



Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 8

October 2006

NEXT MEETING

Monday October 16,
6:30 p.m.
Railway Heritage Park
Plant Exchange
&
Gardening Year Round



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Letter From The Editor

Down the Garden Path

*'I love those dear hearts and gentle people who live in my home town,
Because those dear hearts and gentle people will never ever let you down.'*

Those words from an old 1950's song suit my feelings exactly. When I asked members to please help with the thirty-five floral table centers for the multi-year Howe Sound High reunion you responded with hydrangeas and so many yellow flowers that they really turned the Totem Hall into a garden bower. Everyone comment on them. At the end of the evening some arrangements were taken to the hospital and Hilltop while others went to the cemetery to adorn the graves of fiends and relatives of the grads. The money left over (some of which had been ear-marked for flowers) will go towards a scholarship for a student presently enrolled in our alma mater. Thank you all again for being such "dear hearts".

Of course as soon as the reunion was over my own garden started to burst forth with blue flowers, asters, daisies and the deep blue of monkshood. The yellow roses also put on their final showing and the light rain, that we had, has given new life to my own black-eyed Susans and Irish Eyes. Even the yellow Brumansia has co-operated and now adds its trumpets to the sea of blue surrounding it. I always find that the most vivid colors seem to come as the days shorten and the nights cool. As the leaves begin to turn to yellows, golds and crimsons, the perennials sparkle in contrast. Perhaps it is the fact that the breezes now seem to blow more from the north bringing cleaner, crisper air down from the mountains. Or perhaps we try to drink in every last scene from the garden to store them in our memory for the winter months.

As September was spent picking up apples and distributing them to various friends and family, October will be mainly about raking leaves and tucking plants into bed for the winter. With the lovely sunny weather I am afraid I am again getting lulled into letting days slip by in a glorious haze of lazy reverie. With the flowers still in bloom I hate to start digging and moving just yet. As usual I will probably be out by flashlight hauling in tender plants. I have been cutting back wayward shrub and dead flower stalks. My berm has grown considerably with all the bits and pieces. I'll cover it all with leaves and then some dirt. It is a great way to add some grade variation to a flat lot.

Don and I have also been busy digging out a bed next to our family room. It is the last piece of dirt next to the foundation. We have patios and cement walk ways around the rest of the house. When it rains the dirt has always splashed onto the windows and white walls. This area has also provided an entrance portal into the crawl space for wild critters, even though the ventilation holes are screened and covered in the winter. It will mean that I will have another place to put an interesting pot full of plants or maybe even a grouping of them. Gardening in containers is becoming more attractive all the time. This fall we hope to remove several old trees on the property too. Most have reached that stage where the pose a threat to structures and/or people. I am beginning to plan for more sunshine in some areas next year. October will see me planting my bulbs too. I am an optimist. I always think I will outsmart the squirrels and raccoons and reap the benefits of my labours in the spring. I have found that tramping down the soil after planting and covering the area with a lattice of twigs or wire fencing then a layer of leaf mulch seems to help win the battle. I found most of the bulbs mentioned in Steve Whysall's column in the Sun were available locally. Crocus, hyacinths, narcissus and fritillaria are all suppose to deter animals. I hope so! Tulips, though, are like squirrel candy. I sometimes think I should

Letter From The Editor Cont'd

resort to fake flowers.

