



Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 6

June 2007

NEXT MEETING

Monday June 16

Squamish Library

6:30 - Weeding

7:00 - Meeting

Speaker

Ellen Grant



GARDEN TOUR

Sunday June 24

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Inside this issue:

<i>Letter from Editor Cont'd</i>	2
<i>June Meeting</i>	2
<i>Gardener's Road Trip</i>	3
<i>Confessions</i>	3
<i>May Minutes</i>	4
<i>Treasurers Report</i>	4

Letter From The Editor

Down the Garden Path

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet." **By William Shakespeare**

The month of roses (and clematis and poppies, and carnations, etc.) has arrived in all its finery and perfume. The rhododendrons are beginning to shed their brilliant petals to make mats beneath their branches. For me this is a bitter-sweet time of the year for although we have not yet officially said "good-bye" to spring, the dead flowers on the many bushes in my garden remind me that summer is here. Summer is not my favourite time as a gardener. It is the time for the annuals to take over center stage with their once- in-their-lifetime show. Perennials and shrubs are usually the supporting cast during the next few months. Yes, I plant up beds, hanging baskets and planters to highlight these showy beauties but I know that, with the first frost, they will be reduced to a soggy mess. They are fair weather friends. And this year I can't find some of my reliable bedding plants. I thought that with all the new garden supply outlets in town I would be able to find some of the rarer annuals or some of the newer varieties. I thought that the competition would also reduce the price on some of the old favorites. Not so! I am particularly disappointed in the basket stuffers.... those little plants that you can jam into a pot or basket, water and fertilize well and be guaranteed of a great show for the summer. You either have to buy the much bigger (and more expensive) pot sizes or you must purchase multi-plants in containers of one color or variety. I guess I'll still have to get what I need elsewhere. I still prefer plants that pop up every year and require little more than a shovel full of compost or fertilizer.

When Judith Fothergill, a member of our Club, announced at our last meeting that the family of the late Maria Freiburger were reducing the extent of this garden in preparation for selling the property and asked members to drop by, I went more out of curiosity than need. From the road I had admired the neat little front garden as glimpsed from under the fronting evergreen trees. There always seemed to be something blooming there as I drove by. I had never visited the yard however. It had never been on the garden tour but it should have been! At the back stretched fruit trees, including a fig grown from a seed, ornamental trees and shrubs and two huge beds of perennials. Here was a lifetime of collecting and nourishing. Here flourished the gardening skills of a person who gained great joy from the land. I could picture her looking back from the house in all seasons admiring the masses of blooms from the bulbs and primroses of spring to the asters and Japanese anemones of fall. All the old favorites were there, peonies, lilies, roses, and even a newly added magnolia. I could see that it was a labour of love for two. And now that half the team was gone, her husband wanted to spread some of that love around because the task of caring for this huge garden was overwhelming. I was so glad that I went. Although I never met Maria I have some of her spirit planted in my yard now.

Letter From The Editor Cont'd

As I tried to picture her gazing out of her second story window at her horticultural masterpiece, I thought of how different our gardens look from different perspectives. Glenda Begley has a kitchen window that frames an ever-changing view of her back yard. It is about eight feet above ground level and gives a completely different sense of the beds. I always enjoy my yearly climb to clean out the gutters and sweep the needles off the roof. The height changes my outlook on my space. A recent visit to our president Carol Robson's home afforded us a look at her garden two stories below. She has arranged the beds with the view from above in mind. An other perspective can be had by spreading a blanket on the lawn to read on a summer's day. You get a bug's eye view of your landscaping efforts. Look around you as you weed the back of the border. Check out your place from your neighbour's yard or just stand in the street and see what others see as they drive by. Try looking at your garden through a mirror sometime. It will reveal a whole new vision and may help you to appreciate things about your garden that you have become so accustomed to that you now overlook it as you pass. Or take out your camera and see your garden through the lens. Focusing your eye on specific items or framing the image helps to see your efforts in a different light.


Speaking of a different light, with all the trees and branches that we removed this spring I am sneaking in more sun seeking plants. It will be a season of experimenting with new plantings in new places. Don will be rebuilding my sunroom with double paned glass this summer so much of the bed by this structure will have to be left alone. I will move pots of plants into the area later but for now I will have to let the building requirements mess up the bed. This is the year for structural changes so it is also a time to try some plant changes too. I'm adding to my collection of canna lilies. I figure that if global warming is here to stay I should be able to grow some of these warm weather beauties. I like their vertical structure and the different shaded of their leaves as much as the flowers that they bare in the late part of the summer. I know that we have to store them away with the dahlias come winter but at least I won't have to try to find them at the nursery every year. As for the shady areas, I'm planning to add a few more ferns. Here, in B.C., we are lucky to have some outstanding native varieties but I'll try a few of those newer kinds from further a field.

