



Vernon & District Garden Club NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TRISH ROBINSON

Spring is the beginning of the year and especially a beginning to a lot of activities in all garden clubs throughout the Valley. For us in Vernon, we are hosting the S.I.H.A. on April 3. The organizing group lead by Vince and Verna has been working diligently to make this event a success. All are welcome and you get to intermingle with other garden club members without setting foot in their meetings. Doors will be opened from 10:30 a.m. Tea and Coffee will be provided by our Refreshment Committee and the Okanagan Gardens and Roses have generously offered their baked goodies for all to enjoy

Following the semi-annual S.I.H.A. meeting our next big event will be our annual Plant Sale event on May 14. When the sun is shining, it is time to get our hands dirty. Have you started on seedlings yet? Our plant sale being our one and only major fund-raising event, it is important for each of us to do our share. Please remember that without your help, many benefits would not be possible.

We have in the works plans for inviting Guest Speakers in line with an Earth Friendly theme. We tried to invite speakers of your interest and thank you to those that made the effort to give us their suggestions.

DEADLINE

Please have information for the newsletter submitted to Janet by the second Friday of the month. You can contact Janet at fredjan@shaw.ca or at 250-545-4273

MEETING INFORMATION

Next Meeting:

March 22, 2010

7:30 pm

Room 2D, Arts Centre

**Parlour Show entries tabled by
7:10 pm**

Please table your Parlour Show entries between 6:50 and 7:10 to allow for judging before the meeting.

MONTHLY REMINDERS

*Sign the Welcome Book at the door to get in on the door prize draw.

*Remember your name badges, library books, and coffee mugs.

*Bring along your grocery sales receipts for BUTCHER BOYS AND COOPERS.

EXECUTIVE 2010

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Co-Presidents | Trish Robinson | 558-4262 |
| | Janet Stoll | 545-4273 |
| Vice-President | Verna Kelso | 503-0168 |
| Secretary | Elisabeth Reymond | 549-1148 |
| Treasurer | Gloria Tymrick | 548-9275 |
| Director | Darlene Whitbread | 547-2155 |
| | Leah Humphreys | 558-5717 |
| | Pat Bayliss | 542-4926 |
| | Rose Sorochuk | 558-2940 |
| | Laurie Kirkness | 542-6505 |
| | Linda Andrews | 778-475-4455 |
| Past President | Vince Edwards | 549-2189 |
| Newsletter | Janet Stoll | 545-4273 |
| Refreshments | Laurie Kirkness | 542-6505 |
| | Margaret Murison | 545-0313 |

SPEAKER

We hope to have two speakers this month from the Gleaners. We will have one speaker on Gleaners who focus on local use from small garden sources. The other group of Gleaners that we hope to hear from has an international connection and gets their produce from larger producers.

COFFEE CUPS

Don't forget to bring your own coffee cup! Please put used club coffee cups into the plastic bin, to be washed.

WELCOME

Welcome to our new members Linda Richard and Dawn Casey. We hope you enjoy our club, learn something new about gardening and share you knowledge. Welcome

QUESTION BOX

On the Welcome Table you will see a nicely decorated box. If you have a question that doesn't get answered at the meeting write it out and we have a member who will research the question and get back to you (so be sure to put your name and phone number with the question). Suggestions can also be put into this box. If there is no paper beside it, look inside.

SPRING FLOWER COUNT

Ours will be on April 30. More info next month.

BC IRIS SOCIETY

Our club has a membership in the BC Iris Society. The latest newsletter with information on the World Iris Convention and pictures of the latest iris will be on the head table at the meeting. You can also check them out at their website which is www.bc-iris.org

THIS & THAT

Have you noticed how many pyramid cedars are brown this spring. These trees actually require a fair bit of water and are not well suited to our changing water supply. These

trees may survive one dry summer or winter but the last couple of years have been particularly hard on them and each year we are seeing more and more of them turning brown. They do not generally recover. If you are planting a hedge of trees think twice about cedars. Do some research and find a more drought tolerant evergreen.

