

Over the Garden Wall



White Rock and District Garden Club, Feb.2022
<https://www.white-rock-garden-club.ca/>

President – Darlene Chamberlain Secretary-Pat Catton
Treasurer- Tim Roark Editor_ Melanie Rantucci

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Introducing Our New President

Long-time member, Darlene Chamberlain has volunteered to be President of our White Rock Garden Club for this year. We welcome her to the executive and thank her for offering her time and energy to our club.

WRDGC Executive

President's Message

I have enjoyed being a member of the club for 5 years. The club presents the opportunity to meet like-minded people and an opportunity to express my creative energy. I look forward to the time when I can meet members in person again (hopefully in March).

Darlene Chamberlain, President



Plant of the Month

Mary Openshaw won the Plant of the Month at the January club meeting.

This month's plant choice was a "mystery " Dracaena. I was drawn to the lovely warm coral coloured center vein and stems. It is a spot of colour in what has been a cold, grey period of time.

Dracaena genus is classified as part of the asparagus family, and it comprises more than 40 species of evergreen trees and shrubs. They mainly originate in Africa, India and Asia.

The name comes from the Greek, drakaina, which means "female dragon". Prized for their elegant and exotic leaves they are often grown as houseplants, common as well in offices, as an architectural detail. Grown in their own tropical or subtropical environment some varieties may bear fragrant flowers followed by berries. They are beneficial in our homes as some varieties help purify the air, removing chemical toxins such as formaldehyde, toluene and xylene.

Dracaenas are among the most tolerant houseplants, being able to withstand even low levels of light and they are not sensitive to A/C, droughts or hot air. However, they **do prefer bright, indirect sunlight to partial shade**. Ideal indoor temperature is 16-23°C and winter temps above 10°C. A

humidity of 50% is preferable, although the plant will survive lower levels. To maintain humidity the plant can be lightly misted or set on a pebble tray. The watering should be fairly consistent, once a week or when soil is dry to the touch. It should be emphasized, **they are sensitive to salts and minerals found in tap water.** It is best to use rain, distilled or cooled boiled water. If watering is insufficient, leaves will turn brown at the tips and die. Avoid getting water on the foliage.

Fertilize with dilute standard liquid fertilizer every 2 weeks, spring through fall. Avoid chemical fertilizer.

They will eventually need to be cut back. You can root the part you cut off. They will send out new branches or shoots from the bottom.

They can be cleaned by giving them a tepid shower occasionally, or in a summer rain.

If eaten, leaves and stems can be toxic to pets.

Fun fact: there is a red sap in the stems of some varieties, used in Italy as a stain for wood, especially by violin makers.

Iris Peacosh



Membership Renewal - Last Chance

If you haven't already paid for your 2022 membership, NOW is the time! At the end of February our membership list will be updated to include only paid up members

and only those members will receive *Over the Garden Wall* next month.

Please make out your cheque to White Rock and District Garden Club and mail to Linda Bradley, #307 - 2229 -152nd Street, Surrey V4A 4P1. (phone 604 541-0903).

We're all looking forward to some great floral shows, speakers and outings in the upcoming year! If you have already paid for your membership, Thank You!

Linda Bradley, Membership

Tool Sharpening Offer

A generous offer has been made from our member, Chip, to sharpen tools etc., for WRDGC members. He will donate your payment for garden pruners, scissors and shears sharpening to the White Rock and District Garden Club during the month of February. The contact information is shown in the advertisement in this newsletter.

Hurry to call him before the end of February!

Joyce O'Brien

Darts Hill Tour

We have booked a guided tour of Darts Hill garden at 1633 170th St, for June 22, 2022 at 1 o'clock. You can drive yourself or organize a car pool. I will have more information closer to the date. Please keep this in mind as I think it will be a most enjoyable tour. If you have any questions please contact me (terryhaight@shaw.ca)

Terry Haight

Plant Sales Plans

The Plant Sale Committee has had their first meeting. We have decided this year to **not** have an online sale! We are hoping to have an in-person sale either inside Ocean Park Hall or in the Hall parking lot....open to the public.

We are asking members to think of our sale when planting seeds and dividing their plants.

We are also asking members who have grown basket stuffers if they could donate some to the Plant Sale Committee. We are putting together 20 hanging baskets to sell to members.

We need clean plant pots to share with members, so if you have pots or need pots, please contact Terry (604) - 340-9977 or Mary (604) 830-267

Terry Haight

February Speaker, Egan Davis

Egan Davis is the new Manager of Parks for White Rock. He is an award-winning gardener with a lifelong passion for horticulture. His diverse background includes garden design, landscape construction, botanical garden operations and greenhouse and nursery production. He managed collections at VanDusen Botanical Garden and was the foreman at Park & Tilford Gardens

Egan has taught horticulture in botanical garden, college, and university settings and he brings the same passion and infectious enthusiasm for gardening to his teaching. He will be speaking to us about White Rock City Parks and future plans for development.

Terry Haight

Master Gardener Tip -Its Not Too Late to Plant Bulbs!

If you didn't get around to planting those bulbs that you bought last fall, it isn't too late!

Apparently you can plant bulbs even in February, in a little loose soil and mulch. If the bulbs are still firm, then you can just roughen up the soil, scatter some fertilizer, and lay the bulbs upright. Then pile on 2 to 4" of finished compost or aged mulch (more if freezing weather is expected). Make sure they stay covered. If you worry that pests might get at them, cover them with a garden center basket tray or some chicken wire.

Melanie Rantucci, Master Gardener

Website Committee

Lesson 3 -Calendar Lookup

See the lesson **sent with this newsletter** explaining how to view the events calendar on the website. Find out how to view details of the calendar entries.

Website Tips - Enjoy Our Gallery

Have a look at the Gallery on our club's website. Margrit puts lots of beautiful photos in there regularly. We love to get pictures from members. You can send them to anyone on the website committee or to our email parlourshow@whiterockgardenclub.ca Show us the plants emerging in your gardens like these snowdrops sent in by Pat Yorke.

Website Committee



Volunteers Still Needed

Please consider volunteering to help out with our Programs Committee. Terry and Tim have agreed to help out with this committee in the absence of another volunteer, but they are already busy with Plant Sale and Treasurer respectively. Speakers and trips have been mostly organized for the year, but members' garden tours still need to be organized.

Please, please step up to help your club.

WRDGC Executive

Juicy Bits



Next Meeting February 9, 2022

Out of continuing caution, the Executive have decided that the General Meeting will be on Zoom again this month. Barring a worsening of Covid conditions, a live meeting is planned for March. An invitation to join the February meeting on Zoom will be emailed out the day before. If you have not tried out Zoom meeting yet, **PLEASE** give it a try. It is not hard, and really fun to see and hear each other on the screen even if we can't be together. See the Lesson attached to the end of the January Newsletter provided by our Social Media Committee.

WRDGC Executive

HAPPY VALENTINES



Marketplace

Tool Sharpening

Garden pruners & shears; kitchen knives & scissors sharpening in Ocean Park. Most items \$10 with 24 hour turn around.

BeSharp Sharpening, 13708 20th Ave Surrey
BeSharp@tuta.io or 604-245-6663.

Chip Gho, Member



CHIP
604.245.6663
bessharp@tuta.io

13708 20 Ave
Surrey, B.C.