



# Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 8

Website Address: <http://www.squamishgardeners.com>

September 2007

## NEXT MEETING

Monday  
September 17, 2007

6:30 p.m. Weeding  
7:00 p.m. Speaker

**Gary Gibbens**  
**Pruning**



### Inside this issue:

Letter from Editor Cont'd	2
Thanks	2
July Minutes	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Garden Tour Financials	4
Fall Speakers	4

## Letter From The Editor

### Down the Garden Path

*"Flowers always make people better, and more helpful; they are the sunshine, food and medicine to the soul"* Luther Burbank

Well he has done it again! Steve Whysall, in his August 31 column in the Sun paper, has written almost the identical column that I had mapped out for this newsletter about the fabulous plants that can highlight the garden at this time of year. So I'll just list a few that we agree on and continue on with something else. Dahlias, asters, Joe Pye weed, Japanese anemones, cimicifuga, hydrangea, phlox, sneeze weed, late blooming monkshood and mums are filling the garden with color. Of course, there are roses and clematis still in bloom and begonias and fuchsias and glads. The autumn blooming heathers are full of color now and some of the hostas are just in flower. Many annuals enjoy the cooler nights and are reawakening for a repeat performance before the first frost finishes their season.

As I mentioned in my last stroll down the garden path with you, the dog days of August and early September are not my favorite time in the garden. This year seems to be different however. The lawn doesn't seem to have browned at all and there have been only a few leaves that have prematurely littered the lawn. Even the crickets have been late arriving to serenade goodbye to summer. I have enjoyed a pastel period since early August as the garden has taken on a quiet, restful hue. White, shades of pinks, purples, blues and apricot tints highlighted the shady areas viewed from the bedroom windows. Here lilies, Bonica roses, hydrangeas, Rose of Sharon, phlox, clematis, late flowering astilbes and anemones blended their flowers among the ferns and hostas.

But there was little time for rest. This year we have tackled the task of replacing our sunroom. The original 20' x 8' glass enclosure was added to our living room about 35 years ago. It was a P.N.E. special, single-paned structure complete with two screened doors, four opening windows and roof vents. Over the years it served as a summer tomato growing room, a spot to view thunder storms and eclipses, a home to our finches (away from the cats), a nursery for baby chicks and ducklings, fledging birds including robins, crows and even a grouse, a safe haven for injured birds and animals and a bed for my teenagers' friends who either couldn't or wouldn't go home for the night. In the past few years it has been the palliative care home for old pets needing peace and warmth and special care in their final weeks. Finally it was used for its primary purpose, namely to store my tender plants in a frost free spot during the winter months. But the room cost a fortune to heat in the winter and it was too hot to enjoy in the summer. We started the project by replacing three sliding doors on the house with new garden doors. Don later used the double glass panes from these to build the west facing wall of the new structure. He has added four proper skylights and garden doors to match those on the main house. The inside and the trim still have to be completed. When it is finished I hope to have a room that we can enjoy all year. I hope I can find other locations for some of my bigger tropical plants and I'll dry and store more of my bulbs and tubers instead of keeping them in pots for the winter.

While Don busied himself with this project, I kept occupied trying to tidy up after the changes made because of the fallen trees last winter. Many shrubs and trees needed a good pruning to trim back limbs that had been damaged or were awkwardly positioned without the support of the large trees that we removed or fell down. It will be awhile before things begin to

## Letter From The Editor Cont'd

look natural again. Some trees and shrubs produced many suckers this year where they lost limbs while others are still very bare on one side or another. I have piled branches in areas that seem to have sunk down. When you live on a flood plain, the water table rising and falling tends to erode areas of the yard. Every year I try to refill these areas with branches, leaves, sods, gravel and finally top soil. I haven't found a good source of top soil yet but I have certainly done a lot of filling. I shall compost the autumn crop of leaves in these spots and wait until next spring to add the soil.

I really enjoyed the lilies this year. A new variety of oriental lily called "Lucy" was especially great. It is a double white without stamens! Therefore I had them in pots close to the kitchen door. The scent was delicious and I didn't get my nose and my clothes covered in pollen! Another purchase this summer was the book from Lee Valley tools: Making the Most of Shade by Larry Hodgson. I wish I had had it 20 years ago. It has everything you need to plan a garden with limited sunshine including planting schemes and information and colored photos of every plant mentioned. There is so much available today to ease the tasks of gardening that it is any wonder that it is the most popular recreational activity for adults.

