



Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 7

July 2007

**YEAR END
SOCIAL**
Monday July 16
Brackendale
Art Gallery
7:00 p.m.
Bring your
favorite appetizer



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Letter From The Editor

Down the Garden Path

"...nobody sees a flower-really-it is so small-we haven't time-and to see takes time like to have a friend takes time." Georgia O'Keeffe

I suppose that sums up gardening. It is all about seeing the beauty around you and appreciating all the nuances that make up the experience. I think that is what makes our annual garden tour so delightful. You get to see other plant creations in other environments and chat with host gardeners about their visions and their follies. I felt a little sorry for this year's featured gardeners. Usually the weather co-operates and allows one to 'tweak' the yard; mowing lawns, pulling weeds, filling blank spaces with new plants or items of interest. This year it must have been extremely difficult to get the extra polish on the landscaping. But they all seemed to have achieved miracles. The early hours were drab and chilly but the sunshine by 11am made the gardens gleam. It was well worth the work by all concerned. Dave Colwell's photo record of the day on the web site is a wonderful depiction of the individuality of the places we visited. Everyone seemed so happy to have visitors. I was especially impressed by the way seclusion was achieved by the home owners. All the gardens had a sense of enclosure and privacy whether by natural means such as acreage, backing onto green spaces, or rock faces, fences, hedges or strategically placed arbors, tall plantings or buildings.

Even though the tour went well, I am still fed up with the weather.(I just have to register my displeasure somewhere!)The only compensation has been that I haven't had to worry about watering restrictions. In fact I couldn't figure out why some of my potted plants were not thriving. I dumped them out only to find that the soil was so wet the plants were literally drowning. The soil never had a chance to dry out. Of course there are dry spots under the eaves and under trees that may need a bit of water but only occasionally. My time has been spent trying to finally finish planting summer bulbs and tubers and pulling weeds that flourish in the dampness. I have also noticed some mildew on the phlox and some of the tender new growth on the roses. Every time I spray them it rains. Usually the weather changes towards the middle of July so I tackle the problem then .All plants will need a good feeding when the rainy season is over. The watering Mother Nature has dispensed will have leached most of the planting fertilizer out. Baskets and planters will need extra care to get the plants to bloom into September. This weather has been excellent for transplanting so I have added a couple of roses to the collection. I purchased a 'Sally

Letter From The Editor Cont'd

Holmes' (actually I rescued her from Home Depot for \$2.00). She is a shrub/low climber with pale creamy masses of flowers. I've had my eye on her for a couple of years after I saw a full grown specimen at Select Roses in Langley. I also acquired 'Out of the Blue' which is a highly scented blue-pink shrub rose. I'll grow it this summer in a pot by the back door so I can enjoy the scent. Don selected a deep red rose, 'Ingrid Bergman' to add to our collection. I thought that we had lost several roses this winter but they were on their own roots and are now staging a come back so replacements really weren't necessary. However roses are a good investment for any garden. The bloom for the whole season and in so many colors, sizes and forms. By carefully picking the types almost any garden or container can afford these plants a home. I have them even growing in my hanging baskets.



Yesterday I toured the new garden of my daughter's neighbour. Against the red brick of her chimney climbed a lovely peach rose. It had been a gift from a friend who bought it as one of those grocery store gifts, small and covered in blooms. Given sunshine and a good root run it filled a 5'x 5' space. What a surprise! Besides admiring the rose, and their new grape arbor, I think I have also talked them into considering entering their garden in next year's tour. And I have viewed another garden that we may be able to show in 2008 too. Please keep your eyes open for candidates for next year. It is only by everyone being alert that we can scout out the fabulous garden gems hidden away behind those back yard barriers.

Just a reminder to members that Dave is awaiting ten photos of your yard! If a near-sighted neophyte like me can capture the scene on film so can you talented folk. Even if you don't want to share your garden with the rest of the members it is worth while as a gardener to record the successes and problems in your yard. A picture is worth a thousand words, they say and who has time to do all that writing? If you don't have a camera then try taking a picture frame into your yard and viewing different areas through that perspective. It helps you to edit your landscape and focus your efforts. We have just replaced two sliding glass doors with French garden doors. It is amazing how the panes of the doors change the outlook on the beds beyond. Each pane presents a picture. With so many pictures, I have to be sure to keep the patio tidy so as not to ruin the view!

We are finishing our season with our July meeting at the Brackendale Art Gallery. It is always a great gathering when we discuss our tour and make recommendations for 2008. This is followed by refreshments and an opportunity to share with others. If the finger food members bring is anything like the Christmas feast, I can hardly wait!

There will not be a newsletter (or a meeting) in August. The next trip down the garden path will be in September.

Glenda's Graham Cracker Squares

By request, this is the recipe for the easy, delicious squares that Glenda Begley brought to the last meeting.

Line a jelly roll pan with graham wafer squares. Do not break them up.

Bring to a boil ½ cup butter and ½ cup packed brown sugar. Boil for 2 minutes. Add a few drops of vanilla (optional) and quickly pour over graham crackers. Top with ½ cup chopped of flaked nuts. Glenda used almonds.

