



# South Burnaby Garden Club

November 2016

## NEWSLETTER

Our next meeting will be:

Tuesday, Nov 1, 2016

7:30 PM

Bonsor Community Centre

6550 Bonsor Avenue- 2nd floor



We seem to be already entrenched in our Fall Winter weather and it's already feeling a bit dreary as we put our gardens to bed for another year. So what better time to get cheered up by having tours of each other's gardens by photo. And maybe a few vacation gardens too.

It's our election night too so hopefully you're considering what positions you might be interested in trying out. All of us on the Executive would be more than happy to mentor you in any new position to make the transition easier. I know that I find my role easier each year because I have all my emails from previous years, bulletin information from other years and it's very easy to cut and paste and just add some new notes from month to month. And it's so much fun to meet and interact with new speakers. I've appreciated Lorna's help again this year.

If you're interested in this role, I'd be happy to share all my files and help you till you're comfortable on your own. But there are many different roles you could take on so please do consider these interesting opportunities.

Remember we need to fill our roles if we want to keep the club going and vibrant.

Lucette



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## POT LUCK & SILENT AUCTION

THANK YOU TO.....

Leanna Hawkins for organizing yet another successful Auction and to Lily Auyeung for orchestrating the sensational "potluck" and to their amazing team of volunteers. Even though they were faced with a challenge of a new room and no warming kitchen, they did an outstanding job ! The buffet tables were loaded with many varieties of delicious offerings from our generous members and we hope all that attended enjoyed a fun & social evening. "Kudo's" also to all the members who " brought & bought" at our Silent Auction.

Also a big Thank you to Betty Girard for the supply of stunning dahlias that were handed to Pat Humphrey to use in her gorgeous centerpieces...We are so fortunate to have such generous and talented members amongst us!

Another Thank you to Betty for arranging the engraving of the Fall Fair trophies which were distributed that evening. We appreciate the effort put forth in this endeavor. Congratulations again to the recipients of the trophies !

Judy

## Sea Soil Fundraiser

We would like to thank Rick Fawkes of Foenix Forest Technology Inc. for the generous Sea Soil donation. ( [www.seasoil.com](http://www.seasoil.com) )

As always our members were most eager snap up this miracle soil at a bargain price. Many thanks for your purchases. Also many thanks for your kind words of thanks to me for organizing the event.

That being said, I am very appreciative of my helpers, especially Michael and Ian who are not gardeners but pitched in anyway. Thanks to:

Syl Davis and her son Michael , Elizabeth Beer and my husband Ian.

Leanna



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## HOW TO OVERWINTER GERANIUMS

Don't throw out your geraniums! With some newspaper, a cardboard box, or a sunny windowsill, you can keep these tender perennials for the winter and have fresh blooms in the spring and summer. I'll show you some options—from super simple to easy.

Geraniums (*Pelargonium x hortorum*), also known as **zonal geraniums**, are very easy to store for the winter. You can either continue growing them as houseplants (if you have room) or let them go dormant for a few months in storage and then replot them for spring.

### HOW TO TELL ZONAL AND SEED GERANIUMS APART

Pelargoniums are zonal geraniums (not 'seed geraniums') and can live perennially if temperatures do not drop below about 45F (7C). Their sweet spot is between 55-65F (12-18C) so keep this in mind when deciding where to stash them for the winter.

#### Zonal geraniums

- Have a dark band of colour on their leaves—that's the 'zone' of 'zonal'.
- Are taller, more robust with thicker leaves, and hardier than seed geraniums.
- Get double flowers while seed geraniums produce singles (although a lot of them).

#### Seed geraniums

- Are smaller plants overall and have smaller bloom heads than zonal geraniums.

#### Preparation for Overwintering Zonal Geraniums

No matter which method you choose, the initial preparation is the same. The goal is to nurture healthy plants, prevent the spread of disease, and reduce the chance of bringing unwanted insects along for the ride. It's best to do this before the really cold weather has set in so the transition from outdoor to indoor living is relatively seamless.

1. Set up a work table and have clean pruners ready.
2. Dig up your geraniums.
3. Sort them by colour (if you want to keep track).
4. Gently shake off any loose soil from the roots.
5. Remove any dead leaves, flower heads and buds.
6. Check for aphids, spider mites, fungal gnats, and other sneaky beasts.

You may want to spray the plant with a homemade dormant spray (recipe below) to be sure you've got the little whippersnappers.

