

## President's Message: November 2004

We are having a great fall this year. Days that start out like they are going to be stormy and rainy sometimes end up with glorious sunshine. Last week and earlier this week, we had our first frosts of the year. The fall colour is almost gone but the poplars, alders, cherries and liquidambers are still making a great show! I have been planting 'snow crocus' bulbs recently and found this great website listed below.

My bird feeders have been under constant attack from bears. After the third midnight attack when one plastic feeder was totally destroyed and crushed beyond recognition, I decided to hang the feeders much higher in my tree using my extension ladder. The next morning, the feeders were on the ground again – a small but hungry bear had clawed its way up my katsura tree leaving gouges where its claws had dug in. It had knocked both feeders on the ground and broke several branches. One feeder is still missing. Perhaps one day when I am weeding I will discover it buried in one corner of the property or under a shrub somewhere.

I have resorted to taking the feeders into the house at night and bringing them out in the morning. Is it worth it? There is no doubt in my mind when I see the great number of birds who spend the greater part of their day in and about the feeders. I especially like the three sets of Stellar's Jays that are actually well behaved for such big birds.

This is our last newsletter of the 2004 year. Our November monthly meeting promises to be an enjoyable event. It is our Annual Christmas Season Potluck Supper. I hope that all of you can make it out to this event. We will be having an auction during the meeting. The auction is always very popular with lots of fun and great amounts of laughter. Les Clay will be giving us a special presentation. Last year, Les showed us slides of familiar and not so familiar plants and asked us to guess their names – how many of you were able to identify the dandelion?

The November Meeting is the meeting at which we elect our executive for the coming year. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the nominations recommended by the executive. Nominations will be accepted from the floor for any of the positions. Your current executive asks you to consider the possibility of letting your name stand for election to next year's executive. We need new ideas and fresh enthusiasm if our club is to grow and prosper!

May you and your family have a blessed and joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Here are three web sites of interest for you to enjoy over the holiday season:

### ***International Bulb Society - Gallery of the World's Bulbs***

A pictorial and cultural guide to a comprehensive list of the world's **geophytic plants**. (a geophytic plant is a perennial plant, such as a crocus or tulip, propagated by buds on underground bulbs, tubers, or corms) <http://bulbsociety.org> Choose "The GALLERY" (at the bottom of the left hand menus). Select the letter "C" and choose Crocus or select the letter "N" and choose "Narcissus". Enjoy the wonderful gallery of pictures of the world's bulbs.

### ***Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery***

Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery is on top of Chilliwack Mountain in southwestern British Columbia, Canada, a small cultivated patch inside the future "Hillkeep Nature Reserve".  
<http://www.hillkeep.ca>

### ***Darts Hill Garden Park***

This garden is a unique legacy that was donated to the citizens of the City of Surrey by Edwin and Francisca Darts. It consists of 7.5 acres of horticultural richness without equal in North America for its variety of rare and precious plants, shrubs and trees, having been developed over the past 55 years.  
<http://www.dartshill.ca>