

# the GAZETTE

BIRCHWOOD GARDEN CLUB

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

CHARTERED 1931

## September Topic: Dahlias

Submitted by Tamara Hall

The Birchwood Garden Club will hold its September 2017 meeting on Wednesday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Whatcom Museum of

Gretchen Kulpa will provide Dahlia growing basics including flower types, general care, staking requirements, winterizing, dividing, and how to promote a winner. Her selection, care, and encouragement guidelines will insure success with this wonderfully showy garden star!

This session will get us jazzed and up to speed on Dahlias just in time to visit the Sept 9 -10 Dahlia Flower Show at Bloedel Donovan Park. The Show is a “knock your socks off” display

of the best of the Dahlia varieties, types and growers. The competition for the awards is fierce and the flower power is very impressive.



History and Art. Our speaker will be Gretchen Kulpa from the Whatcom Dahlia Society. She will provide an overview of how to select the best varieties for your garden and promote this blooming winner.

Dahlias offer spectacular advantages for the gardener.. The plant is totally deer resistant and drought tolerant. Several varieties do well in pots. Dahlias are prized for their magnificent flower power and minimal pest issues.

## Fall in the Perennial Garden

Fall is the time to start getting your perennial garden ready for winter and next spring. Continue to keep up with dead-heading (cutting off spent flowers), de-leafing (removing dead or diseased leaves), and weeding.

If possible, it is best to wait until spring to cut back perennial leaves and stems. Many have a nice fall and winter effect, may provide seeds or habitats for wildlife, and will recycle nutrients back into the soil.

There are certain perennials which are considered evergreen and also should not be cut back in the fall. These include heart-leaf saxifrage, pinks, spurge, hellebore, coralbells, creeping sedum, and thyme.

In early fall, spring flowering plants can be divided and transplanted. Don't wait too long, though, because plants need to become established and well-rooted before the winter.

It is probably best not to fertilize herbaceous plants in the fall as they don't need to get any extra boost in growing (unless they were stressed during the summer), but adding compost may be a good idea. Compost adds organic matter to the soil, helping to create a healthy environment for your plants, as well as adding some nutrition. Perennials going into winter in good health and vigorous will have a better chance of surviving than those that are weak.

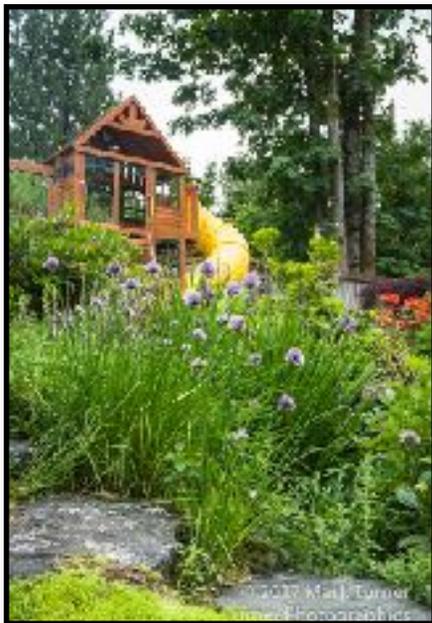
# Summer Garden Tours

Submitted by Sheri Lambert and Carol McBride

The garden club boasts another great summer of garden tours ending in August with a yummy potluck.



In June, the club enjoyed the gardens of Janine Watts, Sandy Gunderson and Ira Penn. All were beautiful and varied with different perennials, ornamental, vegetables and trees. Some of the



garden spaces were shade loving while others thrived in full sun. It is always amazing to see such beautiful gardens optimizing the different conditions while also seeing creative ways to protect

their spaces from local wildlife (Deer !!!)



July's tours were also spectacular. Janine Bergeron, with her whimsical garden leading us down the “yellow brick road” encouraging us to relax and sit a spell. Next, was the garden of Candy and Steve Mathews introducing us to the latest in “Glamping”. An upscale camping experience nestled in their garden



embracing all of the surrounding area. Karen Gilliam rounded out the evening with her woodland garden filled with unusual and

rare plants. Paths and plantings called to us to enjoy the shade on a perfect warm evening.



The potluck in August culminated another successful year for the Birchwood Garden Club. Mark Turner and Natalie McClendon opened up their home for us all to share our tasty dishes (Lasagna, Stuffed grape leaves, Tres Leche dessert to name a few) and gardening adventures on one of the hottest days of the year. Mark gave a tour of their lovely garden enabling us all to forget about the heat for a short time. Thank you



# Plant of the Month: *Cyclamen hederifolium*

Don't let the delicate-looking flowers fool you. Hardy Cyclamen (*Cyclamen hederifolium*) is an easy-to-grow perennial that adds colorful blooms and foliage to the late season garden.

