

NEWSLETTER

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MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS

All members annual subscriptions are due every year on July 1st. Now is the time to pay.

There are a number of ways you can pay your fee. Pay at next meeting, post a cheque or bank transfer/deposit, details below.

Single \$15, Family: \$25.00

Cheques payable to Preston Garden Club Inc, P.O. Box 1004, Preston, 3072.

OR

Internet Bank Transfer
BSB No. 033 073 Account No. 231476, Reference your ("name").

OR

Pay directly into the Club's bank account?

1/ It's very simple, go to any Wespac Bank in your local area.

2/ With the banking details below and your money.

3/ Give the banking details and money to the teller.

4/ Ask the teller to include your **phone number** in payment description (so our Treasurer will know you have paid).

Name: Preston Garden Club Inc.
BSB Number: 033073
Account Number: 231476

NO OCTOBER MEETING

Bad news again, October meeting is cancelled. If all goes to plan following the Governments roadmap, we may be lucky enough to hold our last meeting for the year in November?

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021, for the first time in its 108-year history, was held in the autumnal month of September as opposed to the spring month of May, after being postponed due to the pandemic. The prestigious flower show went for six days from Tuesday 21st to Sunday 26th September, at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The Chelsea Flower Show was cancelled all together in 2020, for the first time since the Second World War.

The Chelsea Flower Show plant of the year winners are selected by a panel of 100 experts "to promote the continuing work of breeders and nurseries in producing improved and exciting new plants,"

Chelsea Flower Show Plant of the Year winner 2021 is Cercis canadensis "Eternal Flame". This most recent winner features heart-shaped leaves and charming, rose-tinted Autumnal shades.



Second place: Allium "Lavender Bubbles". Which are low maintenance and great for encouraging pollinators into your garden.



Third place: Semponium 'Sienna'. Which is reportedly the world's first official cross between Sempervivum and Aeonium. A truly stunning new variety.

Award GOLD Best Show Garden. Guangzhou Garden designed by Peter Chmiel with Chin-Jung Chen, this garden highlights how the health and wellbeing of people and the natural world can be sustained through integrated environmental systems.



Award GOLD Best Construction Award (Show Garden). The Trailfinders' 50th Anniversary Garden. Designed by Jonathan Snow, this garden aims to capture the essence of Nepal and the wider Himalayan region through a representation of the culture, plants and landscape, specifically of the Himalayan foothills.



Award GOLD Best Sanctuary Garden. Designed by Sarah Eberle, this garden – inspired by the landscape of Dartmoor where Sarah grew up – represents a spiritual oasis within an urban setting, a place of escape to re-engage with nature and to strengthen mental health and wellbeing.



Award SILVER Best Artisan Garden. This garden takes inspiration from a National Trust owned forge located in Branscombe, Devon. It hopes to demonstrate how heritage and traditions have been retained whilst simultaneously embracing modern needs without losing its artisan qualities.



The National Chrysanthemum Society display is as good as ever. In case you didn't guess - the theme is garden pests.

CORPSE FLOWER

Rare 'corpse flower' set to unfurl its putrid beauty. A native of the Indonesian rainforest, the only *amorphophallus titanum* specimen in Vancouver last bloomed in 2018 at the Bloedel Conservatory. This year, the stinky flower is expected to be even bigger.



The Bloedel Conservatory's "Uncle Fester" corpse flower last bloomed in 2018. A rare though putrid flower dubbed "Uncle Fester" is set to bloom at a popular Vancouver public garden. Known as a "corpse flower," the tropical *amorphophallus titanum* climbs up to 4.5mts tall as it reaches for the sun. For much of the year, the vulnerable species produces a leafy vegetation to scratch its photosynthesis needs. But some years, an "enormous flower spike - or spadix - will emerge," notes a spokesperson for the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

In British Columbia, the flower first bloomed in 2018 at the Bloedel Conservatory, and for some, it can take a decade to emerge again. "We are so excited to bring Uncle Fester back to Bloedel Conservatory, and can't wait to have the public join us in experiencing the pungent scent explosion that, once smelled, is hard to forget," said superintendent Bruce McDonald in a written statement. The conservatory's specimen — considered "vulnerable" and native to Indonesia's equatorial rainforests on the island of Sumatra — is now nine years old.

The plant was first “discovered” by Italian botanist Odoardo Beccari in 1889. But it was only in recent years, after a push to preserve the species, that public gardens successfully raised a corpse flower in cultivation, according to the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Back in Vancouver, Uncle Fester is in the midst of a growth spurt. It’s climbed .5 mt in the past month, and is expected to continue to grow at a rate of 8cms per day until it blooms. This year’s flower is expected to eclipse the nearly two-metre bloom recorded in 2018. When the flower will unfurl its putrid beauty is another question.

