



Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 2006

NEXT MEETING

Monday July 17, 2006

6:30 pm

Squamish Library

SOCIAL EVENT

TO FOLLOW AT

HOWE SOUND

BREW PUB



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Letter From The Editor

Down the Garden Path

'Mary, Mary quite contrary, how does your garden grow?'



Hopefully your garden is growing like some of the lovely creations that we visited June 25 on the Squamish Garden Tour. Every year I wonder how the Club will be able to find another 7 to 10 gardens to feature in the tour but each year people graciously open their secret back yards and hidden treasures surprise us again. Besides new plants, I am always interested to see new ways of displaying garden finds. Just as nature is inventive in finding spots to sow her wild seeds so gardeners plant things in unique places or arrange them differently....a row of potted hostas in a shady narrow passageway, a sedum in a knothole, a gunnera watered by a small weeping crack in the face of a granite rock. And the sizes of gardens range from acres to a small working herbal plot. Every year they are different but one thing remains constant... the people that make our tour a success. From the volunteers to the hosts to the organizers and the generous sponsors... all are so co-operative and willing to share their love of gardening. Volunteering always means that you are able to really get to know one garden well. Visitors are always sharing their perspective of the yard with you and pointing out things you may have missed. Most of the hosts this year provided shade for the volunteers. Many also brought cold water, lemonade and in our case, even a cup of tea. It does mean that you have to hurry to complete the route yourself, before and/or after your stint as a volunteer. The comradary of the visitors along the way is great with people's paths crisscrossing and meeting at various points. I'm looking forward to our July 17th meeting when we will share our thoughts about this year's tour and make suggestions about making 2007 even better. Don't forget that this will be followed by our social gathering at the Howe Sound Inn.

This unusually long period of warm weather has given us a remarkable period of roses. Even in my plot these flowers have bloomed their hearts out. The breeze has given them just enough air movement and the nights have not had heavy dews. Now that July is here it is time to cut off spent heads, prune the bushes a bit and give them a good watering followed by a good feeding. Try not to water rose from above. If you have rust or black spot on them spray with the baking powder cure: 1 teaspoon of B.P. to one gallon of water. Add a few drops of liquid soap to help the mixture adhere to the leaves. Pick off badly marred leaves and keep the leaves that drop picked up. Cut roses back to just above an outward facing leaf that has five smaller leaflets.

In my garden this is the time that I also cut back my lady ferns, cranesbills geraniums and snip off the poppy heads. The lady ferns are feathery and make a good backdrop for flowers but by the end of June they begin to look a bit tattered. They will soon spring up anew to add that fresh green to the beds. The geraniums will also regenerate and add to the late summer array. The poppy heads can be dried for autumn

Letter From The Editor Cont'd

arrangements and some saved for poppy seed cakes. Oriental poppies put on new foliage in the late summer that pumps up the flower buds for the next year so cutting them back makes room for other plants in the beds to reach for the spotlight. July is also the month that I am busy trimming out the excess bamboo to keep it under control. You can just kick off the new shoots as they emerge from the ground. If you miss a couple of days you will have to use the pruners as the plants grow rapidly and the stalks harden. While I have my pruners and saw in hand I usually cut off wayward branches that block the paths or obstruct views. The weigelas and deutzias



have finished their blooming and I have swept up the last of the petals from the patio. I was covered in white petals for a couple of weeks. I even went shopping with them sticking in my hair. Both of these plants were favorites of my oldest aunt's husband, Bill Webster. They lived on Judd Road where the Tudor-style home is now, set back with an orchard in front. He came from Scotland with his bagpipes. He had been a baker but he worked for the P.G.E. Railway here. His garden with its trees, grapes, strawberries and cemented water lily pond really set the stage for my interest in gardening. I spent a lot of time visiting this yard as a child. On hot July days nothing was nicer than to feast on Bing cherries as I dabbled my feet in the pool. The weigela and deutzia that I have are as a reminder of those days. Next it will be the mock orange that will require some training. I have three that were given to me by special aunts when I first started gardening. They are huge and all are different. The scent on a warm summer's evening is delightful. It evokes the mystic Zen of monks in far away lands. I am sure my musing are not just idle time fillers as I journey around the garden. I really think they help to keep one's blood pressure in control. They say that the sense of scent is the one that lasts the longest in one's memory. I guess that is why perfume has such a lure. I have a rose that my great grandmother brought to the Valley in the 1890's. Legend has it that it was the rose used by perfumers for Marie Antoinette produces their product for French royalty. No one seems to know the name of the rose so the story must be viewed with some skepticism but the rose does have a rich scent that makes a good dried addition to room fresheners. One of my Brumansia is also in bloom. I have placed it by an entrance from the garden so every evening as I finally come inside it stays in my head as I fall asleep.