This shade-loving perennial has one-inch deep rose-pink flowers that open in late summer and fall. The flowers are pendant and have reflexed petals in white through pale to dark purple-pink with a darker staining at the mouth. Flowering usually starts any time from late July onwards often after a short spell of wet weather. They will carry on flowering well into October and sometimes November if the weather is clement.

The leaves are just as attractive as the flowers usually heart-shaped



with silver-green marbling with never two the same. These will stay all winter and finally go about May, providing color for the winter garden. Leaving the

hardy tubers in the ground will bring increased beauty in following years.

Growing up to four inches tall, Hardy Cyclamen is ideal for containers, shade and rock gardens, woodland borders and for use as a ground cover. It is also effective massed in front of shrubs or around trees and may be over-planted in summer with annuals.

Deer resistant, Hardy Cyclamen presents no serious insect or disease problems. Mice and squirrels may pursue the corms. Corms are subject to rot if they receive too much water (particularly in summer dormant period) or are located in poorly drained soils.

## Poisonous Plants Resource

Gardening online is one of the best tools a gardener has. We now have access to current research, new plant introductions and wonderful photographs to help us identify all kinds of plants, plant pests, and disease problems.

One online resource every gardener should have on hand is the Cornell University Poisonous Plants Informational Database. A lot of misinformation about which plants are poisonous has found its way into "common knowledge." Through this website you can search for information on particular plants, like your Christmas Poinsettia, or find out what plants to avoid to keep you, your family, and your pets safe.

<http://poisonousplants.ansci.cornell.edu/>

**I'm a gardener and I'm OK  
I sleep all night and I plant all day!  
I dress in grubby clothing, and hang around  
with slugs.  
Oh I'm happy in the garden  
With dirt and plants and bugs . . .**

**David Hobson**

## Snacks

**This month's meeting snacks will be  
provided by Carol McBride and Sheri  
Lambert.**

**Thank You**

# Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2017

Submitted by Cheryl Haak



President Judy Boxx welcomed 45 members and two guests to the May 3rd meeting. We welcomed three new members this month, Millie Sicard, Kathy Klemmer and Carrie Gaasland. This brings our total members to 112, up 20 from the time Judy took office in the Fall of 2015.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved. Kathy Sparks gave the Treasurer's report.

**Old Business:** Dianne Gerhard, Plant Sale Chairperson, reported another big success with the Club's plant sale, netting roughly \$2,000.00. She said so many people volunteered and with steady customers everything went smoothly. She thanked all who participated by bringing plants, helping with the setup and the day of the sale. Without all of our wonderful volunteers, it would not be possible.

**New Business:** Meetings will resume in September on the first Wednesday of each month. In the meantime we will have two garden tours this summer, one on June 7th and the other on July 5th. Information will be sent out prior to the dates. Sheri Lambert said the tour on June 7th will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the first location, another garden at 6:45 p.m. and the final garden at 7:45 p.m. These gardens will all be in the same area.

Our annual Potluck will be held on August 2nd at either Mark Turner's home or Judy Boxx's home. Information will be sent out as the date approaches.

Judy reported we still need volunteers for Secretary and President-Elect, both just two year terms. Our Bylaws state that we need to have these positions filled in May. However, a motion was made and approved to postpone the election for these positions until our September 6th meeting. Please think about filling one of these offices to keep our Club running smoothly.

Judy signed off last night as her final appearance as our President. There was a round of applause and many thank yous for her excellent work.

Our speaker tonight was Gwen Odermatt from Pedal's and Butterflies speaking about her treasures of the shade garden.

Thank you to Jill Nelson and Corey Jensen for our snacks tonight and to Sheri and Russ Lambert for supplying us once again with great coffee.

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)

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## CURRENT OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President - Ann Holland  
President Elect - Vacant  
Treasurer - Kathy Sparks  
Secretary - Cheryl Haak  
Garden Tours – Sheri Lambert & Carol McBride  
Historian – Kay Reddell  
Hospitality – Carol McBride  
Library/Museum Gardens – Ann Holland  
Membership – Judy Lewis  
Newsletter – Ken & Stephanie Salzman  
Plant Sale – Dianne Gerhard  
Programs – Tamara Hall  
Publicity – Susan Metcalfe  
Silent Auction – Sandy Gurosko  
Sunshine – Cheryl Haak  
Webmaster – Tom Sparks