Last fall I mentioned that I was going to follow advice I had read about trimming the leaves off Christmas Rose (Helleborus) in the fall. Not again. This left the flowers without any protection and they did not do well. I think the leaves provide some protection from wet, cold and snow. Really tattered ones can be trimmed off in the fall and early spring but I will not, again, be cutting them all off.

Do you read the Newsletter? I think some people are pressed for time and despite their best intentions they do not get it read. I am changing the format slightly. I am trying to put the info into small short paragraphs each with its own title rather than combining several items into one column like this one. In the future this would not appear as a "This & That" column but rather as three paragraphs each with its own title. Hope this is helpful.

EARLY SOCIAL TIME

The social aspect of a club is very important and with that in mind we are encouraging people to come early to the meeting for an early social time. The library will be open, coffee and tea will be available, and extra time to visit with gardening friends.

MEETING SCHEDULE

6:15—meeting set-up
6:45 - 7:10 place Parlour Show entries
7:10 – 7:30 Early social time
7:30 – 8:15 business meeting & sharing
8:15 – 8:30 coffee time
8:30 – 9:15 speaker
9:15 -- 9:30 meeting ends

RIDE

Anyone need a ride to the meeting? Phone Trish at 250-558-4262

**Vernon & District Garden Club
General Meeting February 22, 2011**

Place: Vernon and District Arts Centre.
Trish Robinson presided and welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
Attendance - 36 people present

Trish moved that the minutes be adopted as printed in the January newsletter.

Elaine informed us about the new parlour show guidelines and explained the definition of an exhibit versus arrangements.

Correspondence: Bulletin from BC Council of Garden Club, invitation to AGM on March 26 in Vancouver, BC Iris Society Bulletin, our scrapbook to view on side table.

Treasurers Report: Janet reported for Gloria the 2010 Year end report. Janet moved to accept the report, Rose seconded. Carried.

Membership fee for single person is increased by \$1 to \$16 per year which works out to \$2 per meeting. Membership fees covers cost of speakers and some general expenses. The rest is paid with the income from our plant sale and donations. Verna moved to accept increase, Suzanne seconded. Carried.

We also proposed a change in our rules under finances to increase expenditure by the Treasurer and an Officer of the Club from \$25 to \$50. Carried.

We are still collecting receipts from Coopers and Butchers Boys. One member informed us that Nature Fair also has a program where they refund 3% of the receipts. We will look into this.

Old Business:

Christmas Dinner at the Pantry was well attended, the food was good and service great. Items collected went to the Salvation Army Food Bank.

New Business:

Anyone needing a ride please let one of the Executive know.

A sign up sheet is being passed around for setting up tables at 6:15 pm for our meetings.

Parlour show entries need to be placed by

7:10 pm, meeting to be finished at 8:15 pm, then coffee break, speaker starts at 8:30 pm.

SIHA meeting: We are hosting the meeting on Sunday, April 3 in the Heritage Room at the Science Centre from 11 am to 3 pm. Clubs report and compare notes about their activities. It is very interesting and worthwhile to attend. The attendees bring their own bag lunch, we supply coffee, tea and cookies/cake.

Vince is retiring from helping at the Landed Learning Program and we are looking for volunteers to take over. This is to teach children how to plant seeds and what a garden is all about.

Our **Spring flower count** will be on April 30.

Plant of the month: Marilyn Brodie gave us an interesting summary of the African Violet, a very popular houseplant for this time of the year. She also welcomes suggestions of plants for upcoming months.

Janet then demonstrated how to divide African Violets; how to take a healthy leaf, dip it in rooting compound and plant. Trailing plants don't need to be separated but rather need to multiply.

Library report: Suzanne explains how to sign out and sign in books and that there is a large variety of topics available to the membership.

Plant sale table: Magazines are free, Verna's friend donated some orchids which we are selling for a set price.

50/50 Draw and door prizes: \$13.00 was won by Faithe Prodanuk; door prizes were won by Elisabeth Reymond, Bernice Van der Roest, Vince Edwards and Rita Gilbert

Janet talked about the Parlour Show. There weren't many entries as most gardens are still under a blanket of snow but up from last year.

