

Over The Garden Wall

Issue #5

May, 2018

Melanie Rantucci, President 604-531-5076 Linda Martin, Secretary 604-541-6315 Jann Zimmerman, Treasurer 604-594-4087

President's Message

Good Weather

Finally we have had some good weather to enjoy our gardens. My tulips have finally bloomed and I can enjoy walking around the garden, making plans for what I will change or add this year. My husband keeps wondering when our garden will be finished and I have to explain that it will never be finished!!! There will always be something needing moving, or dividing, or wonderful new plants to fit in.



Last fall I splurged on some special tulips and they are really beautiful, but I asked Brian Minter at the Bradner Spring Show, why some of my tulips only come up once, and he explained that hybrids do not generally naturalize. So now I realize that these beautiful parrot tulips that cost more money

will probably be a one year splurge, not an investment for the future. I don't think I will tell my husband. I have to keep him in a good mood so that he will be willing to dig in the Go Green Compost I ordered that will be delivered at our May Club Meeting.

Speaker

Speaking of the May Meeting, we will be having a speaker, Gary Lewis from Phoenix Perennials. I'll just blame my desire for more plants in my garden on his exciting description of what's new



this year! See you at the Meeting.

Melanie Rantucci, President

Plants Plus Tomato Planting

Before you actually put your plant in the hole, dig down an extra few inches and put in a

wad of crumpled wet newspaper, couple of handfuls of compost (food), some crushed eggshells (calcium - helps ward off blossom end rot), a tablespoon of Epsom salts (magnesium - production of fruit) and a couple of aspirin (helps ward off fungus). Cover with an inch or two of soil then plant your tomato plant. This is food for your tomato to grow into.

You can plant your tomato stem **deeply**. It will send out roots all along the stem. Watch it take off in about a week.

Don't forget to side dress with fertilizer, compost, worm castings, compost tea or Fish & [Seaweed Fertilizer](#) every two weeks. Add in a tablespoon of Epsom salts when you side dress. Tomatoes like magne-

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sium. Side dress with a Tbsp of lime, once a month.

Prune Your Tomato Plants. Rain can splash diseases that are in the dirt up onto your tomato leaves if they are not pruned. As the tomato plant grows, trim all the lower leaves and suckers off the bottom 12-18 inches. Also allows for air circulation. More next month on tomatoes.

Dahlia Planting

Plant them a little after the tomato plants go in. Choose a spot with full sun and a bit of protection from the wind. Get more blooms with 6-8 hours of direct sun. Morning sun is best. Soil pH - 6.5-7.0. Dig a hole slightly larger than the root ball of the plant and 6" - 8" deep. Add a shovelful of pig manure in every hole. Mix it around. No other fertilizer required at this time. Space bedding dahlias - 9"-12" apart. Space taller, larger-flowered dahlias 3' apart. Lay the dahlia tuber in the hole sideways with 'eyes' facing up. Cover with 2-3" of soil. As stem sprouts, fill in with soil until it is at ground level. Tall, large-flowered dahlias need support. Hammer in at least one stake, near the eye. Tie stems to plants as they grow. Label.

Pinch out the centre shoot just above the third set of leaves to encourage branching. Dahlias start blooming about 8 weeks after planting, mid-July. Do **not** water the tubers right after planting; this encourages rot. Wait til the sprouts have appeared above the soil to water. Do **not** cover with bark or mulch yet. Sprinkle egg shells around the planting area to discourage slugs (slugs don't like sharp edges). Once established, water deeply a couple times a week. If you're fertilizing, use a 5-10-10 or 10-20-20. Do **not** over fertilize, especially with nitrogen, or you risk small/no blooms, weak tubers, or rot.



Working For The P&B Sale

Work party dividing hostas for the plant sale.

Mary Openshaw, Plants Plus

Plant & Bake Sale

Thanks For Contributing To The Bake Table

Important: Use no cream fillings, sandwiches, or meats. Absolutely no meat trays to be used, preferably, use new disposable plates or trays (paper, plastic, or foil) easily purchased from the Dollar Store. Please be sure that your baking is wrapped securely with Saran wrap, and taped adequately on the bottom of the plate. If the packaging is falling apart, it doesn't appear too appetizing. List ingredients such as nuts, etc, that some people may be allergic to. Some of your donations may be used by kitchen staff to sell with a cup of tea or coffee.

We Need: Cookies, muffins, squares and bars in lots of 6 or 8. Single large muffins or scones. Loaves of bread and small loaves are very popular. We will welcome jams, fudge, pickles etc. as well. Also Gluten-free and Diabetic recipes will be welcomed. Please mark with label. Pricing will be done at the table. **Thank You Very Much For Baking.**

Donna Lawson, Show Chair

Help Your Club

Plants Plus

Our club is all about plants and therefore, the director of Plant Sales is a very busy person. That person is Mary Openshaw. She is doing a great job but she could use some help. Some of our club director positions are filled with more than one person so another person helping Mary, especially at this time of year would be appreciated. Besides helping the club and Mary, this position comes with fun and access to loads of knowledge about plants. Please consider helping. Call Mary at 604-581-3152 and find out about all the cool things involved in Plants Plus.

