

the GAZETTE

BIRCHWOOD GARDEN CLUB

www.birchwoodgardenclub.org

CHARTERED 1931

October Topic: Butterfly Gardening

Submitted by Tamara Hall

The Birchwood Garden Club will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday, October 7**, at **7:00 p.m.** You will soon receive an e-mail from Nancy McMaster with instructions on how to connect to the meeting.

Our presenter for the evening will be David Droppers, naturalist and biologist, who will provide an overview on how to attract butterflies to our gardens. He first presented to the BGC in 2012 with a wonderful presentation and pictures, and we look forward to his new presentation on butterfly gardening.

David has spent over 10 years researching butterflies and moths for the Washington Butterfly Association, National Park Service, Forest Service, University of Washington, and Woodland Park Zoo. In Snohomish, he completed a pollination inventory in the Mountain Loop Trail Network.

Although Western Washington is not a mecca for butterflies, David will assist us in designing gardens which will substantially increase our chances of enjoying these winged jewels.

Watch for the e-mail from Nancy McMaster on how to connect to the October meeting. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom!

Early Fall Gardening Checklist

This month we welcome fall, celebrate the harvest, and gather pumpkins for Halloween. The days are shorter and nights are longer. There's lots to do in the garden before the start of our Northwest heavy rains and blustery winds.



October is the prime time for planting spring-flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. It is also a good month to plant new trees and shrubs.

Prepare new beds now for planting next spring. The soil is easier to work in October and fall-prepared beds allow for earlier and easier planting in spring. It is also a good time to replenish mulch in beds to provide winter protection for plants.

As frost browns perennial foliage, prune to the ground,

except for mums, sedum, ornamental grasses, and plants that you want to leave for birds. When in doubt, let it be and prune at the end of winter before new growth appears.

Rake or shred tree leaves, especially large ones like maple and sycamore, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. You can slowly run over the leaves with a mulching mower, which chops them into small bits. These finely chopped leaves can be left on the lawn, where they will break down and add nutrients to the soil.

Now is an ideal time to start a compost pile if you don't already have one. The combination of spent plants from the garden, fallen leaves, and grass clippings from the final, shorter cut of the season make a perfect compost blend.



Poached Cod in Tomato Curry

With our virtual meeting format, we will miss our delicious snacks. So we will be featuring favorite recipes from members. This month's recipe is from **Cheryl Haak**.

Serving Size: 4 Preparation Time: 30 minutes

- 3 tablespoons veggie oil
- 1 red chile, halved, seeds removed, thinly sliced
- 1 1" piece of fresh ginger, peeled, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 teaspoon cardamom seeds
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- ½ teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1.25 pounds cherry tomatoes (about 2 pints)
- ¼ cup unsweetened coconut cream
- 4 5-ounce skinless cod fillets
- 1 cup basil leaves, torn if large



Heat oil in a medium skillet over medium heat. Cook chile, ginger, and garlic, stirring often, until garlic is softened but has not taken on any color, about 3 minutes. Add cardamom, coriander, and turmeric and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add tomatoes and cook, stirring occasionally, until most of the tomatoes burst and release their juices, 12-15 minutes. Stir in coconut cream; taste and season curry with salt.

Reduce heat to medium-low. Season cod with salt and nestle into curry. Cover and cook at a bare simmer until fish is opaque throughout and beginning to flake, 5-7 minutes (thicker pieces will take longer to cook).

Gently transfer cod to shallow bowls. Stir basil into curry and spoon over fish.

Garden Quiz

Sheri Lambert took this picture of a spectacular Dahlia blooming in her garden. Can you identify the cultivar?



Fall Planting

While it is true that most vegetables won't have enough time to produce anything before the first frost hits, there are actually plenty of options for planting during the month of October.

Blueberries are ideal for fall planting. This allows them plenty of time to develop their roots in early fall, and then ensures the right amount of chilling to set fruit for next year.

Some veggies actually prefer the cooler months of fall. This list includes broccoli, cabbage, spinach, lettuce, carrots, and kale. Garlic planted in the fall will grow stronger, healthier and larger bulbs next summer, and planting shallots at the same time as garlic means a great crop of shallots in the late spring next year.

