



## EXECUTIVE

**President:** Sharon Green

**Vice president:** ???

**Secretary:** Ruth Lunn

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Demers

**Director of Membership/Newsletter:** Judy Villeneuve

**Director of Flower Show,** Liv Sallows,

**Director of Advertising** Jennifer Trudeau

**Director of Garden Tours** Camilla Drake

**Director of Promotions** Bonnie VanDerLann

**Director of Vegetable Gardens** Muriel McIlwain

## Feb Newsletter

**Meeting** will be at 7:00 pm, Wed Feb 28<sup>th</sup> in upper level of Heritage House, 100 Lorne St. Guests are always welcome. Our meetings are always the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.

**Speaker:** Myself, Judy Villeneuve who will speak about Alzheimer's disease and the **CURE** developed by Dr. Dale Bredesen, a neurobiologist who wrote a book "The end of Alzheimer's" as a result of his lifelong research into what causes the disease.

**This month** is annual general meeting and Elections: which means any changes to the executive need to be voted on, therefore if anyone wishes to volunteer for any of the executive positions please come forward, we need a new vice-president.

**Memberships** for 2018 are due now, \$15 / person, \$20 / couple, cash or check.

**Thank you** to Phyllis Mader, a master gardener with the Fog group from TRU who spoke to us about attracting bees to our gardens, pointing out the wide array of bee species we have, and making mason bee houses.

Don't forget Grocery Receipts from Independent Foods which we exchange for gift certificates that pay for our turkeys and rib roasts, and give them to Mary Bianco. They can be from any year and there is no deadline as there was from Coopers.

Thank you for last month's goodies brought Jan Dwyer and Clara Leaman, this month's goodies will be brought by Ruth Lunn and Muriel McIlwain.

**Thank you** to all who came and contributed to the Christmas and Prime Rib pot luck dinners, we asked for more generous vegetable dishes, and you came through in spades, with delicious servings, the turkeys and Prime Ribs were cooked to perfection. The dinners were fabulous, a meal fit for a King.

Thank You to Rae Wilson who collected more than 25 items for the silent auction at the Christmas pot luck on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> and was a great success, so those of you who bought those items should bring a check or cash to Carolyn Demers to pay for them. Thank you again to Marty Koslowski who played piano for our carol sing-along. And especially to Frank Dwyer for the beautiful pictures of The Seattle Japanese Garden, The Pacific Bonsai Museum, and Chihuly Garden and Glass and pictures from our 2017 Rose and Flower show, set to lovely music, really makes you hope for spring.

**Thank You** to Liv Sallows who very generously donated a 20 cup coffee pot to the club that she is no longer using.

Plant/Garage Sale will be on Saturday May 19 at the home of Greg Koll and John Olynick, at 837 Lolo St. Phone number 250-376-2516.

### **Gardening Hints from Growing for Flavor by James Wong**

**Seed sowing:** for tricky to germinate seeds like parsley and supersweet corn ...soak your seeds in 4.5 cups water with 2 tsp of seaweed extract, and .25 of a 300mg soluble aspirin overnight before sowing. Multiple trials have demonstrated this can significantly improve germination of everything from soy beans and sweet corn to peppers, broad beans and tomatoes.

Another trick if you are sowing plants inside is to stroke their surfaces gently with a feather or card 10 times a day. It causes them to churn out chemicals that make them stockier, more resistant to cold, wind and even pests.

**Buying Blueberry plants:** as growers have been growing lowest antioxidant varieties in the search of ever larger berries which are quicker to pick. Here are some better varieties to look for. Add pelleted sulfur to soil to raise acidity.

**Rubel** is one of the most phytonutrient-packed of all, more than 3 times the supermarket favorite "Bluecrop". Though its berries are small they have concentrated sweet/tart flavor and low water content.

**Patriot** (early) are vigorous bushes producing heavy crops with a robust, complex classic blueberry flavor, tolerates heavy damp soils and resistant to root rot and harsh weather.

**Spartan** (early) rich sweet and tangy, exceptionally large light blue fruit, and leaves turn bronze and gold in fall.

**Herbert** (Mid -Season) debated to be as flavorful as “Spartan” has heavy crops of medium sized berries, with crimson fall foliage.

Video for you: The secret history of the British Garden click on the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeOLuqMIRN8n>;

Some new plants to look for this season, courtesy of Terra Nova Nurseries.

Artemisia Makana silver (annual) 24”

Pentstemon Dakota Burgundy Zone 3



## Root aphids.

The first indication you could have root aphids is the presence of white chalky patches on the root ball. These patches are essentially a chalky, waxy type of honeydew they secrete. To solidify their presence, look within the white patches, and if you see one or more pear-shaped, usually light brown bodies about the same size (1 to 2 mm) as the aphids you're already familiar with, you have root aphids. Like aphids, they're often found in colonies. They typically reproduce asexually during the growing season, but do produce eggs that can overwinter in the soil.

You're probably wondering how they get there, there's a winged stage that occurs in the fall, when their populations increase or as the food source is dwindling. The adults can be mistaken for fungus gnats.

Commonly observed root aphids on sempervivum, but also feeding on iberis and sedum, also on other perennials, such as gaillardia and hosta. Definitely check sempervivum and sedums (perhaps other succulents, too) and if you find them there, expand your search to other perennials.

Not known to kill plants, but there can be above ground symptoms, including withered or curled leaves, lack of vigor and/or yellowing, which resembles magnesium or iron deficiency.