Helping to preview a few of the gardens that have been submitted for our Tour has given me a taste of what is to come on June 24. As usual the committee has discovered some more original creations to stimulate the imagination of visitors. Big or small, formal or natural, the gardens that will be on the Tour this year show the variety of their owners visions. I am sure they will be enjoyed! Just a reminder, if you have not put your name down to volunteer for a 2 hour time at one of the gardens please notify Carol. Volunteers will get their own ticket for half price. We have extended the time this year by one hour so volunteers have more time to tour the other gardens. However this means that we need ten more volunteers for the last one hour slots. If you have a friend or neighbour who would like a cheaper ticket in exchange for overseeing a garden for an hour or two please phone Carol or Eleanor Bowcock.

Also a reminder that our annual wind up will be held at the Brackendale Art Gallery July 16. This is the meeting that we debrief our Tour and plan for next year's fund raiser. Bring along some finger food to share. Liquid refreshment can be bought at the B.A.G. We usually have a good turn out for this event as we unwind and enjoy the social evening. As we shift into summer, members will be busy in their own gardens. If you have an hour to spare remember to pull a few weeds at the Library. Bring along a friend and share a "chatty" time as you help tidy the beds. Before our September meeting we will also have an information booth at the Fall Fair that will need an hour or so of your assistance. It makes a nice spot to sit and eat lunch or grab a snack during your visit to this annual community event. Many newcomers to the valley stop to enquire about our club while other gardeners drop by to enjoy our photo album and ask questions or share gardening experiences. If you can spare a short time or even help with the set-up of the booth please contact Carol Robson.

The June Meeting

The June meeting at the library will be preceded by weeding at 6:30. The meeting will commence at 7 pm. The business portion will include final details about the Garden Tour on June 24th. Ellen Grant will then give a short talk on Photography in the Garden, illustrated by some of her garden photos. There will be time for discussion, so please bring your questions and ideas.



SUMMER WRAP UP & SOCIAL

July 16, 2007
 Brackendale Art Gallery
 7:00 p.m.
 Bring an appetizer.
 Liquid refreshments can be bought on site.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Gardener's Road Trip



On Thursday, May 24th a small but excited group of Squamish Gardeners headed off to Langley on a "field trip". Our first destination was Petals and Butterflies, the nursery owned by our April speaker, Gwen Odermatt and her husband Paul. The nursery, specializing in plants which attract butterflies and hummingbirds (in case you missed her talk), is located at the very south end of Langley, off Zero Avenue. Gwen and Paul have a beautifully laid out large garden with colourful perennial beds and a water feature. Paul graciously brought us coffee in the garden, and even gave us a partial tour of the house! After viewing the garden we had a few minutes to shop in the nursery area, and left with some interesting plants for our collections.

Just five minutes away was our next stop, the Bacchus Bistro at Chaberton Estates Winery. The restaurant is accessed through the wine shop which looked quite attractive, although we had no time to shop there. We had a lovely lunch (no one had opted for a bag lunch!) and some of us had a glass of the Estates wine. The meal was excellent, but following a rich dessert by standing out in the hot sun at the next nursery might have been a mistake!

From there we moved on again a short distance to find Free Spirit Nursery, owned by Lambert and Marjanne Vrijmoed. Lambert proved a very genial host, welcoming us, handing out catalogues of all their plants, explaining the layout of the nursery, staying close by to answer any questions, and letting us stay longer than their 4 o'clock closing time. The nursery offers a lot of native plants and some unusual perennials. They are displayed in garden beds so you can see how they can be used in the garden, then you turn around and there are the plants in pots ready to take home. And take them we did! We just managed to squeeze in all of us and all the plants for the journey home. It was a tiring day but all agreed it had been a fun outing. Both nurseries and the winery are well worth a day trip to Langley.

Confessions of a Garden Club President

As a teacher I should have known, but I reasoned that if I had wanted to join a service club I would have. My life was too busy with family, work, health issues and my own garden to go out and weed at the Library garden or do a two-hour shift on the Garden Tour and Brackendale Fall Fair - let alone the work of organizing a club.

