

South Surrey Garden Club
Minutes of General Meeting
Wednesday 25 October 2017 St. Mark's Anglican Church

Welcome and Announcements

Vice President Karen Ewing chaired the meeting due to the illness of President Lee Bolton Robinson. She welcomed those in attendance, particularly new members. She encouraged members to promote the club with their friends, neighbours and colleagues. She announced that Chilliwack Floral Art Club was sponsoring a Christmas Gala Floral Art Demonstration on 23 November. Tickets are available by contacting Lynne White at whitegl@shaw.ca.

The newsletter of the Ocean Park Community Orchard is available at the back of the room as are star charts brought in by David Savelieff.

Karen pointed out the library books on bulbs displayed on the front table. These are featured in coordination with the topic of the speakers. Members were invited to peruse these and other books during the break.

Program

Program Chair, Gillian Davis, informed us that this evening's speakers from Botanus Bulbs will continue to sell bulbs during the break.

November's speaker will be Claude Le Doux, Parks Manager in New Westminster, who will speak on "Fifty Shades of Green".

The Christmas trip to Van Dusen Gardens has been cancelled as we were unable to book the hall there for a social evening.

Lorraine Shenker has worked with Thomas Hobbs to disperse the funds raised from the club's tour of Hobbs' garden in the summer. The SPCA will receive \$260 and an equal amount will go to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund.

From the Garden

Plants featured in Anna Burian's talk will be published in the next issue of "Garden Clippings".

Plant Sale

Members' attention was drawn to the recent email asking them to consider donating to next year's Plant Sale any plants that they may be digging up or dividing at this time of the year. Assistance can be given with digging up/potting such plants. Please contact Anna Ludwinowski (contact information on club website).

Logistics

Claude Hewitt introduced himself as the new Chair of Logistics. Now that the club has a storage locker members had been asked to bring in club items. These should be deposited at the front where Doug Robinson will collect and transport them to the locker. We are still waiting to receive the canopy and some tables held by members. Claude welcomed back to the set up team Bryan Williams after his illness and convalescence.

Tips

Joan Galloway reminded gardeners of some pests and diseases. Tomatoes are subject to late blight as are potatoes. The plants should be removed and NOT put on the compost.

Climbing cutworms are still around and feeding on the tops of leaves. Go out at night with a flashlight and pick off the worms. Winter moths, which eat the leaves in Spring, need to be dealt with now. The females pupate in the soil. The pupa hatch and climb up trunks to mate. Gardeners should put sticky bands around the bases of shrubs and trees. Where there are gaps between the band and the trunk, stuff cotton batten. It is now time to plant garlic. If it is planted too early, when warm and dry, it will get blue mould and early sprouting.

If there are still figs on your fig tree you can put a dab of olive oil on the tip and the fruit will ripen.

If you have planted up something fragile and are worried about freezing conditions, string up Christmas lights (incandescent not LED) and shroud the plant in a crop cover bag. This will create a warmer environment for the plant.

Tie up evergreens with garden twine to prevent breakage when it snows.

Speakers

Following the break, Lori Ross introduced Pamela Dangelmaier and Elke Wehinger from **Botanus**, a mail order bulb company in Langley. They gave an entertaining and well-illustrated presentation on bulbs available for your garden, followed by questions.

The speakers were followed by the draw for door prizes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.