NEW PLANTS

In Portland, USA, during August the National Nursery & Greenhouse Trade Show was held. With 400 exhibitors, it’s a horticultural show for greenhouse and retail garden centre industry. Also a place to showcase new varieties of plants coming onto the market.

People attending the show could vote on the new release varieties. One plant that won the people's choice for 2021 was Hydrangea Kimono. Hydrangea Kimono offers a unique combination of heavy re-blooming, compact size, dark foliage and flower colouration. It has dazzling blooms of white and pink florets with red margins sitting atop dark green foliage, all wrapped into a compact plant.



Three other plants received an award of merit by the attending voters.

ColorBlaze El Brighto Coleus (Plectranthus scutellaroides ‘El Brighto’).



Serendipity Ornamental Onion (Allium ‘Serendipity’).



Cascade Sunburst Huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum ‘Vacbri2’).



Don't get too excited! We may never see these plants in Australia. It needs a nursery person with

money and time to import these. If someone decided to go to the trouble to import a new plant variety. Because of our strict quarantine laws, plants will need to go into a quarantine facility and be checked over a period of time to see if the plant is free of any pests or diseases. If all ok, it can be released to its new owner. Now the time to mass produce more plants. By taking cuttings is limited and time consuming. Tissue culture is sometimes used to produce thousands of identical plants. Finally when grown to a saleable size, us gardeners can add a new plant to our garden.

CHOCOLATE STRAWBERRY CAKE



INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp. cornstarch.
- 200 grams dark chocolate.
- 1 tsp. baking powder.
- 1 tsp. cocoa powder.
- 100 grams (1 stick) butter.
- 2 egg yolks.
- 4 large eggs.
- 1/2 cup sugar.
- 1/3 cup heavy cream.
- 1/3 cup ground walnuts.
- Pinch of salt.

FOR CHOCOLATE GANACHE:

- 150 grams dark chocolate.
- 2/3 cup heavy cream.

FOR VANILLA CREAM:

- 2 tbsp. powdered sugar.
- 1 cup cold whipping cream.
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract.
- 1 tbsp. instant vanilla pudding powder.

DECORATION:

grated white chocolate.
some décor gel for brushing.
Fresh strawberries.

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE CAKE:

Preheat your oven to 170c degrees and line the bottom of a pan with parchment paper, spraying the sides with cooking spray.

In a bowl, place the chopped chocolate pieces. In a microwave or over a double boiler, combine the butter, cream, and solvents until the mixture is melted smooth.

In a large bowl, using an electric hand mixer, whisk together eggs, egg yolks, sugar and salt at high speed until well mixed and very swollen.

Fold gently the whipped eggs into the chocolate mixture.

Add cornstarch, ground nuts, cocoa powder and baking powder and whisk until combined.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and spread out evenly. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 30-40 minutes

Place pans on a cooling rack to cool for 10 to 15 minutes. Then use a knife to release the edges of the cake from the pan and place on a cooling rack to cool completely at room temperature.

CHOCOLATE GANACHE:

In a bowl, place the chopped chocolate pieces.

Bring the cream to a low simmer.

Pour the hot cream over the chocolate, wait a minute, then beat until a shiny chocolate ganache forms.

While the cake is still inside the pan, pour the ganache over the cake and allow it to spill over the sides of the cake.

Refrigerate the cake for at least 3-4 hours, or until the ganache is completely set.

Place the cake on a serving dish after removing it from the pan.

VANILLA CREAM:

Beat together cream, powdered sugar, cream stabilizer and vanilla in a bowl of a mixer until cream on high speed until stiff peaks form.

Place the whipped cream in a pastry bag fitted with a jagged 2 cm piping tip. Pipe mounds of cream on top of cake, then add fresh strawberries.

Decorate with a coat of décor gel and a sprinkling of chopped white chocolate.

Serve immediately or store in the fridge.

MEMBERS NEWS

Susi Coliaini is excited to be able to share this photo with you of her grandson Adrian on his first birthday.

Such an adorable young lad!!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

October: Ken & Shirley Kendall and Joy Raftopoulos.

We wish you all a wonderful celebration.



FIND THE WORD

Well, how did you go with finding the word in the last newsletter? The word is –

BOOKMARK

The word this month has 8 letters. What could it be?

Look at the four pictures for the clue. Answer next newsletter.



MONTHLY COMPETITION

November 24th: To be Confirmed.

MONTHLY MEETING

November 24th: To be Confirmed.