So when I wondered how the Garden Club could get such good speakers each month for my \$15/year membership I should have figured it out. They can't!! Speakers are subsidized by weeding at the Library, door prizes, the Garden Tour and (sometimes) our major speaker in May.

Weeding at the Library is an exchange for the use of the room for our meetings. Otherwise, we would have to come up with another \$50.00/month. The Garden Tour is a great deal of work and provides us with the bulk of funds we use to subsidize speakers and a few garden related projects in Squamish.

When last year's Squamish Gardeners executive had to scramble and arm twist to get new members to become involved I succumbed to their pressure and received an education.

There are a about a dozen people who have busy lives who consistently do the bulk of the work so we can have the great club we do. **Please let the executive know what you are able to do to support the Squamish Gardeners** so we can continue to have dynamic and informative meetings that relieves tension and encourages each of us to be creative in our own gardens.

I can be contacted by email clrobson@telus.net or phone 604 898 4264.

Carol Robson,
President, Squamish Gardeners



May Meeting Minutes

- In the absence of Carol Robson, Carla Halvorson Burke chaired a brief business meeting.
- **Garden Tour:** The open hours of the gardens is being extended, and will be from 9 am to 4 pm. This will give volunteers more opportunity to visit the gardens themselves. The cost of tickets will be \$15. Volunteers will pay half price. A sign-up sheet was provided.
- There was also a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the Van Dusen Garden Show.
- The garden shovel from the BC Gardens meeting, designed and marketed by a woman in Vernon, was a raffle prize at this meeting (won by Anna Kirman). A sign-up list for ordering shovels was available.
- A reminder that we still need to weed at the library.
- Judith Fothergill said that Garden Club members had been offered an opportunity to take plants from the stunning garden at 39773 Government Road on Saturday, May 12th, from 9-1. The house was to be sold, and Maria Freiberger had made the generous offer.
- There will be a field trip to Petals and Butterflies, in Langley, Thursday, May 24th. Another garden will likely be combined in the tour: sign-up sheet available.
- **Programme:** The meeting was then turned over to Nairn Stewart, who introduced the speaker, Steve Kovacs, of Water Scene Design in Ladner. He has a long history of designing and installing water features. He runs an 8-hour course for teachers and students on water features.
- He provided several hand outs, and presented a slide show.
- He said that people want to come home and hear the sound of clear water, particularly if this is a low-maintenance situation. - —
- Water features: aesthetically enhance the landscape, provide tranquillity and a relaxation zone, are an educational tool for children, and bring nature to your property.
- In his experience there are:
 - Fish people (aquarists)
 - Plant people (gardeners)
 - Decorative people, and
 - Complete water gardeners (all of the above).
- There are various water features available, ranging from a container water garden, to a pre-formed shallow pond, to a do-it-yourself liner pond, which is the most popular. The liner is hidden by rocks. A professionally installed liner pond is the most expensive choice. A pond-less waterfall is also an option.
- He mentioned that mosquito larvae do not live in moving water.
- There are five components to a water feature:
 - Circulation (pump and tubing), Filtration (mechanical and biological)
 - Rocks and gravel, Fish, Plants.
- Biological filters make use of beneficial bacteria to convert and remove nitrogen components, mainly ammonia and nitrate. Mechanical filters physically remove debris and waste matter.
- The best depth for a pond is 2 feet. Plants aid in algae control through shade and competition. It's best to cover 30-40% of the pond's surface with plants.
- The best predator control (herons, raccoons) is a mechanical scarecrow with a motion sensor that shoots water. It's important when building ponds to create small caves and hiding places for fish.
- Steve invited all the Garden Club members to visit his operation in Ladner

SQUAMISH GARDENERS TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Forward Jan. 1, 2006	\$2,248.93		
Revenue:		Expenses:	
Speakers	\$491.00	Speakers	\$680.00
Doorprizes	\$122.11	Raffle & DP	\$115.00
Membership	\$670.00	NL & Post	\$73.87
Interest	\$0.63	Coffee	\$16.23
Float (in)	\$0.00	Rentals	\$169.90
Raffle	\$0.00	BCCofGC	\$85.29
Tour	\$0.00	Bank	\$0.00
Wreaths	\$0.00	Float (out)	\$3.50
Misc.	\$0.00	Fees	\$0.00
		Gifts/Doorprizes	\$0.00
		Misc.	\$12.72
			<u>\$1,156.51</u>
Bank Balance as of 5/31/07	\$2,376.16		\$2,376.16

Submitted by Dorte Froslev, Treasurer.