

Let's Welcome April!



May 3rd is the 27th Annual Rhodofestival!

Our biggest event of the year will soon be here! Your committee, Verna Adamson and June Dodson, are well underway with the plans leading up to May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to volunteer so far. This is a festival that would not be possible without all of our dedicated volunteers! If you can help out and have not yet signed up, please let Verna or June know.

Verna Adamson: 604-544-4006, or email at v_adamson@shaw.ca.

June Dodson at 604-939-2597, or email at junedodson@shaw.ca.

As well, the BRAGS Plant Sale is back again and we need your help to make it a success. If you or someone you know are still able to donate any healthy, non-invasive plants, let us know!

If you are able to help in *any* way with the Plant Sale, please contact:

David Forsyth or Anne Forsyth @ 604-298-6350 or email David @ drforysyth@telus.net, or Anne @ amforysyth@telus.net."

Thank you for volunteering at our festival!



The Bloedel Conservatory, Queen Elizabeth Park

If you have spent any time living in Metro Vancouver, chances are you have visited Queen Elizabeth Park and the Bloedel Conservatory, but have you done it recently? As a child growing up in Vancouver, I remember making many trips to the park for picnics and walks, with always the chance to glimpse a wedding couple having their pictures taken in the beautiful gardens. And of course there were visits to the Conservatory.

Opened in December 1969 as the second largest domed conservatory in the world, the triodetic dome design allows a large ground space to be spanned without the need for supporting columns. At 43 m (140 feet) in diameter and 21 m (70 feet) high at the centre, this dome is big enough to house an impressive collection of plants and birds, yet small enough to allow a quick visit. The minute you step inside, the sound of birds will surround you, and it's like stepping into a tropical paradise. Three simulated climates are maintained within the conservatory: tropical rain forest, sub-tropical forest, and desert climate zones. If you have a camera to take pictures, be mindful of the lenses steaming up! The tour is self-guided, - and you set your own pace. There is a sign telling you to please watch your step, as some birds walk along the pathway. Being a bird lover, I was mostly impressed with the nearly 200 birds that call the conservatory home, - from the many smaller varieties such as finches, canaries, and budgies, - to the large parrots and cockatoos, all seeming well and content in their shared space. If I were a bird I couldn't think of a more fabulous place to live!



One of the many Orchid species



New Zealand Tea Tree



Another beautiful Orchid...



"Ruby", the female Eclectus Parrot



Don't wait for your out of town guests to arrive, - why not plan a visit to the Conservatory yourself this spring? Visit their website at www.vancouverparks.ca for more details. And don't forget your camera when you go!

~by Cheryl Fiddis

©We love to have members share their 'secrets' and garden/nature thoughts. If you have something interesting to share, from right here at home or a trip taken afar, please share with us! Or perhaps you have an idea for a future article...

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ ecfiddis@telus.net

BRAGS Membership

If you haven't done so yet, please visit Anne at the membership desk to pay your 2015 dues or to join up – still only \$12 per year. Members share various gardening interests and enjoy monthly guest speakers, plus are entitled to discounts of regularly priced items at GardenWorks and other garden centres, simply by presenting their membership cards. Monthly meetings (skipping July & August) start at 7 pm at the Burnaby

BRAGS EXECUTIVE

President

Wendy Thompson
604-420-6513

Vice-President

Bev Glover
604-540-2883

Treasurer

Susan Brandl
604-433-4250

Secretary

Linda Cholette
604-298-9059

Past President

Verna Adamson
604-544-4006

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership

Anne Forsyth
604-298-6350

Nominations

Verna Adamson

Publicity

Evelyn Crawford
604-437-8395

Rhododendron Festival

Verna Adamson
604-544-4006
June Dodson
604-939-2597

OTHER COMMITTEES

Plant Sale

David & Anne Forsyth

Newsletter

Cheryl Fiddis
604-435-2801

Anne & David Forsyth

604-298-6350

Welcome

Faye Kilpatrick
604-434-5921

Sheila Chowdhury
604-298-1196

Raffle

Faye Kilpatrick
604-434-5921

Refreshments

June Dodson
604-939-2597

Speakers

Bev Glover
604-540-2883

Website

David Forsyth
604-298-6350

Village Museum, - Main Building, up on the 2nd floor. Easy to get to with ample free parking and refreshments are served! All are welcome! Please join us!

Upcoming Meetings/Events



April 1, 2015

Karen June Myskiw will talk on "Habitat Gardens for Butterflies, Birds, Bees". Karen is a designer and educator whose passions integrate practices of ecological gardening, preparing local foods, art-making, global travel and writing.

Jardins Designs is her consulting practice with a focus on the seamless integration of indoor and outdoor living rooms to create an atmosphere of wellness.



May 6, 2015

Gary Lewis, - of Phoenix Perennials will give a talk: "Hot New Plants: Cutting Edge Plants for Cutting Edge Gardens". Don't miss this special evening, and be sure to invite your garden friends and neighbours!



June 3, 2015

Marilyn Holt will give a presentation on "Herbs, - Culinary, Medicinal & Cosmetic". Find out what to do with your herbs!

Rhodofest 2015! Sunday May 3rd!

Your Rhodofest team and Burnaby are counting on all of us to help make this another successful year! If you are not able to volunteer, please come and support the festival with your family and friends.

BRAGS Picnic Sunday, June 14th 2015!

Thanks to Bev Glover who has offered to host our potluck picnic at her home and garden, 1:00 – 5:00. The theme is *Welcome To Summer!* Address and more details will follow next month.

Out & About Etc...

Vancouver Dahlia Society Tuber Sale!

One day only, Saturday, April 11th, 10:00 – 4:00, at the VanDusen Botanical Gardens Floral Hall.

Visit www.vancouverdahliasociety.com for more details.

GW Customer Appreciation Day, April 16, 2015

Be sure to mark the date for GardenWorks 15% savings all day. Time to plan your 2015 garden!



Kathryn Newell



Pat Sexsmith



Wilma Cook



Dianne Yard



Sheila Chowdhury

THE GAMMA GARAGE

DIANNE YARD
WILMA COOK
PAT SEXSMITH
SHEILA CHOWDHURY

WITH GUEST ARTIST:
KATHRYN NEWELL

12TH ANNUAL ART SHOW

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
APRIL 11 AND 12 2015
12:00 TO 5:00 PM

232 NORTH GAMMA AVENUE
CAPITOL HILL
BURNABY

EVERYONE WELCOME