



February! BRRRRR!

2017 is well under way, as is winter! And as I write this bulletin, the snow and arctic cold we experienced over the Christmas season and into 2017 has all but disappeared, although still a recent memory. For most of us, navigating around Burnaby during the many snowfalls this winter, was not a pleasant experience, and at times, a potentially dangerous one. I hope that you and your family kept safe. During this time I know many of our members did their best to help out the bird population, including keeping those hummingbird feeders defrosted by whatever means it took. We have our trusty heater, good to about minus 3, which meant bringing it indoors at night during colder temperatures and waking up before dawn to hang it back outside before their morning arrival. Our President Wendy was also creative and insulated her feeder with bubble wrap and increased the sugar content a little, which did the trick. John Crawford also found a perfect solution to keeping his feeder from freezing, by purchasing a birdbath heater which he modified and attached to his hummingbird feeder. He also wrapped the body of the feeder with 2 ski sock liners, - very clever! I'm sure his wee visitors appreciated it!

This winter it was hard to keep up with the numbers of species who visited my garden, - juncos, varied thrushes, northern flickers, - one of whom roosted above our front door many evenings, - blue jays, robins, wrens, towhees, chickadees and a few sparrows. When the bird bath could be emptied of ice, after cleaning and refilling it, it was only moments before the group bathing began. Winter can be especially hard for our feathered friends, and they are lucky to have so many of us who go the extra step to help them out! Kudos to you all!



- Photos by John Crawford



- Robin up high on snow...
 o Photo by Cheryl



If you have anything to share, - stories or pictures, that you think our BRAGS members might enjoy, please send them on! Been on a trip? Send in some photos!

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ ecfiddis@telus.net

Hellebores Must Mean Spring!

Though often buried under snow during the winter, hellebores are survivors and are usually the first to push their flowers up towards the springtime sky. The blooms of these easy-care perennials are found in a variety of colors and designs, and these shade loving hellebores make wonderful specimen plants, as well as groundcovers under deciduous shrubs, conifers and evergreens.

As hellebores don't take kindly to being moved, when planting be sure to choose the right spot initially, - full to part shade, with well composted soil. Once established, these plants are drought, heat and humidity tolerant. Each spring just tidy up the damaged leaves and enjoy them once again. One of my favorites, is the 2010 Olympic variety. It never fails to brighten up my garden!



BRAGS Membership

The 2017 dues are due! Please plan to make your payment soon, or if you are new, also visit Anne at the membership desk to join up – still only \$12 per year. Exact change is appreciated! 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 (excepting July & August) start at 7 pm at the Burnaby Village Museum, - Main Building, up on the 2nd floor. Easy to get to with ample free parking and refreshments are served! Please join us if you are looking to join a local garden club.

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
604-294-5550

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STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership

Anne Forsyth
604-298-6350

Nominations

Verna Adamson

Publicity

Evelyn Crawford
604-437-8395

Rhododendron Festival

Verna Adamson
604-294-5550

Bev Glover

604-540-2883

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OTHER COMMITTEES

Plant Sale

David & Anne Forsyth

Newsletter

Cheryl Fiddis
604-435-2801

Anne & David Forsyth

604-298-6350

Welcome Desk

Janet Hayes
604-420-5995

Refreshments

Faye Kilpatrick
604-434-5921

Speakers

****POSITION AVAILABLE****

Website

David Forsyth
604-298-6350

Upcoming Meetings/Events

February 1, 2017

Conway Lum, - Winter Pruning

A fixture at Mandeville Gardens in Burnaby, and well known to most of us, this meeting with our guest Conway promises to be both informative and entertaining. Come join us!

**At the February meeting, orders will be taken for the purchase of the soil amender/compost that will be delivered by Gelderman Farms to our March meeting. The cost is \$6 per 30 L bag, cash or cheque only to be paid at the March meeting. Contact Bev for more details.*

March 1, 2017

Ursula Easterbrook, - Garden Photography

April 5, 2017

Nicholas Funke, Managing Fruit & Young Trees

Speakers - Help Wanted!

We still need someone to take over as Speaker Coordinator for 2017. Whoever can take over this important role will organize the speakers commencing with the month of May. This position can be a 'behind the scenes' role, as most guest speakers can be arranged by email or phone. Our Speakers are an integral part of keeping our garden club interesting, and also serve as a means to attract new guests and members. Can you help?

Out & About Etc...



GW Customer Appreciation Day, February 16th, 2017
Be sure to mark the date for GardenWorks 15% savings all day.

A Spring Quote...

“Spring drew on...and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which, freshening daily, suggested the thought that Hope traversed them at night, and left each morning brighter traces of her steps.”

— *Charlotte Brontë*,