When you are pruning remember to be aware of distant views as well as vignettes in your garden. Twice this year I have managed to pull in neighbours' plantings into my landscape. A little path through an island bed had a view of another perennial bed beyond that featured the full moon maple with its warm yellow foliage. However across the pond in Glenda Begley's yard a couple of maples, one a Red Norway and the other a white variegated 'Flamingo', framed a yellow-leafed locust tree in the next block. By judiciously trimming the bloodgood Japanese maple by my pathway I was able to enjoy the rich tapestry of foliage for two blocks without even a house or telephone pole to obstruct the view. A simpler chore was to trim the bottom of the magnolia in the front yard so guests leaving my front door have the framed view of the garden across the street but they don't look into the neighbour's door or the windows. By editing lines of vision I am reminded of a story I once read.

It seems that a wealthy Japanese merchant bought a coveted piece of property that faced Mount Fiji across the Bay. All his friends and associates anxiously waited for his mansion to be built. When, at last, they attended his house warming they were perplexed to discover that the famous view had been blocked by hedges and trees. "Why", they asked, "would someone deliberately obstruct such a magnificent scene that other home owners could only dream of having from their windows?" With that the owner escorted his guests down the slope to a low break in the hedge. As they bent to pass through the opening each was rewarded with a breathtaking glimpse of the famous mountain. "Nature should be viewed with great humility" their host explained. So when I am busy on my hands and knees weeding I am reminded to look around for the breathtaking views seen only when we least expect them!

An unexpected bonus from this Garden Tour came as a raffle prize. I won the planter pot. After Don drilled some holes for drainage, I filled it with a mixture of annuals and perennials and placed it on the other side of the bridge. I had needed a focal point there for sometime. After the burst of spring bulbs and shrubs this area is quite dull until the peegee hydrangea blooms in August. Now I have a mass of warm reds, yellows and oranges to light my way... and another pot to water daily!!!

Well *how does my garden grow?* With rose and hydrangeas, and lilies and dahlias all in a row! As we don't have a meeting in August our next newsletter will be in September. Marina and I wish you all a great summer and we will be back in the fall.

Our Web Site

Just a reminder that we now have a site that has news, tips and links for Squamish Gardeners. It is found at <http://www.members.shaw.ca/sqgardeners/>. For those gardeners who don't have a digital camera may I suggest that you consider investing in one? Not only can you record your year in the garden and compare it with other years but it helps you to see your yard in a new perspective. By focusing on one flower or a grouping you can assess the visual impact of arrangements and enjoy your garden more. It also helps you to be more critical of elements that need tweaking to bring you satisfaction. With the instant display you can also reshoot photos to get the effect you want or try another angle. I am going to be looking for a new camera that is pocket sized. I usually leave my camera in the house and have to run in to retrieve it when I see something I want to have a photo record of. Often the light has change when I return and the magic moment is lost. I thought that the mini-camera would not give me the quality that I want but I was wrong. A recent visitor to the garden proved with his camera that macro photography is easy with the newer pocket cameras and the clarity and detail is excellent. I could also tuck it into my purse to capture those unexpected moments of visual delight in other yards and public spaces. Remember to share your pictures with us at our web site. We won't have to visit your garden on a tour to enjoy your treasures! And you can edit what we see!

