

September, Ahhh....



For those that welcome the cooler days and nights, yet want to hang on to the last of summer, September is the month for you. Not as intense as July and August, and almost mellow, - September for me seems to be the month to slow down, relax, and enjoy the garden in the last of its glory. There's not as much work, and certainly not as much watering, and while the grass may still be brown and dry, we know it won't be long until it is once again turns green. To celebrate September, I found some quotes you may enjoy.



"The breezes taste
Of apple peel.
The air is full
Of smells to feel-
Ripe fruit, old footballs,
Burning brush,
New books, erasers,
Chalk, and such.
The bee, his hive,
Well-honeyed hum,
And Mother cuts
Chrysanthemums.
Like plates washed clean
With suds, the days
Are polished with
A morning haze."

- John Updike, *September*

"Departing summer hath assumed
An aspect tenderly illumed,
The gentlest look of spring;
That calls from yonder leafy shade
Unfaded, yet prepared to fade,
A timely carolling."

- William Wordsworth, *September*

'Tis the last rose of summer,
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone."

- Thomas Moore, *The Last Rose of Summer, 1830*



If you have anything to share, - stories or pictures, that you think our BRAGS members might enjoy, please send them on! We'd love to see them!

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ ecfiddis@telus.net

BRAGS Picnic Recap!

By Keith Harris

I write to acknowledge, and to thank, the 25 BRAGS members, along with friends, for their attendance at the BRAGS Annual Picnic, held in my garden on Sunday, July 30. It was a gloriously sunny day, which, under different circumstances, with consideration given to the excessive heat that prevailed through the week, might have been spent in the cool of a swimming pool, or in an air-conditioned home.

At the advertised starting time for the picnic, most of the people who'd confirmed attendance at the picnic were on site, along with a couple of those who weren't sure they could attend. As more people filled the available chairs, we found we had to bring out more ... the two tables we'd set up for the donated food and refreshments, to be shared by all, were quickly filled and they were indeed a colourful sight to behold. The variety of food on the tables would satisfy all at any picnic. The liquid refreshments also seemed to be a popular item, - (see 'recipe' below).

The breeze that filtered through my forest glade, made the shaded sections of lawn ideally cool. Members with interests in specific aspects of gardening were drawn to the appropriate parts of my garden to question me on my composting techniques, the vegetables I grew, the variety of plants growing in my shaded glens, and the rockery gardens that are part of my multi-faceted garden. The camaraderie that flowed among our visitors was also most encouraging to observe. It is my experience that this kind of social helps to build friendships, and a supportive membership in a healthy club.

I want to thank Beth and Len for their invaluable help to me in setting up the chairs and tables on the lawn, and for the set-up on the back patio, before our visitors began to arrive, and for those who helped to clear the lawn at the end of our gathering. I also want to Thank ALL who came to the picnic, and who helped to make this social gathering the memorable occasion it was. I hope that you each enjoyed your experience as much as I did. I've since received a request from a couple of members, who were unable to attend the picnic, who've asked if they could visit with me in my garden at some future date. Of course you can, and when you visit, do bring along a gardening friend.

I guess we'll meet again at our monthly meetings ...Keith

Picnic Recipe Requested

For Beth's refreshing creation, listed below are links to recipes for her Linden Flower Cordial, - diluted, with ice cubes and fresh mint leaves added. These recipes give you the general methodology, but she advises she doesn't use citric acid and uses all white sugar to make the simple syrup. She also makes an Elderflower Cordial, using either the white flowers from the native Elderberry or the pink flower head from the cultivar with burgundy foliage.

What a trip into the past! Thanks for sharing Beth! Let her know if you would like more information.

<http://www.urbanhuntress.com/2012/08/foraging-linden-flowers/>

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/fi-bird/linden-blossom-syrup-or-gin_b_3525955.html



Keith & Bernadine, Our Host & Hostess



Susan & Verna in the lilies...

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

Beth MacLaren
604-253-7036

Website

David Forsyth
604-298-6350

BRAGS Membership

Still only \$12 per year, BRAGS 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. Why not gift a membership to a friend or neighbor?

Upcoming Meetings Events/Club News

September 6, 2017

Join your fellow BRAGS members for an interactive meeting "My Summer Garden" to share your summer successes and the 'not so successful' garden stories. Please bring pictures, - email to David earlier if you can, - flowers, produce, -anything you wish to 'show and tell'!

October 4, 2017

Susan Watson will present "Winter Gardening". Susan is the President of The Landscape Consultants and will no doubt, give us all some great winter ideas.

November 1, 2017

Peter Brolese, Vice President of the B.C. Bonsai Society, will talk on "Bonsai". A perfect way to spend a winter evening.

December 6, 2017

AGM and Christmas Party! Bring your favorite dish to share, and a guest if you can...everyone is welcome!

Out & About Etc...



GW Customer Appreciation Day,

September 21, 2017

Be sure to mark the date for GardenWorks 15% savings all day.

Help Needed!

The Cottonwood Community Garden experienced a devastating fire this summer, that destroyed both the greenhouse and tool/bee shed. A fundraising campaign is underway to raise \$10,000 to replace the lost items. Beth & Len are longtime active members, and hope that everyone can help. If you can, please contact Beth for more information, or visit both the Facebook and GoFundMe websites.

www.facebook.com/SaveCottonwoodCommunityGarden

www.gofundme.com/cottonwood-fire