There have been so many changes to home gardens in the past couple of generations that I am sure my grandparents would be very surprised if they could see their farm now. I remember a letter written by my grandmother to her youngest daughter during the depression years. In it she marveled at the relative ease with which the residents of the valley were managing to not only survive but thrive during those difficult years. About 95% of the families owned their own homes. Each house had a vegetable patch and usually a few fruit trees and berry bushes. Canning and preserving the crop was the great late summer activity. Those home owners with more land usually had a cow or two, a bee hive and some chickens. Perhaps a pig or two were raised to literally "bring home the bacon". Fishing and hunting also helped to fill many a larder. Excess amounts were traded with others, accepted as a credit at the MacKenzie Store or sold for some cash. Some keen gardeners even tried extracting sap from our maple trees to make sweet syrup. A plot of land was the survival tool for our grandparents. Today many of our young families have lovely homes or condos but no space to raise vegetables and certainly no room for a cow. If there is some space most gardeners prefer the esthetic value of the flower beds over the vegetable garden. There are exceptions of course. Our Farmer's Market and the Brackendale Fall Fair highlight and promote the traditional sense of gardening. There is an exciting air of independence about being able to raise your own food. With some of the scary stories now circulating about the chemicals used in the production, processing, transportation and presentation of our crops, many more people are searching for their own plot of land. We may have to down-size our demand for huge houses in favor of more gardening area. Or we could use less space for swimming pools, tennis courts, patios, and other paved areas. Hopefully it won't take another 1930's style Depression to make us appreciate the value of our gardening space.

It seems that the bears are again causing havoc with gardens and orchards around the valley. While at the Fair I heard that the organic farmer in the Upper Squamish is struggling to wrestle control his business from the wild (or rather not so wild) critters. It is bad enough if you garden just for the use of your family and friends, but when you rely on your crops for your income it can be disastrous to the pocketbook. It is not just bears that harass farmers either. Deer can cause a lot of damage to trees, berries and flower beds. Fortunately we don't have a major problem yet. However as deer move into populated areas to escape cougars and coyotes we will find these beautiful creatures a nuisance just as many areas of the province have discovered. And Raccoons can wipe out a corn crop in one night. These little bandits also love grapes, apples pears and kiwi. They have been known to break into homes and run riot searching for treats. They can do as much damage as bears but they don't have the PR people that the bears seem to have hired. Even those cute little squirrels, now busy harvesting the hazel nuts and fir cones, can chew their way into houses, sheds and other storage areas. They can destroy wooden handled tools and I have even had them eat the plastic arm of patio furniture. Gardening has its challenges but I certainly isn't a boring hobby. And if you don't mind a little competition for the other creatures, it can also be rewarding for your winter storehouse.

## Thanks

This newsletter wants to send special recognition to all the members who assisted with our booth at the Brackendale Fall Fair. Carol's skill in organizing the group made it a pleasant time for all. We managed to discuss our club with many visitors and exhibitors. I am sure that several will join our ranks as the active time in the garden winds down and we gardeners begin their planning and renewal period of the yearly cycle. Our program committee seems to have a full program ahead for us.

Also a special recognition should go to Dorte for hosting our July social at the Brackendale Art Gallery. Our Squamish Gardeners are not only talented with shovel and hoe but with kitchen appliances as well!

And to those kind souls who pulled a weed or two as they visited the library over the summer, a tip of the sun hat to you too. Our friendly relationship with this facility helps to keep money in the kitty for those speakers. Just a reminder to members; the club donates money to the library to purchase some gardening magazines. Have you checked them out?

## July Meeting Minutes

- Carol Robson chaired a brief business meeting.
- The library garden needs weeding, particularly as the builders nearby have scattered garbage (although the foreman told Moira Biggin-Pound that it will be cleared up). Carol is looking for volunteers to weed on Thursday morning at 9 am.
- Dave Colwell also sent his apologies. He has put up two slide shows on the site: one for those who use PowerPoint, and one without. He'd appreciate feedback. Carol encouraged this, as he has spent hours creating the slide shows. A few people are having problems accessing the site --he may be working on it.
- Phyllis Carter invited eight friends to the Garden Tour, and two of them won prizes. One can't use the power-washer prize, so a draw was held for it at the end of the meeting (as proposed by Astrid Andersen).
- Garden Tour:** Carla Halvorson Burke sent her apologies. Everyone put in a lot of effort, and Carol said that it had been a fun tour to organise. All went well on the day. One of the garden owners, Rose, said that all her volunteers were on time and pleasant. Next year we should keep track of visitors per garden. One garden had had 121 visitors.
- Dorte Froslev mentioned that 100 tickets had been printed, 8 were lost and 16 weren't sold, giving a total of 76. Forty-nine volunteer tickets were sold. An unknown number of single-garden tickets were sold.
- Sarah Clarke wondered if tickets were too expensive, particularly for a family with children. Perhaps a \$25 ticket for a family or couple would be a good idea. There was some discussion as to whether the tour was suitable for children, and whether they were actually welcome. Perhaps well-supervised children would be acceptable (and this is mentioned already on the tickets). Marie Lamontagne felt that couple and family tickets should be priced differently. It was agreed that this subject would be discussed in the fall.
- Carla had mentioned that we should advertise in Whistler and Pemberton. There was a discussion as to whether the gardens should be listed on the website, to make it easier for people to visit those in their area. Perhaps a list of gardens could be available at the Adventure Centre, on the day. For mention in Gardens West, information has to be placed in February. The general feeling of the meeting was that the tour should be kept small. The website should be given on the tickets.
- The proceedings of the raffle go to the Friends of the Library, \$528 this year, minus costs. Now that the rules for raffles have been changed by the Province, perhaps the club will be able to keep the money in the future. Some people had trouble keeping track of the tickets. Should the \$2 and 3 for \$5 be different colours? The total income from the tour was \$1,516. Expenses will be deducted from this total.
- The executive normally decides on a gift for Marina – a gift certificate for the Burrow was suggested.
- People generally liked the 9 am start. Garden owners get tickets for the next year's tour. There was a suggestion that garden owners could show their garden to other owners on a separate day. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses should be obtained from the owners in the future. Carol suggested that a Treasure Hunt be added to next year's tour.
- Beth Fitzpatrick wondered if we should have a rain date in the future, but that was felt to be too difficult.
- The question of donations was raised, but Nairn Stewart mentioned that the cost of the speakers this year should be known first. There was some discussion about raising entry fees for the tour, versus giving money away. Suggestions for donations can be brought to the September meeting.
- Ellen Grant suggested sending a letter out to ask people if they would be interested in having their gardens in next year's tour. Perhaps an application form for gardens could be placed in next year's Garden Supplement in the Chief, appearing around March break. Carol would like to compile a check-list for next year.
- Beth volunteered to compile a history of the Club.
- Carol asked for volunteers to man the booth at the Fall Fair – sign-up list provided.
- Programme:**
  - September: Curator of the UBC Garden, David Charm.
  - October 15: Chris Woods, new Director of the Van Dusen Botanical Gardens
  - November: Brad Gilbert from Select Roses.
- The meeting was then turned over to good food and good company.

