



# South Burnaby Garden Club

## N E W S L E T T E R

April 2018

*Our next meeting will be:*

**Tuesday April 3, 2018**

**Bonsor Community Centre**

**6550 Bonsor Avenue- 2nd floor**

Spring has sprung, how wonderful it feels to have the sun on our backs as we do our spring clean-up and start planning where we will plant all our veges for this year.



It's time to rejuvenate our soils to be sure we have the best chance of bumper crops this year. Our speaker for April Marilyn Holt will speak on soils for optimum plant health. She has become a regular at our club because she is such a pleasure to listen to.

Marilyn Holt is a gardening enthusiast, international speaker and once owned and operated a Pelargonium nursery, exporting plants internationally. She was the Editor of the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs 'The Bulletin' for seven years. Marilyn is currently the Garden Center Manager for the Abbotsford Buckerfields store and is also a Horticultural Judge. She shares her knowledge by putting on workshops and seminars for Buckerfields throughout the year as well as speaking to various garden clubs and groups.

See you all at our April meeting.

### CLUB AGENDA

7:30 - 8:00 PM -Club Business

8:00 - 9:00 PM -Guest Speaker

9:00 - 9:20 PM -Show Bench

- Lucette

Brian Minter:

# Lay Living Landscaping Mats to Cover Bare Patches In Garden

We all have those difficult spots in our gardens where it's tough to get anything to grow. If those spots happen to be in a hot, sunny, very dry location, help is on the way.

Walter Pinder, of NATS Nursery in Langley, is in charge of sales for LiveRoof, a modular green roof system. Living roofs have been very much part of the European building culture for many years. Over the last 15 or so years in North America, interest in living roofs has been making great headway.

Pinder came to see me last fall to explain an exciting new concept that is similar to living roofs but designed more for today's smaller spaces as a ground cover — one ideally suited for areas where it's hot and dry. With our trend of ever-increasing drier summer weather, this could be a real asset for dealing with some challenging areas of our gardens.

The idea is to take this growing concept one step further by planting sedum landscaping mats in those trouble spots. Pinder said that eight to 12 specially selected evergreen sedum varieties, produced from cuttings, are planted in various sizes of coco fibre mats and grown on until they become thick, full and attractive.

Chosen for their growing habit, foliage colour, and flowers, the sedums are blended together to create a beautiful textured look. These very har-

dy sedums should grow year-round anywhere from the Yukon to the Gulf Islands, but it is essential that the soil drains well, and the area is not waterlogged during the wet fall and winter seasons.

Because the coco fibre mats come with the plants already rooted, they are easy to grow, however, proper soil preparation is important. Once you loosen up or rototill the existing soil, work in a well-draining, quality blended soil mix to help the roots catch hold quickly. Once laid out, give the mats a thorough, deep watering which will also help the roots penetrate the soil and anchor the mat.

Similar to living roofs, these landscaping mats need to be situated in low traffic areas where walking is minimal. If used on a pathway, set out some stepping stones, or better yet, uniquely shaped pieces of flagstone or slate for a more artistic touch.

