

the GAZETTE

BIRCHWOOD GARDEN CLUB

www.birchwoodgardenclub.org

CHARTERED 1931

September Topic: Pruning So You Don't Have To Do It As Often

Submitted by Tamara Hall

The Birchwood Garden Club will hold its September 2018 meeting on Wednesday, **September 12** 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 is Christina Pfeiffer, ISA Certified Arborist with over 35 years experience in landscape management. She will provide valuable tips on pruning that will bring out the beauty of our plants and reduce the need to prune so often.

We all struggle with the pruning challenge. Some plants are easy to tackle and others present difficulties. The difficulties can relate to the plant (size, location, sensitivity, thorns), the season (when is the best time to prune), the cost of outside help and special equipment, and our own worries (physical injury and fear of killing the plant).

As a co-author of the classic gardening text, *Pacific Northwest Gardening Month by Month*, Christina brings extensive expertise that will help us manage the challenging task of pruning.

Zinnia: Hard-Working Classic Annual

Zinnias are one of the best flowers that smart gardeners can put to work in their gardens. They are easy to grow and, as annuals, go from seeds to flower to seed quickly.

Zinnias work in sunny spots where you want spectacular color. They come in a palette of every bright and pastel (except blue), plus bi-colors, trim-colors, and crazy quilt mixes designed for cutting and to attract butterflies and bees.



Aside from bright color, the multiple zinnia series offer height and width options. While the tall versions remain the classic choice for the back of the border, shorter varieties stay low to the ground, and creeping varieties work well in containers and as ground covers.

Zinnias are low maintenance. Since they're fast-growing, they shade out weeds. They don't require much in the way of fertilizing (just an occasional well-balanced mix), and they don't need mulching. Deadheading helps to produce more flowers.

Zinnias are pollinator magnets. The bigger-flowered varieties act like landing pads for nectar-seeking butterflies. (same goes for hummingbirds.) Try tall zinnias with red or hot pink flowers to get the biggest draw.

Locked Out!!!

By Cheryl Haak

The 26th annual Birchwood Garden Club plant sale took place at the downtown library on Saturday morning, May 5th. The setup went smoothly as did the sale, thanks again to all of the wonderful volunteers, without whom the Club would not exist. Also, big thank you to all of those who donated the beautiful plants. It seemed as if our harsh winter impacted the total amount of plants we had to sell, but still our efforts yielded a net income of \$1,633.97.

Many of our members may not have heard of the difficulty



getting into the room where our plants were on Saturday morning. Volunteers began arriving at 8:00

a.m. but we were locked out! The coded key to gain entry was not correctly coded by library staff. We tried various methods to gain entry, (calling, breaking the locks) and as a desperate effort, my husband, Dick, decided to remove (with a lot of help from Candy, the one with the hammer) the door from its hinges. There was a lot of celebration once we got inside. To quote Dianne Gerhard "nothing gets in the way of the BGC and their plants."

Canna Lilies

In August and September, when other flowers have reached their peak, Canna Lilies are displaying a magnificent showcase of color and texture. Canna Lilies are not true lilies. The name Canna originates from the Celtic word for a cane or reek.

The colors of the flowers are usually vibrant shades of red, yellow, or orange. Flowers bloom from mid-summer until the first frost. The broad, flat, alternative leaves are typically green, purple, or variegated. They grow out of the stem in a long, narrow roll and then unfurl.

Although gardeners enjoy these interesting flowers, nature really intended them to attract pollinators, such as bees, hummingbirds, and bats, so that

they could collect the nectar and pollen.



Cannas need moisture to keep blooming. They should be planted

in well drained, rich, organic soil. Canna Lilies prefer full sun, but can survive in partial shade.

Growing 3-5 feet tall, Cannas are remarkably disease free. However, the leaves may become the victim of slugs and snails.

To insure year-to-year beauty after the first frost, it is a good idea to lift the rhizomes and store them indoors for the winter. In our wet climate, the rhizomes might rot if left in the ground. In early spring the Canna Lilies can be planted outside.

Canna Lilies are easy to grow and your surplus of Canna Lily rhizomes will be an appreciative and thoughtful gift to share with other gardeners.

Summer 2018 Garden Tours

By Carol McBride and Sheri Lambert

Once again we wrap up a great Summer season of garden tours. In the month of June we visited the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association. The club was provided a guided tour of the facility and we all left with an expanded understanding of



stewardship of our surroundings and the importance of maintaining stream habitat so that salmon can successfully rest, spawn, incubate, and grow before heading out to sea.

In July we visited four gardens, all different and really fun. We got up close and personal at the Red Barn Lavender Farm with a tour

of all the various varieties of lavender. We saw field after field of wonderfully fragrant lavender.



Our next visit was to the garden of Jim Doran and Terry Selene. In just a few years they have created



a masterpiece featuring a rock stream and pond surrounded with lovely plantings.

Next was the home of Mary Ellen Shields and Rob Olson. We were

delighted to visit this 10-acre farm full of repurposed items used for veggies and perennials.

We ended the night at Susan and Jim Mancuso's home. The couple has spent 40 years on their property building their log home themselves and creating the perfect oasis. Would love to return



in the Spring to see the hundreds of daffodils planted among the large stand of Birch trees.

We summed up our Summer season in August with a potluck at Judy and Jack Boxx's home. It's always such a treat to visit their amazing garden. It never disappoints! Thank you to Judy and Jack for hosting our annual potluck. And thank you to all those who came and enjoyed our Summer tours.

Snacks

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

Thank You

Welcome New Member
Chesed Reyes

Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2018

Submitted by Rhonda Rinn



President Elect, Patti Salotti welcomed 43 members to the **May 2, 2018** meeting of the Birchwood Garden Club.

Minutes of the April 2018 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Our annual plant sale is this Saturday, May 5th. Everyone was reminded to bring plants with tags and be prepared to have fun and help for the times they signed up for. The sale goes from 8-12:00.

Nancy McMaster updated us on the annual library garden cleanup. It went well with about 10 members available to help.

New Business:

Sheri Lambert stated that the June garden tour will be to the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association center. More info about our garden tours to follow.

Our speaker tonight, Dianne Gaines. She is employed by Van Noort bulbs. This is a wholesale plant company. She was very inspiring as she talked about new varieties of plants that can enhance our gardens. Check out their retail website at www.florissa.com.

Thank you to Nancy McMaster and Kathy Reed for our snacks this evening. As always, thank you to Sheri and Russ Lambert for their generous donation of coffee for our enjoyment.

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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Secretary - Rhonda Rinn
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Historian – Violet Hayes
Hospitality – Carol McBride
Library/Museum Gardens – Nancy McMasters
Membership – Judy Lewis
Newsletter – Ken & Stephanie Salzman
Plant Sale – Cheryl Haak
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