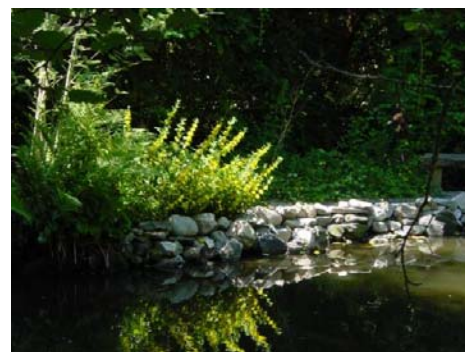


Daylily Disease - Warning!

I have finally discovered the cause of the malformed buds on these plants in my garden! The midge fly larvae are producing a gall disease. It is evidently common in Europe but not on this side of the Atlantic until now. I got it last year but I could not find out what was producing it. I suspect that I imported it with some new plants that I purchased. You can check Pam Erikson's web site at www.plantlovers.com or try www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/daylilymidge.htm I prefer the first site

Request For Flowers

In mid September there will be a multi-year reunion of student from Howe Sound Secondary. Ellen Grant, your scribe, has offered to decorate the tables, all thirty or so. The school colors are blue and gold so I plan to use hydrangeas and sunflowers and various yellow daisy-like flowers. If you could spare a few deep blue yellow flowers at that time I would appreciate it. If I could get just a bit from many people it wouldn't mean stripping my own yard and my neighbours to make some good table centers.



July Meeting

Library Monday July 17, 6:30 p.m.

Agenda

- Weeding until 7p.m.
- Discussion of Garden Tour and recommendations
- Disbursement of funds
- Plans and suggestions for autumn activities
- Social time at the Howe Sound Inn

PLEASE PHONE DAWN MILNE BEFORE JULY 15TH, AT 604-898-5002 IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND SO SHE CAN ORDER THE APPY'S.

SOCIAL WILL BE HELD IN THE RESTAURANT NOT THE PUB

Squamish Gardener's June Minutes



The Squamish Gardeners:

Regular Meeting: June 19, 7pm Squamish Library Board Room

Treasurer's Report: **SQUAMISH GARDENER'S TREASURER'S REPORT**
May 17, 2006 Squamish Gardeners Presentation – Rudy Pinkoski

Ticket Income			\$336.00
Expenses: Room Rental	\$171.20		
Ticket/Door Prize		172.10	
Speaker		<u>100.00</u>	
Total		\$443.30	\$443.30

The Club lost \$107.30, but we picked up two new members. Any feedback I have received was that it was an enjoyable evening. I am sorry I missed it

Balance April 26, 2006 \$ 2,276.01

Revenue:	Door	\$336.00		
	Membership	<u>30.00</u>		
		366.00	366.00	
				\$2,642.01
Expenses:	Speaker	\$100.00		
	Tickets/Door Prize	<u>172.10</u>		
		272.10		<u>\$272.10</u>

Bank Balance May 24, 2006 \$ 2,369.91

Judy Crowston Treasurer

Chairperson: Eleanor opened the meeting by saying there would be no program in July, but we would meet for a post Garden Tour debriefing on the 17th at the Library. There will be a social at the Brew Pub following the July meeting. The Chairman went on to outline the duties and responsibilities of those who are volunteering to be part of the Garden Tour.

There was a discussion about the clubs disbursements. Eleanor informed us that the disbursements are determined by the success of the Garden Tour. Last years recipients were Lilies Garden, The Railway Museum, B.C. Council of Gardens and The Library. Astrid moved that the club keep to the same list of recipients. The motion was seconded my Moira.

A raffle is to be part of the Garden Tour. Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Prizes have been contributed by the following businesses. Garibaldi Nurseries, The Beehive, Pause-Café, Home Hardware, Mountain Building, West Coast Railway, Mostly Books, Mountainview Landscape, Xocolatl Chocolate Creations, Spectrum Landscapes, Studio 99, Wild Turkey Nursery, and The Garden Centre.

Refreshments: Our Thanks to Sarah Clark and Debbie Donohue.

**Summer afternoon - summer afternoon; to me those have always
been the two most beautiful words in the English language.
- Henry James**