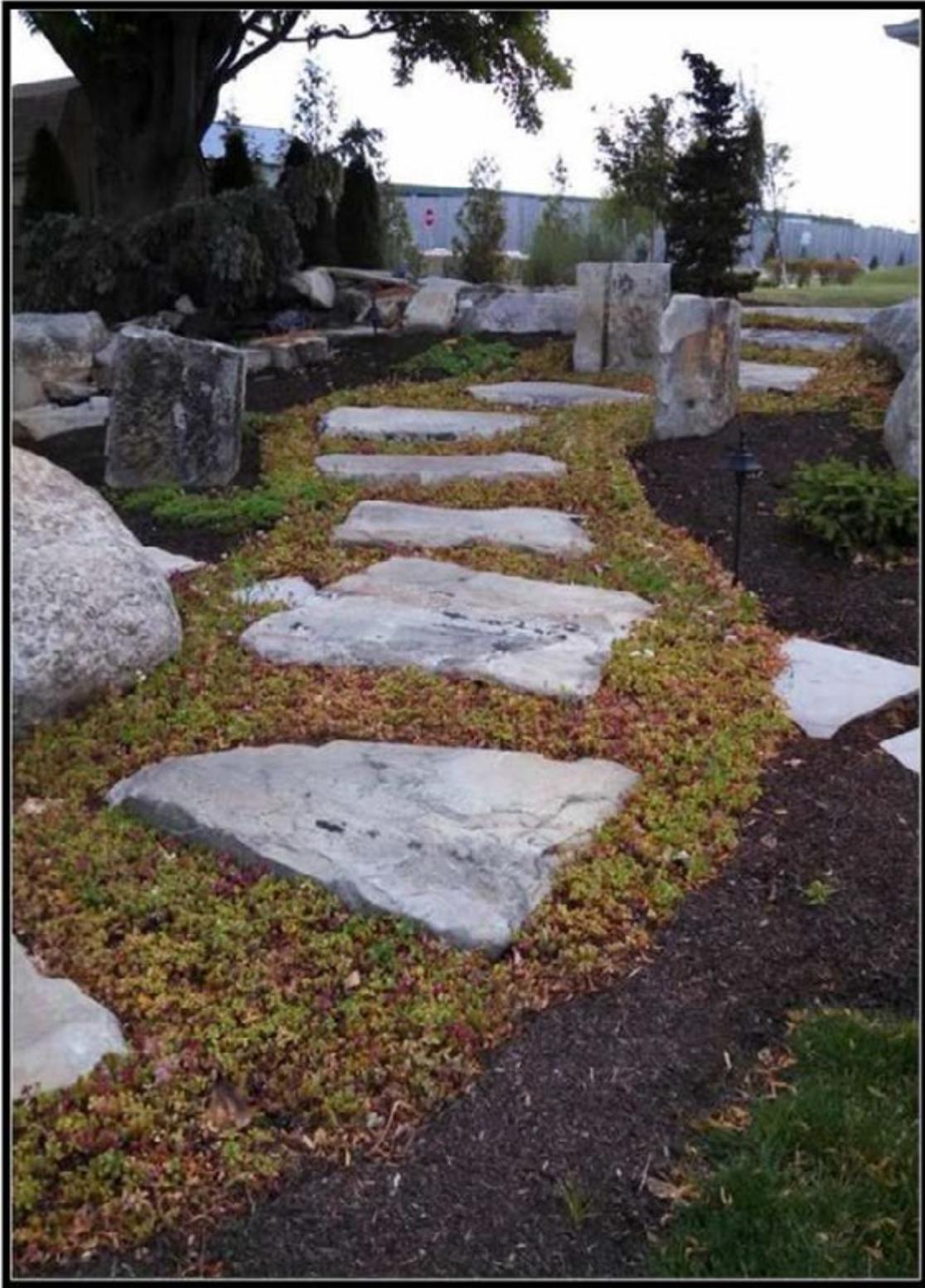
The sedums will grow between two to eight inches (5-20 cm) tall and are very low maintenance. The only pruning needed is a quick cut back when the flowers are finished in order to keep a tidy appearance.

Pinder said there have been few problems with diseases or insects. On the contrary, these sedum mats create a bio-diversified habitat and make great homes for bees and pollinators. Their flowers provide both nectar and pollen.

Weed seeds will find their way into these mats via the wind and birds, but just a little hand-weeding will quickly remove these intruders.

To keep these sedum mats at their prime with





healthy growth and good colour, an annual application of slow-release 14-14-14 fertilizer will feed them continually for four to five months.

Watering, even during summer, is not really an issue according to Pinder. Once the roots get into the soil, the sedums are quite self sufficient. Only

during a long period of drought and if you see some wilting, a good drink might be required.

Pinder said these locally-produced mats will be available for the first time this spring in late March or early April, so, check with your neighbourhood garden store.



'Color Splash' is the most popular mix. The mats will come in three different sizes: 10-inch squares; 10 inches by 20 inches; and 1 foot by 2 feet. They will be priced around \$25 per square foot.

I can foresee many useful applications for this innovative product, from using it on hard-to-mow banks and for replacing turf to simply beautifying a barren area with live plants and creating new plant habitats.

This new concept sounds like a good solution for many landscape challenges. It is environmentally friendly, relatively low maintenance and well suited to today's busy lifestyles. How great is that?

BRIAN MINTER

Published on: March 16, 2018



# Mandeville Spring Fling

## March 17-18



It's always fun to spend the day at Mandeville when they have their spring event, and introduce the public to our club and what we do. This year was no exception, but there were some added surprises; it was after all St. Paddy's Day. Mandeville has just renovated their restaurant decor using reclaimed wood to line all the walls; it looks great. To celebrate the renovations and Spring Fling they offered free mimosas (yes sparkling wine and orange juice) all morning along with a variety of delicious appetizers. So it was a great way to start the day, and to enjoy over lunch too.

It was an opportune time to talk to the Westcoast Seed rep, get their catalogue and pick up some new seeds. I had Conway order a couple of seed packets for the new introductions this year, and I also picked up seeds for the (plante) bush zucchini which I can share as I won't need all the seeds.



