



Over the Garden Wall

White Rock and District Garden Club, **February, 2023**

<https://www.white-rock-garden-club.ca>

President – Darlene Chamberlain Secretary-Pat Catton
Treasurer- Eileen MacBean Editor- Melanie Rantucci

Inside This Issue: President's Message, Our New Executive and Volunteers, Winners, Master Gardener Tip, Techie Tip, Garden Stuff, Market Place, **Membership Renewal**

President's Message

Happy Valentines Day!

We love all our garden club members!

General Meetings are once again in-person meetings so we can enjoy each other's company.

Our new Executive have already met twice and we are well into scheduling speakers or workshops for February, March, May, October and November floral shows for April, June and September, 2023. Planning for our Plant and Bake Sale is under way...look at your garden to see what you can divide.

I look forward to seeing you all at Cranley Hall this month.

Darlene Chamberlain, President

Help Still Needed

A volunteer to be Vice President would really take the worry out of recruiting a President next year....please consider taking this role to have a year to step into President's shoes next year!

WRDGC Executive



Winners

Name Tag Draw -Plant of the Month

Heike Czisch won a lovely pot of spring flowers.

A quilted table runner donated by Yvonne Pont was won by Pat Catton.

Bev Polywkan

50/50 Draw

The draw was won by Melanie Rantucci.

|Sharon Stanley, Raffle

Join Us for Valentines Day

Since our February meeting falls on Valentines day, consider bringing something Valentine related to the meeting, such as a floral arrangement, décor or some goodies for our refreshment table.

Donna Lawson, Floral Art Director



February Speakers

On Feb, 14th, we have two Master Gardeners, Hayne Wai and Bob Wilmott, introducing the history of the Sun Yat-Sen Gardens in Vancouver. The presentation will be about the essential elements of a Classical Chinese Garden. This will be a zoom presentation on the screen at Cranley Hall. A group rate to visit the Gardens in the summer can also be arranged, if members are interested.

Eleanor Enns & Elizabeth Young, Programs

Garden Stuff

Thank you for Your Donations.

Our Garden Stuff table has enjoyed very successful sales due to the kind donations of our members. Please keep thinking of our club when reorganizing closets, cupboards and garden sheds while waiting for spring.

Passing on past treasures keeps them out of the landfill and our club profits. In February, Puzzles and books will be priced down and dirty! Making room for homemade crafts, jewellery, herbs, plants, garden ornaments, both useful and pretty items are much appreciated. Call me if you wish pickup 604-538-2549

Joyce O'Brien, Garden Stuff

Plant Sale Plans

The plant sale committee has had its first meeting. Plans are underway with everyone looking forward to a great sale!! We have some requests 😊. If you have vases you are no longer using please drop them off at the meetings or at my house 1180 -160 St. We need these for our flower market. If you need help with dividing plants call me 604-340-9977 or if you need containers for plants or for starting plants I have lots to give out. Thanks to Hillary for all the pots and everyone who has dropped off hanging baskets. Tim Rourke and Patti Wolczik have agreed to take care of our baskets once again so thank you to them!!!!!! With our membership down a bit this year we will be calling on everybody to volunteer where they can. We were asked last year to provide more annuals and vegetable plants so if you are starting any please do a few extra for the sale. We also need plants suitable for the hanging baskets we are putting together. If you have any questions regarding the sale please don't hesitate to contact me.

Terry Haight, Plant Sale Director

Website Committee

Techie Tip:

How to make the Font Bigger on your iPhone.

1. Open the Settings app.
2. Tap Display and Brightness
3. Tap Text Size
4. Adjust the slider to the right until you reach your preferred text size.

Marilyn Murphy, Website Committee

Website/Social Media Update

The website received the four email requests in January:

- For Programs – BC Bee Community offered a presentation – info passed on to Elizabeth & Eleanor
- Someone looking for a past member Gerry Thompson – John Davidson advised the name was not on our 10year old membership list.
- Two local residents – offered 4 free Rose bushes (Terry handled) and garden tools etc. (Joyce handled)

Website Changes:

Margrit Elmiger-Isert, our historian has been working on revising the history information on our website. Draft copies will be emailed out to some members for proofing and providing comments. If you are interested in proofing and providing, comments please let Margrit Elmiger-Isert or I know.

The Awards and Trophy document located on the Members Only page is up-to-date to Dec 2022. Thank you to Melanie for providing the info.

Website provider has completed all updates to current. The most current newsletter, minutes and floral show schedules plus a few other

changes should be loaded later in February. Minutes and Newsletters can be found on the Members Only page, show schedules are found on the Floral Art page.

The Website committee will meet third week in February. Date/time to be advised.

Equipment Update:



The purchase of the Clubs laptop and new battery is completed. The computer is loaded with all the necessary software for club business. It works seamlessly with the clubs projector and amplifier, so we are ready for presentations in the clubhouse during our regular meetings when the need arises.

Terry Haight kindly donated an extension cord and a Mouse to use with the laptop
– **Thank you Terry.**

Bev Sass, Website Director

Gardening Question Table

Gardening Question Table will be set up at the meeting in April, May and June for the half hour prior to the meeting and during the break and 15 minutes at the end of the meeting. The table will be manned by Melanie Rantucci and a visiting Master Gardener. If time is available during the meeting, the Master Gardeners will also present a current topic or the answer to one of the questions a member posed at the table.

So bring your gardening questions including plant and pest identification, what to grow where, garden design, etc. It is helpful if you bring a leaf samples or bugs (in a sealed bag) if your questions involve diseases or pests.