7. Clip off any moldy or rotted areas with clean pruners.

#### After the basic preparation, we can go in one of two directions.

1. Repot the plants and keep them as houseplants over the winter.
- or
2. Let them go dormant until it's time to pot them up in late winter/early spring.

#### Super Simple Overwintering Garage Method

If you want a really quick method and don't mind a higher risk of the plants dying, here's what to do.

-Give your potted geraniums a good drink of water, remove any dead (easy to pull) leaves, mold, or rotted areas, and stash them in a cold (not below freezing) garage. Done!



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-Water lightly every now and then and start reintroducing them to regular watering and light in the spring. Lots of people use the super simple method year after year without any problems. I've found it a bit hit and miss. Some years they get really moldy and die, other years they just wither a bit and perk up in the spring.

## 2. Overwintering Zonal Geraniums (Pelargoniums) as Houseplants

I see a lot of varying advice about the best indoor growing conditions. I had geraniums growing indoors in my living room for years. They faced a northwest window and just got direct sun (tops of the plants only) in late afternoon. They bloomed and rebloomed endlessly.

Others advise warmth and a fair amount of sun. I'm guessing the bottom line is, it will depend on the individual plants and how adaptive they are.

1. Do the prep work listed above.
2. Cut the plants down by one third. Clip just above leaf nodes. This will encourage new growth and flowering.
3. Repot the geraniums in fresh container mix suitable for this type of plant.
4. Water thoroughly.
5. Bring indoors.
6. To maintain them, remove any dry or dead parts and water modestly (they don't like bone dry soil or damp).

## INDOOR DORMANT METHODS

### Paper Bag Method

1. Do the prep work listed above.
2. Label each bag with plant name and colour of flowers.
3. Place each plant upside-down in paper bag with the roots sticking out.
4. Gently tie bag shut with string.
5. Hang bag up in basement or garage (cannot go below 50F/10C).
6. Check plants monthly for any signs of mold or rot. Remove affected areas.
7. After a few months (late winter), it's time to pot them in fresh container mix, water, and reintroduce to light.

### Cardboard Box Method

1. Do the prep work listed above.
2. Label each box with plant name and colour of flowers.
3. Place each plant upside-down in large cardboard box with the roots facing up. You can put several plants in each box but do allow room for air circulation.
4. Fold box tops shut (but allow air gaps).
5. Store in basement or garage (cannot go below 50F/10C).
6. Check plants monthly for any signs of mold or rot. Remove affected areas.
7. After a few months (late winter), it's time to pot them in fresh container mix, water, and reintroduce to light.

### Mom's Newspaper Method

1. Do the prep work listed above.
2. Label each bag with plant name and colour of flowers.
3. Wrap the roots of each plant in a sheet of newspaper and place them in an open plastic bag.
4. Water the newspaper until damp (not soaking wet).
5. Hang bag in basement or garage (cannot go below 50F/10C).
6. Check plants monthly for any signs of mold or rot. Remove affected areas and water newspaper if becoming dry.
7. After a few months (late winter), it's time to pot them in fresh container mix, water, and reintroduce to light.

Rest of article is here: [http://empressofdirty.net/overwintering-geraniums/?utm\\_source=MadMimi&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Empress+of+Dirt+Newsletter+66&](http://empressofdirty.net/overwintering-geraniums/?utm_source=MadMimi&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Empress+of+Dirt+Newsletter+66&)



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## ELECTION INFORMATION...NOVEMBER 1, 2016

We are always looking for new faces, new ideas and new volunteers to fill the positions that steer the SBGC throughout each year.

This will give you just a smidgen of an idea of what each participant offers the Club....

### MAYBE YOU WILL HELP FILL A POSITION???

**President:** Oversees and guides the events of the Club

**Vice-President:** Gives a helping hand to the President, and fills that position when President is absent

**Treasurer:** Takes care of our finances/money and ensures accuracy

**Secretary:** Records Executive Minutes monthly; updates RED BOOK regularly

**Bulletin Editor:** Receives & processes info to post in Monthly Bulletin

**Speaker Convener:** Contacts/arranges for people with info of general interest to present to Club members at monthly general meetings

**Fall Fair Chair/Co-Chair:** These two volunteers organize & prepare other members for annual event, including soliciting volunteers to help with leg work

**Director-at-Large:** Fills in & helps when or where necessary

**Bonsor Liaison:** Liaises with Bonsor to ensure set up of meetings and events run smoothly

**Sunshine:** Sends cards to members who may be ill; sympathy cards when necessary; congratulation cards if fitting; thank you cards when needed, etc

**These volunteers constitute the members who steer our Club during BOTH our General and administrative monthly meetings throughout the year.**

Over the past couple years, because we have not had a president or vice-president, the treasurer, secretary, bulletin editor, speaker convener, fall fair chair and director-at-large have rotated the duties of hosting and organizing the monthly meetings – ensuring stability throughout the year.