We had many visitors drop by and a number were very interested in our club, so we hope to see a few new faces at our April meeting. We'll need to make them feel very welcome so they make that important decision to join. I've thought before that our green SBGC shirt is misleading because I often get mistaken for a Mandeville employee. I was there all day Saturday and Len and Charmaine dropped in as well to help out, and Dan took his turn on Sunday to welcome the public to our club.

The weather was beautiful, the flower scents in the store were heady and all the lovely daffodils and other flowers were lovely to see. It really is a nice way to meet like-minded people who share our passion for gardening, and hopefully gain a few new members.

Lucette

# Show Bench Schedule

*Judge:* Jeanne Noel

1. Look at me: A small design (less than 9 inches in any direction)
2. Strings and things: A design using a frame of some sort
3. April showers: A design of choice
4. Birds of a feather: A design incorporating birds

## **Show Bench:**

*Fruit, flowers and vegetable section must be from the members gardens not borrowed or purchased.*

5. Narcissus - 3 stems white
6. Narcissus - 3 stems yellow
7. Tulip - 3 stems miniature
8. Tulip 3 stems distinct
9. Streptocarpus - 1 plant in bloom
10. African Violet - 1 plant in bloom - single crown
11. Pansy - 3 blooms CVA
12. Violas - 5 blooms CVA
13. Violets - 5 stems
14. Tree - 3 branches , flowering
15. Shrub - 3 branches, flowering (eg Rhodo)
16. Primula - 3 stems
17. Muscari - 5 stems
18. Hellebore - 1 stem
20. Rhubarb - 3 stems (plate)
21. Spring onions - 5 (plate)
23. Anything not listed above



# Rhubarb Almond Crumble Squares

## (16 squares)

### *Ingredients:*

- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) quick-cooking rolled oats
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) packed brown sugar
- 3/4 tsp (4 mL) cinnamon
- 1 pinch salt
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) cold unsalted butter cubed
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) sliced almonds

### *Rhubarb Filling:*

- 6 cups (1.5 L) chopped fresh rhubarb
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tsp (5 mL) grated orange zest
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) orange juice
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) all-purpose flour

### **Preparation**

Rhubarb Filling: In large saucepan, bring rhubarb, sugar, orange zest, orange juice and flour to boil. Reduce heat to medium; cook, stirring occasionally, until reduced to 1-3/4 cups and space remains when spoon is drawn through, about 20 minutes. Let cool slightly.

Meanwhile, whisk together rolled oats, flour, granulated sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt; with fingers or pastry blender, blend in butter until crumbly. Press two-thirds evenly into 9-inch (2.5 L) square cake pan.

Bake in 350 degree oven until golden brown, about 20 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack for 5 minutes.

Spread rhubarb filling over base. Toss remaining oat mixture with almonds, gently pressing into small clumps; sprinkle over rhubarb mixture.

Bake in 350 oven until crumble is golden, about 40 minutes. Let cool completely in pan on rack before cutting into squares.

Source: Canadian Living

# SUNSHINE



No cards were sent last month.

## 2018 Calendar

### **April 3**

SBGC meeting

Chair: Betty

### **May 1**

SBGC meeting

Chair: Lucette

### **June 5**

SBGC meeting

Chair: Lucette

## PLANT SALE - May 5

We need donation of few items for the Raffle Prize Draw. If anyone who can help please bring items to the next meeting and I will collect them. Dan is accepting tools to be refurbished for the Plant Sale again this year. Thank you Dan.

## Next Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday April 10 @ 7:00pm at Dan's house.

Betty will chair.

Members are welcome to attend the

Members are welcome to attend the Executive Meetings as observers.

Please contact us through the email address in our website ahead of time if you wish to attend.

## 2018 Steering Committee

### **Treasurer:**

Elizabeth Beer

### **Secretary:**

Betty Girard

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Branko Matkovic

### **Speaker Convener:**

Lucette Wesley

### **Bonsor Liaison & Membership:**

Syl Davis

### **Sunshine:**

Judy Vander

### **Fall Fair Co-Chairs:**

Dan Oldroyd & Daphne Sinclair

## Plant and Seed Sale

Spring is in full bloom at Seedy Saturday!

Come to Stewart Farm's annual seed and plant sale to:

Purchase heirloom seeds and plants from local vendors

Swap and exchange seeds

Chat with gardening expert

Whether you're a budding green thumb or expert seed saver, there's something for everyone!

Bring the kids as we also be celebrate National Tartan Day with Scottish themed crafts, goodies and activities in the farm house.

### Location:

Stewart Farm House, 13723

Crescent Rd.,

Surrey

### Date & Time:

April 7, 2018

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Contact:

604-592-6956

### Category:

Heritage Kids and Family