Melanie Rantucci, Master Gardener

Master Gardener Tip Winter Care for Indoor Plants

With our gardens in dormancy, we have time to give some attention to our indoor plants. You may notice that they have some yellowing leaves or are looking less happy this time of year. This is because, even though they are indoors and unaffected by the outdoor temperature, the indoor climate has changed as well. For one thing, there is less sun coming in the windows even on sunny days because of less intense sun and shorter daylight hours. So those sun loving plants will need to be closer to the window and would perhaps even benefit from an extra light bulb shining on them.

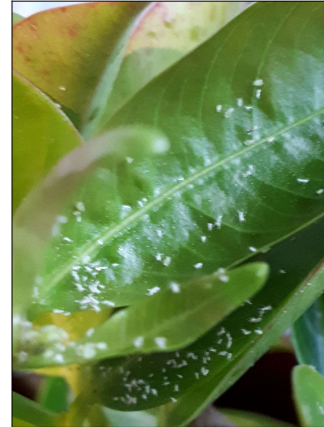
You will also need to adjust your watering schedule to allow for slower growth in the winter (therefore possibly less water) and lower humidity in the house (therefore possibly more water). Water with room temperature water, as the cold water from the tap is often much colder in the winter. Always test the soil with your finger an inch or 2 into the soil to determine if it needs water. It is also helpful to have a vase or pan of water nearby plants to increase the humidity around them.

Look out for signs of disease. Spider webs, stickiness on leaves, tiny spots (aphids) tends to show up in winter.

Wipe dust off plants regularly and inspect for problems. If any of the above are noticed, wipe off with water or spray with horticultural soap spray and isolate from other plants til clear.

Keep an eye on the temperature near plants.... not too close to cold windows or drafts, but also not too near fireplace or heating vents. They prefer to be 15 to 24C.

Finally, don't over-fertilize plants in winter as they are growing much slower, in fact you can stop fertilizing till spring.



Melanie Rantucci, Master Gardener

WRGC History is in Good Hands.

Hugh Ellenwood, White Rock Museum Archives Manager, has picked up all White Rock Garden Club History materials up to 2020. It will be catalogued and available anytime to be viewed (by appointment) at the White Rock Museum. It is the best and safest place to keep the valuable info about our club. Hugh was very appreciative of our donation of \$200.

Margrit Elmiger-Isert, Historian



Juicy Bits

Alternatives to Floral Foam

Did you know that floral foam contains the same amount of plastic as 10 plastic shopping bags, is non-biodegradable, non-recyclable and toxic for both humans and animals? It's such an issue that the Royal Horticultural Society has banned the water-absorbing block from all of its garden and horticultural shows that are taking place beginning in 2021. It is not banned here yet, but we should try to adjust now.



Here are some alternatives to floral foam: chicken wire; flower frogs (glass forms with holes); Kenzan (disc with spikes) ; gravel, rocks and pebbles; glass beads; hydrotron clay pellets; willow, rattan or pliable reeds; wood wool (excelsior-fine wood slivers); straw; water vials; flower foliage; grids; sand; water tubes; chicken wire. We have to use our imaginations to protect our environment!

Mary Openshaw

Family Day Celebration at Darts Hill Garden Park

February 18 | 10am–4pm

1633 170th Street, Surrey, BC

Visit Darts Hill Garden Park for family-friendly activities celebrating Family Day. En-

joy a variety of free activities including: build your own bird-feeder, an introduction to a birding workshop, fruit tree pruning workshops, guided birding walks, ask a Master Gardener, live music, free mini doughnuts (while supplies last). Take part in this winter garden opening with your friends and family. Entry by donation, Learn more at www.surrey.ca/dartshill .

Terry Haight

Membership- Time To Renew

This is the **LAST** month that the newsletter will be sent to members who have NOT renewed.

You can renew your membership on the website or a paper copy that will be available at our meeting. I will be collecting the annual fee, still only \$25 or \$30 (family membership), at the meeting.

We are back to having in person meetings so if you let your membership lapse during the Covid years, PLEASE come back!

Payment can be made by cheque or cash, but cheques are the preferred method of payment, payable to White Rock & District Garden Club (WRDGC). Dues can be paid at the regular meetings or mailed to:

White Rock & District Garden Club

c/o Fran Deptuck

2068-208 St.,

Langley, BC

V2Z2A6

Note: All members must fill out a renewal form each year. All garden clubs are required to keep copies of the Privacy Agreement in the membership form, including the section where you tick off the approval to use your photo.

Fran Deptuck, Membership Director

!!!Email Alert!!!

Please be aware that my email mjpharm@telus has been hacked and some people are receiving emails purportedly from me that have a link for photos that is corrupted and may hack your computer. I cannot stop this without changing my email entirely. Please DON'T open anything from me that just includes a photo link. I will always include a blurb about what I am sending and sign my name and identify that the email is regarding the White Rock Garden Club or WRDGC.

Examples of Bogus Emails from me (they are really tricky):

Have a look at photograph #4 <http://www.wskm.txihdtp.com/>
or
I obviously should have emailed them way sooner - anyway here they are now, these four photographs: <http://yaois.xfkaooch.com/>

Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Melanie Rantucci, Newsletter Editor

Next Meeting

**Tuesday February 14, 2023
at 2pm**

See you at Cranley Hall, 2141 Cranley Dr., Surrey. Meeting starts at 2 pm. Hall opens at 1:00 p.m.

If you are unable to attend in person, an invitation for a Zoom meeting will also be sent out by email prior to the meeting and a recording of the meeting will be sent afterwards.

We will be meeting in-person again this month. In accordance with current law, Vaccination Certificates and masks are optional.

WRDGC Executive