Speaker: Karman Norman from NORD gave us an interesting power point presentation about the various items we can and cannot yet recycle and how they are being processed.

Adjournment: 9:20 pm

RECIPES

People enjoyed the Jam & Pickle tasting last month and have requested the recipes. Unfortunately I only got three of them but here they are:

Green tomato Mincemeat

1 pint chopped green tomatoes,
1½ pints chopped tart apples
2 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. each of salt, allspice, cloves
3 c. sugar
1 orange & 1 lemon—grate the peel then juice
1 pound currants
¼ cup vinegar.
Combine all ingredients. Mix thoroughly. Bring to a rapid boil & simmer until thick. Remove from heat, add ¼ cup of rum.
Pour into sterilized jars & seal. Enjoy!

Rhubarb & Jello Jam

5 c. rhubarb 1 c. sugar.
Set overnight. In morning add 2 c. sugar & cook.
When soft add 1 pkg. Jello (small size) preferably strawberry. Stir well & bottle.

Peach Salsa

6 c. peaches, diced
1 ¼ c. red onion, chopped
4 Jalapeno peppers (or other small specialty hot peppers), chopped
1 red pepper, chopped
½ c. fresh cilantro (loosely packed)
½ c. white vinegar
2 Tbsp. honey
3 cloves garlic—finely chopped
2 Tsp. cumin
½ Tsp. cayenne pepper

Simmer all together 5 min.
Pack into hot jars & process in boiling water bath for 10 minutes

DORMANT OIL/LIME SULPHUR SPRAY

Sunshine with no wind and no sign of rain ahead is the perfect weather condition to dormant spray your fruit trees. The oil dries faster when the sun is shining. Whatever the

weather, **you must do this before buds open**, as dormant oil/lime sulphur spray burns tender young foliage. Spray trees on a dry day with no wind for drift. Cover trunk and limbs on all sides. The oil seeps into crevices in the bark and coats the overwintering egg masses, destroying them.

This combination is effective against a host of problems: rust mites, scale insects, pear scale, red mite eggs, aphid eggs, twig borer, plum black knot and peach leaf curl.

TIP: The sulphur stains yellow, so cover foliage plants below your trees with a plastic sheet.

And wear protective clothing!

DATES

April 30—Kelowna Plant Sale
Guishacan Gardens
May 7—Armstrong Plant Sale
Across from the museum
May 7 & 8— Plant Sales
Summerland Ornamental Gardens
May 14—our Plant Sale Rona
Parking Lot, 7:30
-Enderby Plant Sale
May 28—Our Flower Show
Village Green Mall

FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

We have one floral art workshop planned for each month until July. Though each workshop will focus on a particular design it is hoped people will view them as a time not only to learn but also to practice flower arranging.

The first one will be this month—Tuesday, March 29, 7:30 at Janet's (313 Sunshine Place). The design will be triangular arrangements lead by Janet and Barbara. This is one of the basic styles of traditional arrangements and a good one for both beginners and experienced arrangers to practice.

Information on supplies at the meeting or contact Janet (250-545-4273;
fredjan@shaw.ca)

The April one will be April 12 on Side by Side, lead by Verna.

SPEAKER NOTES

We had a very interesting presentation by Karmen from NORD. Here are some points from her presentation.

- collect Styrofoam as there will be special collection days for it. Remove stickers & tape. Clean take-out trays, not Styrofoam insulation or anything with a plastic coating.
- no glass in blue bags. Bags area compacted and the glass breaks contaminating other material making it no longer useable. Also a hazard to the sorters.
- Extended producer Responsibility (EPR). Producers are responsible for the products they produce. E.g. electronics, bulbs, paint, batteries, etc.
- out dated medications can be returned to pharmacies
- coming—recycling of any small item with an electric cord. E.g. toothbrushes, hair dryers, blenders, microwaves
- if an item doesn't have a recycling triangle it is garbage. E.g. thermos, clothes hangers
- helps to put all plastic bags into one plastic bag
- cans, put lids inside and crush the tops so the lids can't fall out
- all sorting is done by hand. Consider this when putting items in the blue bags.
- no lids under 4", difficulty of picking up with gloves on hands
- items not to go in a blue bag: syringes, plastics without a number, glass, Styrofoam.
- if there are two materials stuck together the product can't be recycled. E.g. banana boxes (wax & paper), juice tetrapaks (3 materials), chip bags with foil liner

A Reuse, Recycle Directory is in the club library. It is a guide to find out where you can take unwanted items.

