and garden thoughts. Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ ecfiddis@telus.net

RhodoFest 2011 Summary by Wendy Thompson

Setup: We had 17 BRAGS volunteers on Saturday morning, plus Judy's family. We had the additional work of setting up the Plant Sale, including identification of plants and pricing, so many of us were busy until well into the afternoon. Anne Forsyth and Lanny Hui worked very hard to get all the pots looking perfect.

Volunteers: We had 26 volunteers for the day of the event, some of whom were also there for the setup. We had the self-service BRAGS volunteer room in Studio 211 again this year, which worked out well. June brought in a fine assortment of drinks and snacks, some of which she found the time to bake herself!

Silent Auction: Four Members (Lois Brown, Judy Wellington, June Dodson and Wendy Thompson) phoned for donations a few weeks before the festival. We didn't phone as many as last year as we had to allow enough room for the Plant Sale which is usually held separately in mid-April.

We had four drivers (Judy Wellington, Linda Cholette, Susan Brandl and Diane Allison) who picked up the donations from nurseries located all over the Lower Mainland before the event.

107 items from 22 donors were auctioned. The items consisted of two gift certificates, two floral arrangements, four beautiful planters, a set of two theatre tickets, and 98 plants from 18 nurseries, a few of which were extremely generous. The total raised was \$1735 before expenses. The average amount raised per item was \$16.32, a bit less than last year (\$17). The plants looked lovely thanks to Anne and Lanny who worked so hard to arrange and clean the pots.

Plant Sale: This year we decided to combine our Silent Auction and Plant Sale due to declining numbers of volunteers available for both events. A very large

number of plants were donated by BRAGS members Tim & Aki. Several other club members (Helen, Susan, Diane, Jackie, Evelyn and Lanny) spent a lot of time and energy digging up the plants and potting them. Therese Pope and a few other volunteers transported them to the Shadbolt -- sorry I don't know who you all are but it was much appreciated. There were also other plants donated by club members (Diane Allison, Linda Cholette, Linda Eaves, Therese Pope) and their friends. The result was excellent - \$788 before expenses. Lanny is very grateful to all who helped out. The left over plants were given to a school for their upcoming plant sale.

Raffle: Norbert and Val Wuensche held a raffle again this year. The three prizes were three gorgeous framed photos of Rhododendrons taken by Norbert. The raffle was very popular and raised \$313 before expenses.

Spring Bouquet Competition: This was, as usual, a well-attended event. We received a diverse group of ten beautiful entries, the same number as last year, receiving 475 votes. The traffic was down inside generally this year, perhaps due to the nice weather. As in the past, there were three monetary prizes of \$50, \$25 and \$10.

Truss Display: Due to the long cold, wet spring, and winter damage, not many Rhodos were in bloom. We had only two tables of trusses when we usually have five. They still made for a colourful display that was appreciated by the Festival goers. Several people expressed interest in BRAGS and took our brochure.

The festival was again a success and the beautiful sunny weather made it all the more enjoyable for all who worked and attended the event.

Thank You again to all our volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you!

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. Have you considered asking a friend or neighbour to join our club?

**BRAGS
2011 EXECUTIVE**

President

Verna Adamson
604-294-5550

Vice-President

Lanny Hui
604-415-8287

Treasurer

Kim Taylor
604-35-0728

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

Upcoming Meetings

June 1, 2011

Wendy Leroux of Botanus Inc. will help us:

“Create a Summer Bulb Spectacular”!

Create an amazing floral display this summer and for years to come. A selection of bulbs, bare roots, lilies, hostas and various perennials will be available for purchase (Cash only please). Members are encouraged to bring their own bags to be ‘eco’ friendly. (Why not bring a friend as well?)

September 7, 2011

To wrap up the summer season, an interactive evening with members sharing their ‘green thumb’ successes and failures is planned. Come prepared with pictures if you have any, or samples from your garden to show and discuss. Did you try anything new this summer? Do you have any tips to share? Did the late spring help or hinder your garden this year?

All meetings start at 7 pm, at the Burnaby Village Museum, - Main Building, 2nd floor. Centrally located, with ample parking.

Refreshments are served. All are welcome.

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

Out and About

June 16th, Thursday , all day

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

June 26th, Sunday, 9 am – 4pm

Maple Ridge Garden Club hosts “A Country Garden Tour”.

Tickets \$15. For tickets and information call Gayle @ 604-467-2956 or Margaret @ 604-467-1885 or visit <http://mrgc.50webs.com/>.

BRAGS Picnic! Sunday, August 7th @ 12:30

And as in 2009, Helen Vaughan has generously offered to host our picnic, by opening up her garden and home. All members and their significant others are welcome to attend. Please plan to bring a dish to share, a chair, ‘eco’ friendly cup, plate, cutlery, cloth napkin...

Coffee, tea and juice will be provided. No Pets please!

Arrival time is 12:30, with a targeted lunch time for 1:00.

Address is 5385 Frances Street (between Springer and Howard, south of Hastings, east of Springer...Buses 135 and 129 stop just 3 minutes away).

For any further information call Helen @ 604-299-2014 or Cheryl @ 604-435-2801. Hope to see you there!