This Club would be in serious trouble should we not have these dedicated members to carry on the business of making sure this Club continues with its mission.

Everyone donates more time and effort to the Club business than just 'owning' the tasks required of their particular position.....

It's a lot of fun and friendships continue to blossom due to the camaraderie of this wide and varied group of people with one common interest: GARDENING.



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The following positions are not 'elected' volunteers but are equally as important to the Club --- bonus feature:

these participants are not required to attend monthly Executive

**Refreshment Coordinator** ensures 'baked goodies' are supplied by members and kitchen helpers are available for break period during general meetings

**Club Photographer** attends all functions--taking photos to ensure we are 'archiving' our activities

**Show Bench Judge** judges show bench member entries monthly – praising or gently critiquing

**Show Bench Helpers** set up, & un-set, tables where entries placed to be judged

**Show Bench Recorder** ensures entries have member number recorded for points accumulation

**Draw Ticket Sellers** bring & sell both the tickets for raffle prizes, and the prizes, to each general meeting

**Floral Arts Group:** make/supply floral arrangements for Club when requested

**Membership** controls/updates list of members; keeps membership kits available for new members

## Annual Event Coordinators needed for:

Garden tour(s)

October Potluck Dinner

Spring Plant Sale

November Election

Summer MEMBERS ONLY picnic host

Christmas Dinner Party

October Silent Auction

**o as you can see – it takes MANY MANY MEMBERS to make this Club work in the organized fashion we have become so accustomed to being part of. PLEASE seriously consider offering some of your time, ideas and help to our Club so we can continue to enjoy all the benefits we receive from belonging to this special gardening group.**

You can contact me with nominations for any position, or questions, and I would welcome hearing from anyone who wants to take over any one of the positions.

Rose Jorgenson-Mills – Elections Official 2016

Email: [grandmarose@shaw.ca](mailto:grandmarose@shaw.ca) OR: 604-437-7606

Please excuse any 'definition' that may not exactly fit the named position...I tried my best to describe.



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## Sunshine

A card was sent to  
Norma Haydar.

Reminder---- November is  
**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION**  
night.

**VOLUNTEERS—this is YOUR night !**

Please join us in supporting our very important “ Elections Night “ & enjoy the wonderful Garden Video tour  
Lucette has put together for your enjoyment and then partake in some delicious cake ! There will be prizes to be won and lots of fun !

We look forward to seeing you there !

## Next Steering Committee Meeting

Betty is Chair

Tuesday November 15 - 7 PM  
at Dan's home

Members are welcome to attend Steering  
Committee meetings as observers.

If you would like to attend please email  
the Committee at: [sbgcinfo@telus.net](mailto:sbgcinfo@telus.net)

## Christmas Dinner 2016

It's time to think about Christmas festivities. Get out your calendars and your wallets. Mark the date, December 6th, on your calendar. At the November meeting tickets for our annual Christmas dinner will be on sale at \$23.00 for members, \$26.00 for nonmembers and \$11.00 for children. With rising groceries costs, this is a modest increase. The renovations at Bonsor are running behind schedule so we will relocate to the Bonsor Seniors Centre. Wherever we are, it's a time to share fun and fellowship. This is a great time of year to share our abundance with others so we will have our Food Bank Boxes ready to be filled. We plan to have our traditional jelly bean count, door prizes as well as a 50/50 draw. Please make plans to purchase tickets by December 1 so we can give the caterer an accurate number of guests in a timely fashion.

Katherine



Deadline for December Newsletter is

November 24, 2016



# South Burnaby Garden Club

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## 2016 Calendar

### November 1

SBGC meeting election & Photo Garden Tour

Rotating chair: Betty Girard

### December 6

Christmas Dinner

Rotating Chair: Betty Girard



## 2016 Steering Committee

### November Rotating Chair:

Betty Girard

### Treasurer:

Elizabeth Beer

### Secretary:

Betty Girard

### Newsletter Editor:

Leanna Hawkins

### Speaker Convener:

Lucette Wesley

### Director At Large:

Judy Vander

### Bonsor Liaison & Membership:

Syl Davis

### Sunshine:

Pat Humphrey

### Fall Fair Co-Chairs:

Dan Oldroyd & Daphne Sinclair