**SQUAMISH GARDENERS TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance Forward Jan. 1, 2006 \$2,248.93

**Revenue:**

Speakers	\$501.00
Doorprizes	\$150.36
Membership	\$670.00
Interest	\$0.63
Float (in)	\$170.00
Raffle	\$528.00
Garden Tour	\$1,516.75
Wreaths	\$0.00
Misc.	\$0.00

+ \$3,536.74  
\$5,785.67**Expenses:**

Speakers	\$680.00
Raffle & Doorprizes	\$115.00
Printing & Postage	\$131.68
Coffee	\$16.23
Rentals	\$169.90
BCC of Garden Clubs	\$85.29
Bank	\$0.00
Float (out)	\$173.50
Fees	\$25.00
Misc.	\$42.09

- \$1,438.69  
\$4,346.98

Bank Balance as of 8/1/07 14:09 \$4,346.98

Submitted by Dorte Froslev, Treasurer.

**GARDEN TOUR 2007 FINANCIAL**

to Aug 1, 2007

		Revenue	Expenses	Totals
5/31/07 Carol Robson, gaming license	0007		\$25.00	(\$25.00)
6/15/07 GT float	0008		\$170.00	(\$170.00)
6/15/07 SD#45 GT	0009		\$57.81	(\$57.81)
6/18/07 GT float partial return	7	\$20.00		\$20.00
6/18/07 GT Tickets 26x\$7.50	7	\$195.00		\$195.00
6/18/07 GT Tickets 7x\$15	7	\$105.00		\$105.00
6/29/07 GT Raffle Singles 166	8	\$68.00		\$68.00
6/29/07 GT Raffle Triples 246	8	\$460.00		\$460.00
6/29/07 GT float returned	8	\$150.00		\$150.00
6/29/07 GT Tickets (100-16-7-8+1)*\$15	8	\$1,050.00		\$1,050.00
6/29/07 GT Tickets (50-9-26)*\$7.50	8	\$112.50		\$112.50
6/29/07 GT 9? Single Admissions, etc.	8	\$54.25		\$54.25
7/16/07 E. Babcock balloons	0011		\$29.37	(\$29.37)
			\$0.00	\$0.00
				<b>\$1,932.57</b>



## Speakers For The Fall Months

### September 17

Gerry Gibbens, who works for the City of Vancouver, will speak on the topic of "pruning". I have asked him to send me some biographical information and will send it on to you as soon as I receive it. I tried very hard to get someone local to speak on the subject but to no avail. Mr. Gibbens is on the BC Council of Garden Clubs Speakers List and was very obliging.

### October 15

Our speaker will be Chris Woods, the new director (as of September 2006) of the Van Dusen Botanical Garden. His topic will be A Passion for Plants. Mr. Woods is originally from England and began his apprenticeship in horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He worked at three other gardens in the UK before moving to the US in 1981. There he has worked as Director and Chief Garden Designer of Chanticleer, Vice President for Horticulture and External Operations for the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden, and Executive Director of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy in Ojai, California. He has been a consultant for a number of other gardens and horticultural projects. He has written numerous articles as well as The Encyclopedia of Perennials: A Gardener's Guide (1992). In 2003 he was awarded the Professional Citation for significant achievements in public horticulture by the American Public Garden Association.

### November 19

Brad Jalbert of Select Roses in Langley will speak to us on the topic of Roses. Select Roses was established in 1990, on the farm where Mr. Jalbert grew up. It is a farm-style nursery and greenhouse which specializes in hybridizing and growing beautiful garden roses. Mr. Jalbert has introduced at least 25 new rose cultivars, and is Western Canada's leading hybridizer of miniature roses. He is the author of the book, Roses for British Columbia, and co-author of Roses for Washington and Oregon. We hope that he will bring some roses which we can purchase at the meeting.