Actually, I confess, I sometimes do try to cheat nature. Many years ago (almost forty in fact) I was at home with one of those miserable head colds. It was a dreary January day, gold and wet and totally lacking in any of the festive sparkle of the holiday season. My mood mirrored the day. I was feeling sorry for myself when my father dropped in to ask if he could pick me up any supplies while he was in Squamish. Jokingly I replied that a little bit of springtime would be nice. A couple of hours later he arrive with a bouquet of a dozen artificial daffodils, so yellow and bright that they lit up the room and my spirits immediately. In those days we didn't have the year round access to real flowers as we do today. Now we have garden shops that import roses from Chile, orchids from South Africa and greenhouse tulips three months before the field crops are ready. Where he located these silk blooms remained my dad's secret. I suspect that he talked Mrs. Hamilton, the owner of the ladies dress shop, out of the blooms that she used to decorate her shop's windows each spring. In any event I was thrilled with his special gift. For years I used them to adorn my classrooms, or the library. Now they have faded but I keep them as a sentimental reminder of my father's understanding and love. Ever since then I have used silk blooms to augment natural floral arrangements. Once I tucked spring flowers among the ones in the garden to add to a sparse background for some wedding photos. A fake hyacinth, complete with life-like roots, has fooled many friends. Some of them get caught smelling it every year. My daughter-in-law now feels all the flowers in my table centers to determine which ones are real. Last Christmas I bought two square wreaths for our double front doors. They were simple green laurel leaves with a few berries. I mounted them on the metal doors with special hooks and added a combination of real and phony flowers, holly and ornaments. For almost a year I have changed these wreaths with the seasons. My collection of flowers has been embellished with ribbons, bird nests, seed heads, twigs, Easter eggs, butterflies, and now I am getting items ready for Halloween. It has been fun and I think I'll continue with this welcoming display on the front door. The flowers may be fake but, as with my father's gift so long ago, the feeling is genuine.

A special reminder to members that our next meeting will be held at the railway museum and will be our plant exchange at 6:30 followed by our October meeting. It will also give us an opportunity to view the progress being made on the changes to this special place. Bring along plants, seeds, cuttings to share with others. Label items as to variety, color, size etc. if possible. You do not have to bring anything if you are a beginning gardener or are otherwise unable to supply items to the exchange. The idea is to give excess plants a new home rather than relegate them to the compost pile. Gardeners are a sharing bunch. It is always interesting to discover how your plants thrive in other corners of our valley. Already I am looking ahead to the months when we have very unpredictable weather and gardening conditions. After our meeting I will be helping you to focus on the "winter" season in the garden and how to survive the gardener's winter blues without a dozen daffodils.



Event on Oct. 16th

The Squamish Gardeners will hold their meeting at the Railway Heritage Park on October 16. There will be a perennial plant exchange, beginning at 6:30 pm. Members are welcome to bring any garden plants, seeds, cuttings and tubers they wish to share. If possible please label the items you bring to help identify the plants. The monthly meeting in the station hall will follow the exchange, and we have invited long time member and gardening expert Ellen Grant to be our guest speaker. Her subject will be: **Gardening Year Round.**

The purpose of this presentation will be to get people conscious of the plants we can use in the garden from Michaelmas (mid-fall) to the beginning of spring (mid March). This interactive event will encourage members to discover solutions to gardening problems collectively during this time of year. With the 2010 Olympics about to bring a great number of friends and visitors into our community, this is an especially important topic. Depending on the time available after the discussion, Ellen will show some slides at the end of the evening. A \$5 admission for non-members gives you a chance to win the door prize.

WELCOME
TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Dale Embree
Mary Henderson
Ken & Pat Pinch
Tina Franzone



Hydrangea Happenings...



In the fall when I walk through my garden I ask myself “what plant has given me the most pleasure this year?”. My hydrangeas are the definite winners!

These bushes have been in the garden for many years, planted initially by my Mother, and divided and re-planted many times. This spring, with the help of fellow gardener, Carla Burke Halvorson, they were given a much needed severe pruning. (We probably removed a pickup truck load of old wood from them!) Apparently this did no harm. As the summer progressed the foliage was lush and the flowers bloomed in abundance, despite the lack of rain.

But my greatest pleasure came in September when Ellen Grant asked if I would be willing to let her pick some of the blooms to use for table decorations for the High School Reunion. I was more than happy to do so.

Last week-end a stranger knocked on our door. My husband answered, and a lovely lady said “I have a very strange request.... My niece is getting married today at the Brackendale Art Gallery and the florist from Vancouver sent the wrong colored flowers for the table decorations. Can I pick some of your hydrangeas and I will gladly pay you for them.” My husband came to get me. We chatted and I told this lovely lady that I didn’t want any money and she was welcome to pick as many of the blossoms as she wanted. I loaned her my scissors and a paper bag and went back inside the house to let her pick whatever she needed. Later in the day I retrieved my scissors from the porch and there was a neatly folded \$20 bill underneath them!

It gives you a good feeling to know that blooms from an “ordinary” plant growing in your garden can be shared with others who are celebrating important events. And of course, I will likely buy another plant with that unexpected “donation”!

