

# the GAZETTE

BIRCHWOOD GARDEN CLUB

[www.birchwoodgardenclub.org](http://www.birchwoodgardenclub.org)

CHARTERED 1931

## SeptemberTopic: Spring Bulbs

Submitted by Tamara Hall

The Birchwood Garden Club will hold its September 2019 meeting on Wednesday, **September 11**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Whatcom Museum of History and Art. Note this date is a week later than our usual meeting date!

Our speaker for the evening will be Dianne Gaine Van Noort from Van Noort Bulbs LTD. She has the knowledge, connections, and photos to make the bulb experience a visual fantasia.

Do you want a spectacular Late Winter/Spring display with riveting bulbs? These little gems provide the flower power which lifts our souls out of the winter doldrums and energizes our spirits for the gardening year.



Dianne will lead us through the basics (daffodils, hyacinths, snow drops and tulips) and expand into lesser known bulbs and unique examples of the older standbys. By the time this presentation is over, your shopping list will be satisfying and specific. Bring paper and several pens since you don't want to miss a single bulb option.

This is the talk that will set your bulb plan into motion. It is the time to investigate the possibilities, identify your desires, secure the necessary bulbs, plant them, and then settle back and wait for your personal Spring extravaganza.

## Fall Perennial Care Cut Back or Not?

It is difficult to accept that it's September already! Where has the summer gone? Although our growing season is not over yet, it is time to take care of perennials to make the next season easier.

But do not fertilize perennials in fall! This will only make them less winter hardy. If the growing season has been dry, water deeply in fall before the ground freezes.

Many perennials favor a quick cutting-back before winter sets in, so that they can get right back to business in the spring unimpeded by last year's growth. Bearded iris, columbine, daylily, peony, and astilbe are among the perennials that should be cut back to about 3 inches in fall. Any closer may damage crowns.

Fall pruning of some perennials (such as coneflowers, yarrow, and sedum) is really just a matter of aesthetics, so leave them if they provide interesting shape as they turn brown. And the seeds from spent flowers provide great forage for birds.

In addition to adding winter interest, some perennials overwinter better if left uncut. Don't cut back marginally hardy perennials like garden mums, anise hyssop, and red-hot poker. They are more likely to survive the cold of winter if you leave their tops to collect leaves for insulation and moisture.

Wait until spring to cut back some species, including ferns, ornamental grasses, and upright sedums. There is no need to cut back hardy geraniums, heucheras, and hellebores.

# Plant Sale Success

By Cheryl Haak

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Birchwood Garden Club plant sale took place on May 4<sup>th</sup> with a good turnout of sunshine and shoppers! Everything was perfectly staged by the volunteers when we opened the doors at 9:00 a.m.

Two volunteers came up with the idea to hand out boxes in the foyer area before people entered the room. It's a good thing they did that because we had a crush of shoppers in the lecture room. They were met with enthusiasm by: Judy Van Duzer\*, Dianne Gerhard, Elisabeth Bays\*, Ira Penn\*, Jerry McLean\*, Carol Collender\*, Judy Boxx\*, Kathy Sparks\*, Sheri Lambert, Laura Chandler\*, Marissa Townsend, Sandy Gurosko\*, Tamara Hall, Zapote Gregory, Nancy McMaster\*, and Ann Holland\*.

Within 20 minutes a line to purchase the plants was forming around the entire room. Chaos was about to ensue (not really but it sounds good) when three volunteers flew into action with cool heads and the idea to tally the purchases before they got to the cashiers. Our cashiers were very appreciative of this since they simply collected payment. It was decided we will always have a "Tally Table" set up before shoppers get to the cashiers.

After the first hour, the pace slowed to a nice steady flow of shoppers and by closing time we had only a couple of tables of plants left for the Master Gardener's sale the next week.

It is clear we have amazing volunteers. Everyone chipped in where they saw the need and it all worked. Thank you to everyone who worked on sale day. Those who worked the day before to set up for the sale were: Donna Halwe, Karen Gilliam, Kathy Piscitello, Lisa Friend, Liz Washburn, Mike and Susan Callahan, Patti Salotti, Ernie Salotti, Violet Hayes, Peter and Mary Young, Sunny Johnson and Dick Joss. Our intrepid outdoor crew met the deliveries of plants with smiles and helping hands to transfer the plants into the library. Once inside the plants were priced, and arranged on tables.

Lastly, a big thank you to all of the people who contributed their beautiful plants. I would list you, but I was not outside helping unload. But, you know who you are! THANK YOU!!

\*Worked both setup and sale days. P.S. I hope I didn't miss anyone but if I did, please forgive me.

## The Birchwood Garden Club Provides Financial Support and/or Gardening Expertise to the following Community Organizations

*Bellingham Public Library*    *Whatcom Museum of History and Art*  
*Growing Veterans*    *Cornwall Rose Garden*    *Bellingham Food Bank*

## Welcome New Members

\*\*\*\*\*

Susan Jinivisian, Jim King, Margaret Maiefski,  
Jeri and Larry Petkus, Pat Sullivan and Celie Thomas

\*\*\*\*\*

## Snacks

This month's meeting snacks will be provided by Ann Holland and Rhonda Rinn.

Thank You

# Summer Garden Tours

By Sheri Lambert and Carol McBride

June 5<sup>th</sup> we visited two fascinating gardens. Matt Carter's unique property in Acme came with a beautiful 70 ft. waterfall and masses of blackberries and



fallen trees when he purchased it 25 years ago. After building an unusual, lovely stone home he tackled the blackberries and dead wood cluttering the land. Then 8 years ago the property was flooded and landscaping began all over again. Taking on the challenges of Mother Nature Matt was able to re-route the water and re-design the landscape taking full advantage of the terrain. He used lots of native plants creating beautiful views from the home. Even with the rain we had that evening we were able to appreciate the beauty of this land.