Bake in oven 350 degrees F. for 10-12 minutes until bubbly. Cool slightly but cut into squares before the topping hardens.

General Meeting Minutes

Carol Robson opened the meeting. She thanked the members who had weeded, and apologised for not using a blind copy when e-mailing. Garden shovels are available for purchase after the meeting, as are Garden Tour tickets.

Minutes: These were adopted as presented in the Newsletter: moved by Carol Raffaele, seconded by Nairn Stewart, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: It was proposed by Eleanor Bowcock, seconded by Judy Crowston, that the report, as presented in the Newsletter, be accepted. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None. However, notices had been passed out at the field trip that "Fashion, Flowers and Tea" would take place on July 15th at the Petals and Butterfly Gardens in Langley.

Carol mentioned that Karen Chelswick, who has been key in organising the Garden Tour, is recovering from an operation. Carol will send her a card on behalf of the Club.

Programme: Nairn said that the next meeting is the Social, to be held at the BAG on July 16th. Next year's programme will be fleshed out then. The November meeting will feature Brad Gelbert from Select Roses. The committee is still working on the September and October topics.

The July meeting will include a de-briefing on the Garden Tour. Members are asked to bring an hors d'oeuvre; drinks will be available for purchase.

Newsletter: No news.

Webpage: No news.

Glenda Begley and Nairn were thanked for providing the evening's refreshments.



Brackendale Fall Fair: Nairn moved and Glenda seconded a motion that we participate. Motion approved. A sign-up sheet is available for people to look after the booth. The booth needs to be booked by August 1st and will cost \$25. A table and shelter will be provided. Set-up is from 8 am, and the Fair is open from 10-5.

Garden Tour: Eleanor distributed kits to those people setting up at 9 am. Directional arrows were also passed out. Dorte Froslev provided \$15 floats. Balloons and posters will be available for pick-up at BAG on the day. It was suggested that a rock or hammer be taken to pound in the stake.

Eleanor thanked the volunteers, and said that someone was still needed for Mystic Mountain Lodge from 1-3. A volunteer was also needed in Valleycliffe to set up at 9 am.

It will be necessary to keep track of the raffle tickets sold by category.

Garden owners will likely provide a table and chairs – check with Carol if in doubt.

Any other business: None

Programme: The meeting was then turned over to Nairn, who introduced the speaker, Ellen Grant, who gave a presentation: Down the Garden Path – Garden Photography.

President's Message

Thanks to all for the great support of our 2007 Garden Tour. I have heard many great comments. The weather cooperated in the afternoon. I had a great day. I hope you did too. We had over 120 people visiting the gardens.

On July 16 at 7 pm we will be having our meeting at the BAG to wrap up the Garden Tour final details and socialize. Bring an appetizer to share.

If you have feed back and want to send it ahead of time I will try to compile it so we can keep the meeting short and the fun long.

Garden Photography Notes

Garden photographs are a way of sharing a garden with others in a non-intrusive manner. It helps focus on a garden, and provides a year-to-year record. It also allows one to be constructively critical. It is a good idea to take lots of pictures, from different angles, using different lighting, close ups and distance shots. Using a digital camera it is possible to erase shots that don't work, and also to do some editing.

The best light is at sunrise and sunset, as there are no dark shadows. Cloudy days are also good, as shadows are soft.

Try to frame pictures with a natural frame, such as trees, or a fence, etc. Some people contrive a frame, e.g., with arbours. This focuses the eye and highlights a particular part of the garden. Be aware of the background.

Ellen divided her pictures into groups.

1. Plant portraits. Pictures of individual plants. Useful tricks include:

- § Looking at the beauty inside the plant.
- § Single flowers can be very attractive.
- § Try using the zoom.
- § Keep the background simple.



2. Groups of flowers.

- § Usually of one kind.
- § Odd numbers are most attractive.
- § Not too many.
- § Can include buds, insect, etc.
- § Include hardscape, such as fence, as contrast to softness and life of plant.

3. Two or more types of flowers.

- § Try to get contrast, e.g., dark/light, small/large, flower with leaf.

4. Landscapes.

- § Need a focal point.
- § Need perspective – can use pathways, e.g., to focus the eye.
- § Use people/animals to provide interest.
- § Don't include a lot of sky, as the camera over-compensates for the light. Sky can overpower a picture.

5. Things other than plants.

- § Children and gardens fit well.
- § Pets, particularly cats, fit well in garden pictures.
- § Trees – note bark and moss.
- § Rocks can give character and strength to a picture.
- § Water – gives reflections, sense of calmness, replication.
- § Water is often dark – use as a background.
- § Garden tools – hint at people at work in garden.
- § Statues, arbours, pots.
- § A combination of hardscape, the human element and plants provides instant interest.
- § Props can give sense of story, e.g., book and glasses on bench, rake and bucket by garden gate.
- § Families: use bench or ladder as prop.
- § Brides: the best background is greenery.



Ellen then showed us some wonderful pictures, all taken in her garden.

Remember that Dave Colwell will put up sets of 10 pictures of members' gardens on the website.