

*March 2019!*



Yippee! March is here and we can safely say that winter is pretty well over. Whew!

Looking back though, our winter was not one to complain about. We dodged the 'winter bullet' with just a little wind and snow for the lower mainland, and mostly mild temperatures, - unlike those back east who experienced wicked arctic 'outflows', causing life threatening cold lows. We had a little taste of that, just enough to keep us grateful we live here!

Our President Wendy was lucky enough to escape to sunny Puerto Vallarta, and visited the lovely "Vallarta Botanical Garden" while there. Some of her photos are shared here, and hopefully more can follow on a future newsletter. Thank You Wendy!



Remember, if you have anything to share, - stories or pictures that you think our BRAGS members might enjoy, please send them on! If you've been on a vacation, or visited a local attraction, and saw something of interest, don't be shy. We'd love to hear all about it!

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ [ecfiddis@telus.net](mailto:ecfiddis@telus.net)

*Vallarta Botanical Garden Mission*

"To create Mexico's foremost botanical garden for the propagation, study, discovery, conservation, and display of Mexican native plants for the enjoyment of Puerto Vallarta's residents and our visitors."



*Koi Pond*



*Orchid*



*Orchid*



**31<sup>st</sup> Annual**  
**Rhodo Festival & Plant Sale!**  
**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019**



*Plumeria*



*Bridge of Dreams*

***Your March Birth Month Flower***

Since this is the March issue, this month we wish all those with their birthdays in March a Spring day!



Daffodils, sometimes called jonquils or narcissus, are the birth flowers for March. Because they often bloom in early spring, they symbolize new birth, beginnings, happiness and joy. As daffodils are often our first flowers here in Burnaby during early spring, their cheery faces bring both color and relief that winter is over.



The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Burnaby Rhododendron Festival is once again presented by the City of Burnaby in partnership with BRAGS. The objectives are to promote the Rhododendron, (Burnaby's official floral symbol), to support environmentally sensitive gardening practices within Burnaby, and to advance the reputation of the City of Burnaby as a city of parks, gardens and green spaces. The festival is also our opportunity to promote BRAGS and encourage new members to join.

We need volunteers to assist with the Silent Auction and Plant Sale. We will set up in the Shadbolt Centre on Saturday May 4 and need all hands on deck on Sunday. The tasks required are diverse, - distributing posters, picking up plants, and assisting with the Silent Auction and the Plant Sale.

Any time you can give us will be vital! Please sign up at a meeting or contact Verna Adamson at 604-544-4006, by email at [v\\_adamson@shaw.ca](mailto:v_adamson@shaw.ca) or Bev Glover at [bglover@telus.net](mailto:bglover@telus.net).

Questions or Suggestions? Please contact us!

And now is the time to start thinking about dividing your overgrown plants into small, healthy plants to be donated for our annual sale. Last year a fellow BRAGS member was a very helpful Assistant. Is anyone interested in becoming another "helper" this year? Let me know! Any leftover plants will be donated to St. Michael's Hospice. Closer to May 5 please save some of your egg cartons and any 'extra' small bags, as they are perfect carriers for our customers for their small plants.

Thanks! Linda

**BRAGS Membership**

***\*Reminder: Have you paid your 2019 dues?***

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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Easy to get to with ample free parking and refreshments are served! Please join us!

Also, if you wish to switch to 'digital only' newsletters to keep our costs down, please speak to David or email him at [info@brags.ca](mailto:info@brags.ca).

## **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**

### *March 6, 2019 Meeting*

Annie Johannessen, "Farm Coordinator, West Coast Seeds" will be our speaker. Topics include Starting Plants from Seed, and Companion Planting. Just in time for Spring!

### *April 3, 2019 Meeting*

Barry Roberts, 'incurably obsessive about Hydrangeas', will give a presentation talk on the fascinating Hydrangea. You won't want to miss this one!

### *May 1, 2019 Meeting*

Pending...stay tuned!

### *May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Rhododendron Festival!*

Save the date! All members are encouraged to help once again. More details to follow at both our upcoming meetings, and newsletters.

## **Out & About Etc...**

*Gardenworks Customer Appreciation Days*

*March 21, 2019*

Mark the dates for 15% savings all day!



*Cheryl's wee Anna's hummingbird feeding at the heated feeder in sub-zero temperatures in February.*