The rain quit just in time for our second garden, that of James and Tina Ruff. Eight years ago they purchased a 5 acre property which sits on a peaceful country road off the Everson Goshen Rd. The land was heavily treed with

blackberries galore and has been totally transformed with flower beds and trellises everywhere. The pond, is unusual and beautiful. Flower beds, a vegetable garden, and native plantings are all surrounded by old growth Cedars, Maples and Firs. This park-like property has trellises with grapes and vines adding outdoor rooms to lounge in and enjoy.

In July we explored three lovely gardens in the Laurel area just north of Bellingham. Sue and Jack Martin bought 5 acres of vacant property near the soccer



fields on Smith Rd in 1966 when it had a few old Douglas firs, a shrub in each corner and a pine tree that was a twig. These gigantic trees are now stunning and below them are huge Hostas and gravel paths winding throughout the beautiful flower beds. There is always something blooming in a side enclosed garden with Roses, Poppies, Dahlias, Clematis and much more.

Next we visited Lee and Shelly Stockton's garden just off the

Laurel Rd. They moved onto this property 28 years ago. Lee's grandfather ran heifers here so the soil was rich for planting and they promptly planted many trees which are now majestic. There is a fascinating Chinese Pine, a cool Monkey Puzzle tree, and a beautiful Stewartia. The grape arbor is a wonderful place to relax and a rose bush takes up a huge space in the side yard. Shelly encourages native plants in her lovely circular garden in front of the house.

The last garden was that of BGC members Sheri and Russ Lambert. This property loaded with 100 year old cedars and firs was previously home to Northstar Perennials, a wholesale perennial business that Russ owned for 25 years. The flowing flower beds are loaded with a wide variety of perennials with some unusual varieties. Sheri's favorite flower bed is the one with hundreds of Trilliums which announce the beginning of gardening season



with their beautiful off-white blooms turning to burgundy. Succulents are beginning to take over enjoying the sandy soil throughout the 5 acre property.

# Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2019

Submitted by Cheryl Haak



Thirty-four people attended the meeting on May 1st presided over by President Ann Holland. Two were guests and we have a new member, Susan Jinivisian.

## **Old Business:**

Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Nancy McMaster, our Library and Museum Gardens Chairperson, announced the library cleanup day was accomplished Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The beds are now looking tidy and lush. We will be adding more plants to the triangular bed and further to the west. The museum herb garden received some attention with more to be done later. Nancy needs to ask for help this summer watering the library and museum gardens.

Cheryl Haak announced just two days to go till our plant sale. She reminded members to wear their name tags and to bring their yard signs to the sale.

Jerry McLean gave us the Treasurer's report.

## **New Business:**

Ann Holland arranged our meeting dates for next year with the Museum. All will be the first Wednesday of the month **EXCEPT**: September 11<sup>th</sup> and January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sheri Lambert reported that she and co-chairperson of garden tours, Carol McBride, are busy arranging the tours for June 5<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those tours will be announced in e-mails this summer.

The BGC potluck will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup>, the location of which will be announced later this summer.

Tonight was Ann Holland's last meeting as President. A big "thank you" to Ann for volunteering these last two years. Her leadership has been much appreciated. Patti Salotti will be taking over starting with the September meeting held on September 11, a week later than normal, because our speaker couldn't make it on the usual first Wednesday.

Ann wants to "thank all of the current officers and chairpersons, as they actually perform all of the work and enable this club to continue year after year for our mutual enjoyment."

Thank you to Dianne Gerhard and Lillian Nelson for tonight's snacks. Thank you to Sheri and Russ Lambert for our great coffee.

Our speaker tonight was Renel Anderson, a specialist in cultivating beautiful peonies. Her nursery is "Pure Peonies" in Everson.

The Birchwood Garden Club (BGC) is open to everyone in Whatcom and Skagit Counties who supports the objectives of the organization. BGC meets the first Wednesday of each month from September thru May. Annual membership is \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a family, due in September. Membership applications are available from the website: [www.birchwoodgardenclub.org](http://www.birchwoodgardenclub.org).

The Birchwood Garden Club Gazette is published monthly, September thru May, by the BGC. Articles, inquiries, letters to the editor, or other comments should be directed to the Editors, Ken and Stephanie Salzman, at the above address or via e-mail to: [sasalzman@comcast.net](mailto:sasalzman@comcast.net)

Author's statements, either of fact or opinion, are their own and do not necessarily express the official policy of the BGC. While the advice and information in this newsletter is believed to be true and accurate at the time of publication, neither the authors nor the editor can accept any legal responsibility for errors or omissions. The BGC makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

## **CURRENT OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

President -Patti Salotti

President Elect - VACANT

Treasurer - Jerry McLean

Secretary - VACANT

Garden Tours – Sheri Lambert & Carol McBride

Historian – Violet Hayes

Hospitality – Carol McBride

Library/Museum Gardens – Nancy McMaster

Membership – Judy Lewis

Newsletter – Ken & Stephanie Salzman

Plant Sale – Cheryl Haak

Programs – Tamara Hall

Publicity – Susan Metcalfe

Silent Auction – Sandy Gurosko

Sunshine – Cheryl Haak

Webmaster – Tom Sparks