John Davidson, Newsletter

New Members

Welcome to:

Beverly Sass
13745 – 19A Avenue
Surrey, BC V4A 9M2
604-560-3379 bev.sass@shaw.ca

Ruth Twyford
#34 – 14888 - 24th Avenue
Surrey, BC V4A 2H6
604-536-5482 ruthjulie@hotmail.com

John Davidson, Membership

General Meeting

Minutes

At the April Club Meeting the members voted to no longer read out the Minutes of the previous meeting. Going forward, the Minutes will be sent with the Newsletter for members to read at their leisure, then approve at the next General Meeting. A copy will also be brought to the meeting for members to view. This month there are the Minutes of March and April to approve. These are attached to this Newsletter.

Melanie Rantucci, President

Winners

Name Tag Draw

Joan Hawker was the winner of a Ribes sanguineum, a King Edward VII version to be exact. The flowering current is a plant native to the Pacific Northwest. It can be found from BC down through Washington, Oregon and California, mostly on the west side of the Cascade Mountains and Pacific Coastal Mountains, although they have been found in a few spots in Idaho.

It is a deciduous shrub that grows with an upright vase shape on sturdy stems. It bears an attractive maple-like bright green leaf which turns to golden, orange or sometimes reddish for added fall interest. But it is probably most

noted for the pretty pink-red dangling clusters of flowers which appear February through May depending on location. The flowers remind me of dangling earrings.



It does bear a blue/black fruit, which is edible but not exactly tasty and probably best left for the birds. It is deer resistant but an important early spring source of nectar for bees, migrating hummies and butterflies.

They are easy to maintain with minimum pruning. Remove any wayward branches, cut back about 1/3 immediately after spring flowering has finished. As the shrub matures, any dead wood should also be pruned out, much like hydrangeas. They do not bear thorns on the stems as the edible currents or gooseberries, making for easier pruning, too.

Ken (the fix is in) Parker drew his own name to win a beautiful bouquet donated by **Donna Lawson**.

Iris Peacosh, Member

50/50 Raffle

June (I won again) Majawa is \$48 richer. Good investment on a raffle ticket.

Marilyn Gillan, Raffle

Spring Show

A most successful spring show with 67 exhibits, 13 exhibitors, 41 specimens and 26 floral art entries.

Rosettes

Best Indoor Plant
Best Cut Flowers
Best Flowering Bulbs
Best Flowering Shrub
Best Floral Art Advanced
Best Floral Art Novice

Mary Openshaw
Melanie Rantucci
Melanie Rantucci
Claire Muirhead
Melanie Rantucci
Jann Zimmerman

Most Points in Show

to be awarded at
May meeting



Trophies

Peace Arch District Hospital Trophy for Best Specimen Entry in Show **Claire Muirhead**
Sery Memorial Cup for Best Floral Art

Melanie Rantucci

Angela Binns-Smith, Show Secretary
Margaret Maddocks, Show Secretary
Darlene Chamberlain, Trophies

May Speaker

Succulents

Gary Lewis from Phoenix Perennial will be our speaker in May. He will talk and teach us about Succulents at 2 pm sharp!

Margrit Elmiger-Isert, Program

Compost Time

Spread The Joy

We will once again be getting a delivery of Go Green Compost from Abbotsford. The price this year has gone up to \$7. There was a sign-up list at the April meeting but there will be a few extra coming as there is a minimum order. However,

if you did not sign the list and want some, please call Melanie so that she can increase the order if necessary (604-531-5076).

Note: Here is the web page for info on the product (*JD, Newsletter*).

https://www.geldermanfarms.ca/products/go_green_compost/

Melanie Rantucci, President

Mall Show

Miniature Gardens

The Floral Circle branch of our club put on a beautiful display of miniature gardens. Twelve different themes were included resulting in much interest from the public.



I have pictures of each one of the miniature gardens which I can send to anyone interested.

John Davidson, Newsletter

Juicy Bit

Watch Your Back



Prevent Gardening Pain

Love to garden? Brush up your digging style to protect your joints. A recent British study took a close look at digging techniques and found that some gardeners put more pressure on joints, increasing the likelihood of lower back pain and shoulder injuries. Researchers photographed and measured their movements from all angles, then calculated the load on their joints. The technique easiest on joints involved bending at the knees, keeping the back straight, and making small, controlled scooping and tossing movements with a shovel. Large forward bends, stretching the arms far from the body, and big, less controlled movements were hardest on the joints.

Source: HortTechnology, Jan. 8, 2018.

Submitted by John Davidson, Newsletter

Marketplace

Advertisements

Club Members can place an ad in our newsletter or send an email ad between newsletters to our members for only \$5. Non members can also place ads or email ads for \$10. Non members must be vouched for by a club member. This space will let members know you have something to sell that may interest them. If the item is free, then there is no ad fee. Any sales are private between the seller and the buyer since our constitution does not allow sales for private profit at our meetings. All ad fees go to the club.

Corporate Ads

Cedar Rim Nursery
ESTABLISHED 1978
PO Box 175, Milner, BC V0X 1T0
(Location: 7024 Glover Road, Langley)
Phone: 604-888-4491 • Fax 604-532-1009
sales@cedarrim.com • www.cedarrim.com



Art Knapp

Phone: 604.596.9201
Fax: 604.596.9240
Address: 4391 King George Blvd
Surrey, BC, V3Z0L2

John Davidson, Newsletter

Next Meeting

May 8th, at 2pm

Doors Open at 1pm

Cranley Place Hall, 2141 Cranley Drive, Surrey.

Feel free to bring home made goodies to spice up our tea/coffee break. Remember to bring your own cup to save money and the environment.