Welcome New Members
Debbie Carl and Maxine Stremler

Plant of the Month: *Dyopteris eythroora* 'Brilliance'

One of the showiest ferns, Autumn Fern 'Brilliance' is a dazzling display of color for every season. Earning its common name from the color -- not the timing -- of its emerging fronds, the plant turns from bright copper to soft green to russet-orange again. One of the few perennials that will grow happily beneath large shade trees, it looks beautiful when planted with Heuchera and Hostas.

Native to China, Japan, and Taiwan, Autumn Fern grows in USDA plant hardiness zones 5-8. Maturing at 18 inches tall and 24 inches wide, it will thrive in open shade and well-drained, loamy, humus-rich soil. Once established, the slow-growing plant withstands periods of relative dryness better than many ferns. As with most ferns, it is

deer resistant and has few disease or insect problems.

Sporadic flushes of new growth through the growing season keep autumnal colors going. In cool



winter climates, the leaves take on a slight russet-brown, but nothing compared to the spring color. Low-maintenance and easy-care, autumn fern is a shade gardener's friend.

During cold winters, it dies back slowly with semi-evergreen

growth at the crown. Leave the fronds intact over winter, then remove the dead or winter-worn foliage in spring. Mature Autumn Fern tends to lift slightly out of the soil from year to year. When this happens, gently pull back the soil and reposition the crown back at soil level. The annual layer of 1 to 2 inches of compost also helps prevent Autumn Fern from heaving.

Autumn Fern 'Brilliance' is a fine choice for the garden, because once established it's virtually self-maintaining, and it looks terrific every season of the year. Not only is its color exceptional, but the undersides of each frond have whitish down, and the surface is quite shiny. Adaptable, hardy, and lovely -- who could ask for anything more?

BGC DUES ARE NOW DUE!

If your name, address, phone number, or e-mail address has changed, please supply the correct information below. Otherwise, simply return this form with your dues payment (\$10 single or \$15 family) to: Birchwood Garden Club, P.O. Box 362, Bellingham, WA 98227-0362.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please ensure that we have your "current" E-mail address!

Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2020

Submitted by Ann Holland



Our new president, Sheri Lambert welcomed all to our first meeting of the 2020/2021 season via Zoom technology. There were fourteen members logged on to our Zoom Meeting.

The last meetings minutes (March 4, 2020) published in the Gazette were approved. April and May 2020 meetings were cancelled due to Covid19. Sheri reported that there will be no “on site” meetings at the Museum through December 2020, and probably for several months beyond. The Whatcom Museum is totally closed.

The annual **Board Meeting** was held on August 5, 2020 via Zoom. Committee members and officers reviewed the working budget and proposed new officers.

There was a motion to vote and accept the new President, Sheri Lambert, another year for Nancy McMaster as Treasurer, and Ann Holland to take over the Library Garden lead. The meeting membership voted to approve these officers. All other officers and chairpersons remain the same.

Tamara Hall reported that she will be able to get meeting speakers who are happy to present their material at our Zoom meetings.

Judy Lewis reported that we currently have between 95 – 105 members and members are sending their dues in to the club P.O. Box. (Mail to Birchwood Garden Club, P.O. Box 362, Bellingham, WA. 98227-0362.) We have two new members, Debbie Carl and Maxine Stremler, welcome.

Treasurers Report: We reviewed the budget with Nancy McMaster and voted to put a hold on planed donations this year, until we can generate some income from a plant sale.

Sheri Lambert thanked Violet Hayes, our Historian, for taking two large boxes of BGC history into her collection to build a more complete history of the club.

Sheri Lambert, Cheryl Haak and Ann Holland did a small group clean up of the Library Garden and found that it was in rather good shape. We arranged for the Parks Dept. to water since our only water spigot is fenced off as part of a construction zone. A Library staff person told us that the construction will continue through January. We will plan a larger clean up party in October.

A big Thank You to Nancy McMaster who is our host for the Zoom meetings. If you join the meeting a little early, and telephone Nancy, she can help you get set up.

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.

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

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CURRENT OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President - Sheri Lambert
President Elect - Vacant
Treasurer - Nancy McMaster
Secretary - Ann Holland
Garden Tours – Sheri Lambert & Carol McBride
Historian – Violet Hayes
Hospitality – Carol McBride
Library Garden – Ann Holland
Museum Garden – Ann Holland
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