BC IRIS SOCIETY

The Garden Club belongs to the BC Iris Society and there are two interesting articles in the last Newsletter we received.

One was on the Reticulata Iris—the first Iris to bloom. This article is basically about breeding new hybrids but it did have some general information.

- one of the first flower to bloom, starting just as the snow disappears
- available in shades of blue and purple
- from eastern Turkey, Iran & the Caucasus mountains where it's very dry in the summer
- 2 or 3 flowers per bulb in succession
- plant in sandy topsoil in a well drained location
- the Dutch hybrids have a tendency to bloom for two or three years and then die out
- low nitrogen fertilizer at the beginning of the bloom season is good for bulb regeneration.

Next month information on the Spuria Iris

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2011--AFRICAN VIOLET

By Marilyn Brodie

This report is based on information found in Wikipedia and the Canadian Gardening website.

African Violet is an herbaceous perennial flowering plant native to Tanzania and Southeastern Kenya. Its genus name is SAINTPAULIA, named after Baron Walton von Saint Paul who discovered it in 1892 growing wild in what is now Tanzania.

The African Violet blooms readily, has no specific flowering season, is easy to multiply for sharing with others, and is found worldwide. Being tropical, it likes the year round warmth of our centrally heated homes and its thick hairy leaves are quite resistant to indoor dry air. Bright illumination is key to its successful flowering.

Allow your violet to become dry to the touch, then water abundantly. Young plants require a foliage fertilizer rich in nitrogen. Mature plants require a flowering plant fertilizer that is richer in phosphorous.

Give your plant a quarter turn at each watering to avoid uneven growth. Once a year repot your plants, sinking them deeper in the soil to avoid the bare stems that eventually form. Don't overpot. The planter should be about a third the diameter of the leaf rosette.

The more modern varieties of African Violets have uniform sized petals, and many have

flowers that are semi-double or double and in a wide variety of colours. The leaves, now come ruffled, quilted, toothed or lobed. There are now African Violets from Micro miniature (8cm or less), to large (40cm plus). There are also new trailing violets for hanging baskets.

More info in the Library Plant of the Month file including pests and how to deal with them.

PARLOUR SHOW

HOUSE PLANTS

- 1) Plant with variegated foliage
- 2) Orchid
- 3) Oxalis
- 4) Open Class: Something weird and/or wonderful (to be judged)
- 5) Open class: as above (not to be judged)



BENCH

- 6) Flowering Branch—1
- 7) Small spring flower—3 stems (e.g. crocus, snowdrops, Violets, etc.)
- 8) Any other spring flower-1
- 9) Open Class: anything from the garden (to be judged)
- 10) Open Class: as above (not to be judged)



DECORATIVE (Commercial Flowers allowed in all classes.)

- 11) "Peek of Spring" exhibit—not over 5"
- 12) All around Exhibit
- 13) Triangular exhibit featuring branches & flowers
- 14) Easter Theme exhibit
- 15) Vertical exhibit
- 16) Open Class exhibit (to be judged)
- 17) Open Class exhibit (not to be judged)

It is time to renew your membership. Anyone not paid up by April will no longer receive the Newsletter. Membership fees for this year--\$16 single; \$25 a couple. PLEASE cut off and fill out (or write out) the membership form below and bring/send it with your dues. All spellings, addresses and other info are checked against current info. (If you have return address labels simply stick them on this form.)

VERNON AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB (Please Print)

313 Sunshine Place Vernon BC V1B 2Y3

Membership Fee for 2011- \$16.00 Single - \$25 couple

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Are you willing to receive your Newsletter by e-mail? Yes No

Are you willing to receive updates and messages by e-mail? Yes No

E-mail address _____