Upside Down Apple Tart

1/4 cups butter
 1 pkg. lemon yellow (85 grams)
 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
 7 medium cooking apples, peeled, cored and quartered
 1 frozen pie crust thawed and removed from foil pan.

Heat oven to 400degrees F.

Melt butter in an oven proof non stick or well greased frying pan 10 inch. Add Jello and cinnamon

Stir until jello is dissolved

Arrange apples cut side down in circular pattern on top of mixture. Top with remaining apples.

Cook on low heat until apples start to soften and jello starts to thicken (20 min. approx)

Top with pastry and cook in oven until crust is golden brown.

Invert carefully onto a serving plate, cool slightly and serve with whipped cream **Serves 8-10**



Help Wanted

Elections for the Squamish Gardeners executive will take place at our November meeting. Executive meetings only occur a few times a year and are enjoyable social events as well as business meetings. By sharing the necessary chores required to make the club operate efficiently this group makes it possible to keep meeting times to a minimum and the educational, informative and entertaining aspects of our group in the spotlight. Support persons are needed in all areas as well as the actual executive officers. If you can help in any role please let Eleanor or Beth know before the November meeting.

Position Available For Writer

The new editor at the Chief newspaper is looking for someone to write about gardening from a Squamish perspective. The contributor could be someone who is knowledgeable as well as possessing a liking for writing it down. They are looking primarily for practical advice, and little snippets of what might be going on in gardens around the town. The articles could provide mention of the Garden Club activities, which would be good publicity for the Club. Anyone interested, please contact Marie Lamontagne, or Eleanor Bowcock.

September Minutes

Regular Meeting: September 18th, 2006 Squamish Library Board Room

TREASURERS REPORT

Balance forward July 17th, 2006 \$ 3,953.55
 Revenue: (interest) .48

\$ 3954.03

Expenses:

Social	\$ 348.77
Donations-WCRly & Lily's Garden	500.00
Fall Fair	30.00
Friends of the Library	515.20
Squamish Pub. Library Sub. (Garden Wise/Fine Gardening)	57.70
BC Council of Garden Clubs	<u>100.00</u>

\$ 1,546.67

-1,546.67

\$2,407.36



Bank Balance September 18, 2006 \$ 2,407.36

- Beth Fitzpatrick chaired the meeting which began at 7.05 p.m. New members Dale Embrey, Mary Henderson and Tina Franzone were welcomed.
- The chairperson informed those present that the BC Council of Garden Clubs will be holding their 2006 Fall Meeting at the PNE Grounds on Saturday, the 21st of October. The meeting will begin at 8am and end around 2pm. The cost to attend is \$ 20.00. It is the practice of our club to pay the admission for two members to attend. Anyone interested in attending should get in touch with Judy Crowston by October 6th..
- Letters of gratitude were received from the Library and from Ruth Fenton (Lily's Garden).
- Nominating committee is needed for the November elections.
- Beth thanked the volunteers for the Fall Fair: Beth, Eleanor, Nairn, Glenda, Donna and Marie. Congratulations to Dorte for winning the aggregate award.
- The members were reminded that our annual Christmas social will be at the Brackendale Art Gallery on Monday, the 4th of December.
- Eleanor has some bulbs for planting in front of the library. An October date will be selected for a planting bee and a reminder e-mail will be circulated.
- Beth asked for suggestions for our Community Beautification Awards. Several local businesses were suggested.
- Next month's meeting will be the Fall plant exchange at the West Coast Heritage Park. Ellen Grant will be our speaker.
- Dawn introduced the program for the evening presented by Nairn Stewart. Nairn's topic was WATER WISE GARDENING. It began with an explanation of Xeriscaping (dry landscaping) and covered the following 7 principals:
 - Planning and Design
 - Creation of Practical Turf Areas (lawn)
 - Use of Appropriate Plants
 - Use of Soil Amendments
 - Mulch
 - Effective Irrigation
 - Proper Landscape Maintenance.
- Nairn ended her presentation with a slide display of the many plants that may be utilized in this type of gardening
- The members were reminded that our annual Christmas social will be at the Brackendale Art Gallery on the 4th of December.
- Thanks to Judy Crowston for the snacks and Nairn Stewart for the wonderful presentation.

God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done. - Author Unknown