

Brandon Garden Club January 2015 Newsletter

Editor Shannon Brichon

PRESIDENT BILL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all members and guests. At this meeting the new executive and directors will be introduced. Many have retained their positions from last year but there are a few changes; and, anyone in a new position will appreciate your support. As your new president, I can only hope that I can do half as good a job as Deane has done in her tenure as president.

I hope everyone that attended our Xmas party enjoyed the evening as

There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is a January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues.....

Jr. Gardener's CLUB

Needs our help—they are looking for anyone who has spare lily bulbs, please see Marlene if you can help.



ARTiculture

*Tonight's speaker - Kevin Bertram
Garden photography*

Kevin Bertram is a photographer based in Brandon, Manitoba. He holds a BFA from Concordia University with a double major in Photography and Communication and Cultural Studies, and a diploma from the Ottawa School of Art. While at Concordia University, Bertram was involved in a number of independent curatorial and exhibition projects, including solo and group exhibitions at the IPO Gallery (Ottawa), Blink Gallery (Ottawa), Les Territoires (Montréal), FOFA Gallery (Montréal), and others. In 2010, he co-curated an exhibition and edited an accompanying catalogue of nine emerging Canadian artists titled Alternorthern at The Lab in San Francisco, California.

Conferences For the Gardening Enthusiast:

MANITOBA

HORTICULTURAL

ASSOCIATION

Rock Around the Garden

**January 29, 30 & 31, 2015
Charleswood United Church
4820 Roblin Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB**

Gardening Saturday

**8th Annual Gardening Saturday
Tradeshow & Educational Symposium
March 28th, 2015 9 a.m.—4 p m
Victoria Inn Conference Center
1808 Wellington Ave
Winnipeg MB**

Hints On Planning A New Garden

By Cathie McFarlane, MHA Director

I've paused to reflect on how my own garden has evolved in the last two summers. Planning a garden takes time. Here are my helpful hints on planning a new garden:

1. Research

Put considerable thought into your garden design and what plants to use. Whether that's looking through gardening magazines, books, driving through your community to look for garden ideas, these all add to your research. Also, don't forget to ask expert gardeners. Some of those are members of your local garden club. I find gardeners are always willing to share their knowledge when asked.

2. Planning

Start early (Fall or Winter is good) to draw out your landscape plan and don't be afraid to change your plan before you start. Use your home's survey certificate to get the right dimensions but measure it out yourself to check. A 50 foot tape measure is a valuable tool. Your survey certificate should be correct but it may not be. Through measuring, I discovered the corner of my yard is actually right on top of a fire hydrant.

3. Drawing the Plan

Whether you are digging out sod or ripping up new sod, this isn't a fun job and it can be hard work as well. Using spray paint to draw out your garden beds is good but I've had a number of old welding rods (curved at the top) that I've used to draw out my garden beds for years (Thanks Dad). It's easier to move a welding rod than ignore paint in the wrong area.

4. Using Colour

I use only two colours to anchor my garden beds. Too many colours, especially in the front yard, look messy. If you want the cottage garden look, I'd suggest you leave that for your back yard. I've found that choosing two colours that complement the colours of your home's exterior is the most pleasing choice.

When choosing plants and colours for your garden beds, my go-to book for many years has been *Northern Gardens* by Brian Andrews. If you are looking for the book, it was published in 1987 so I'd suggest to try your local library. My favourite section in this book is called the

6. Reserve bed fronts for annuals and bulbs

I recommend you only put annuals and bulbs in the front of your beds. Annuals add colour when perennials and shrubs aren't in flower and if you till your beds, it's easy to avoid hitting a bulb if you know where they are. Annuals at bed fronts also define the curving edges of garden beds I and many favour today.

Pick annuals to suit your life style. If you, like me, don't have time to water, try petunias. They are a good value because they spread, even if they aren't the Wave variety

7. Before you plant.....

Preparing your soil to plant or even for each growing season is important. If you have heavy soil like I do, I recommend Clay Buster. It's available at local nurseries as well as T and T Seeds and it's made in Manitoba - it's good to support our Manitoba businesses. In addition, I find manure, Sea Soil and another local product, Turkey Trot, are all good. ...just a word about Turkey Trot - it's very fragrant so don't get too close to it when spreading it around, plus a little goes a long way.

8. Don't be afraid to try something new

This year I tried a couple of hop plants near my front fence. They grew with minimal trel-lising and were a good background for the yellow daylilies and potentillas.

Also, don't be plants around where they

A good gar-finished.

The Brandon Garden Club meets at 7PM on the third Wednesday of each month except July and August at the Seniors for Seniors Complex at 311 Park Avenue East, Brandon.

New members always welcome. Annual membership is \$20 single / \$30 couple. Non-members are welcome to attend meetings to take advantage of the Club's horticulture programme at a cost of \$5.00 per meeting.

For more information on club affairs contact the club secretary, Nancy Lytle at 727-8912 or e-mail thebrandongardenclub@mymts.net.

The club newsletter is published free for members and is distributed at monthly meetings. Contact the editor, Shannon Brichon at 727-3581 for e-mail or postal delivery.

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