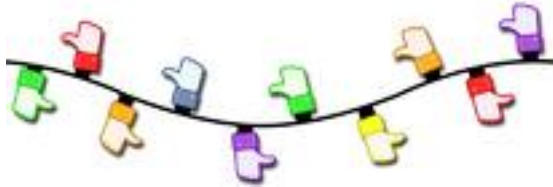


December!



As December arrives, so does the festive holiday season, always most welcome as winter falls upon us. Those dark days don't seem too bad when there are events to plan, and socializing to do, - so much of it crammed into that one month that most of us look forward to January and its lack of notations on the calendar! Sometimes I feel a bit 'bah humbug' when I think of all the 'work' that goes into decorating the house, - both inside and outside, and the entertaining that goes along with it. But then my Christmas spirit kicks right in, and I'm in there doing as much as I can to make it the best one yet.

As a child, our memories are often of the gifts we received. But as we age, it is the memories of our family and friends that we are lucky to have in our lives that we treasure.

Merry Christmas to you all!



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

Mystery on the Magnolia Tree!

Linda Cholette was stumped by these bright 'growths' that appeared on her Magnolia Tree this Fall. She bought this tree at one of our Rhodo Festivals approximately 5 years ago, and hadn't noticed this before. Turns out, these are seeds that grow on the pods! Amazing! Thanks Linda!



Sunflowers!



If you are like me, each year I start my sunflowers from seed in my greenhouse, and then move them outside when they are big enough to survive. Planted alongside the greenhouse, as they grow (over 12 feet high this year!), they provide a filtered shade cover on the south side. My only goal in planting sunflowers, is to provide a food source for the many birds that frequent my yard. None for me☺.

However, here is a recipe that is a tasty 'human' option for using your kernels. And of course you can always buy some for your own consumption.

No-Bake Sunflower Bars

3 cups sunflower kernels
2 cups flaked coconut
1 cup crisp rice cereal
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
1 cup peanut butter

In a large bowl, combine the first 3 ingredients. In a saucepan, combine the brown sugar and syrup. Bring to a boil and stir for 1 minute. Remove from the heat; stir in the peanut butter until well blended. Pour over the sunflower mixture; stir until coated. Press into a greased 13 in x 9 in x 2 in pan. Cool; cut into bars. Makes 3 dozen. Enjoy!

Bird Trivia!

Just to get you warmed up for our February meeting, here's a few tidbits you might find interesting. We are all familiar with a group of geese being a 'gaggle' of geese, but here are some I didn't know.

A CAST of hawks
A HOST of sparrows
A FLIGHT of swallows
A SIEGE of herons
An EXALTATION of larks
A MUSTER of peacocks
A HERD of swans

Who would have guessed?!

Your Birth Month Flower

Did you know your birth month has a flower? Since this is the December issue, this month we wish all those with their birthdays in December a joyous day.

Narcissus, Holly, Poinsettia

Several plants represent December birthdays, including narcissus, hollies and poinsettias. Hollies show a desire for a happy home, while poinsettias stand for good cheer. Narcissus signify modesty and faithfulness. For those of us not born in December, I'm sure you will agree, we all enjoy these very popular 'birth flowers', and especially in the winter!



BRAGS Membership

Reminder: it's time to pay the 2019 dues
Please visit Anne at the Membership desk!

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!

BRAGS EXECUTIVE

President
Wendy Thompson

Vice-President
Bev Glover

Treasurer
Susan Brandl

Secretary
Linda Cholette

Past President
Verna Adamson

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership
Anne Forsyth

Nominations
Verna Adamson

Publicity
Evelyn Crawford

Rhododendron Festival
Verna Adamson

Bev Glover

OTHER COMMITTEES

Plant Sale
Linda Cholette

Newsletter
Cheryl Fiddis

Anne & David Forsyth

Welcome Desk
Judy Wellington

Refreshments
Faye Kilpatrick

Speakers
Beth MacLaren

Website
David Forsyth

Upcoming Meetings Events/Club News

December 5, 2018 Meeting

Save the date! This meeting will consist of our AGM, and our annual Christmas 'pot luck' social. Please bring your favorite dish to share, and a friend or significant other, and enjoy an evening with your garden friends to start the festive season!

While there are no 'official' elections for positions within the club, many of our members have held their positions for many years, and would welcome the break if anyone is wishing to take over. Have your eyes on a position? We'd love to hear from you!

January 2, 2019 Meeting

Andrea Bellamy presents "Growing in Containers & Small Spaces"...always a great topic for those of us trying to downsize! Focus will include flowers and shrubs, plus edibles. Andrea is the author of "Small-space Vegetable Gardens: Growing Great Edibles in Containers, Raised Beds, and Small Plots".

February 6, 2019 Meeting

Our presenter will be Victoria Otton. She is a member of Burke Mountain Naturalists. Her presentation will be: "Attracting birds to backyard gardens and feeding through the winter months and bird identification". Includes a fun quiz on bird ID!

Out & About Etc...



Sparkle & Shine Holiday Faire – December 1st, 2018

Greentree Village Community Centre

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Visit stillcreekgogos@gmail.com for more details.

Gardenworks Customer Appreciation Days

December 20th 2018

Be sure to mark the dates for 15% savings all day! Time to decorate for Christmas!

Happy New Year! See you in 2019!

