

CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

November 2018

The Mission of the Bowen Island Garden Club is to promote the love of gardening, encourage sound horticultural practices through education, & enhance civic beautification.

Upcoming Schedule:

Speaker

"The Aliens are Coming!" a presentation on invasive species by **Tasha Murray** on **Monday, November 19th**, 1 pm at the Legion.



The Bowen Island Garden Club will welcome Tasha Murray from the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver. Tasha will give us a presentation on invasive species that are wreaking havoc in our gardens and natural spaces.

She will discuss the impact of hogweed and European fire ants on the environment, economics, health and safety. We will learn how to recognize the worst invaders, what's

currently being done in the region to minimize their impact and how we can all be part of the solution.

Please join us November 19th at 1 pm at the Legion at 1 PM for a very educational presentation. Everyone welcome. Members no charge, guests \$3.00.

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop with **Laura Rahn** and **Lyn van Lidth de Jeude**. **Thursday, November 29th** from 10 am to 12 noon at the Legion

Cost: \$10 to cover cost of some materials such as the wire hoops, wire and some decorations. Greenery and other natural decorations will be responsibility of participant.

Participants: 12 people limit

Sign up: At Monday November 19, 2019 monthly garden club meeting or via e-mail to Linda Barratt(labarratt31@gmail.com) before November 20, 2018.





SHEENA ENGELHART

It's with a sorrowful heart that we inform you of the passing of one of our own: Sheena Engelhart. Sheena lost her battle with cancer on Wed, Oct 17, 2018.

Imbued with impeccable taste and a sparkling personality, Sheena loved antiquing, a proper cuppa...and a glass or two of Prosecco with a wedge of Brie. On Saturdays, you could always find her at the farmers market and then Artisan Eats.

Sheena moved to Bowen in October 2014. She loved "her little house" that she shared with her daughter Nikki. As befitting someone in the home decor industry, her home was tastefully appointed, with delightful little touches,

such as the birdhouse-shaped corner posts on her balcony railing.

Sheena joined the Garden Club in March 2015. After helping Nadine with the 2016 Christmas party, she stepped into the role of Social Coordinator in January 2017, handily arranging goodies and refreshments at open gardens, and food arrangements at the Summer Garden Party. By the following Christmas, she had definitely come into her own, and was seamlessly running her own team of volunteers at the Christmas party, while making sure none of us got too tipsy at the wine station. She changed to Communications Director right before having to step down due to her diagnosis.

Beyond her official role on the executive, Sheena made plenty of friends at the club with her kind and generous nature. The last time she went to Linnaea, she picked up plants for a half dozen other Garden Club members who couldn't make the trip. With her no-nonsense attitude she was also a great sounding board for ideas.

Sheena enjoyed gardening and nature. She especially adored sweet peas and was sad she didn't get any into the ground on time this year. She was concerned with declining bee populations, and even in the last months of her life continued to donate to "save the bees".

Sheena will be deeply missed.

*The Board of Directors,
Bowen Island Garden Club*



Sheena's favourite,
sweet peas, growing in
Ann Ramsay's gardens

Sheena's view
and her
whimsical
birdhouse
pillars



Winter Wonders

The rains came. It was inevitable, after our blast furnace-like summer. It all feels like Old Man Winter is just around the corner and the only direction most of us want to go in, is indoors, preferably to sit around the woodstove with a cup of tea.

But wait, there are many good reasons to venture out into your garden in the cooler months. And yes, it is chilly but take a walk with me around the yard and let's see what is out there and screaming for attention.



First up, my favourite winter diva - *Viburnum bodnatense* 'Pink Dawn'. She started her winter display in mid October this year, a whole month

earlier than usual. Once all her leaves have fallen, you can really appreciate the sweetly scented blooms. These carry on right through until March, blooming on bare stems and, wonder of wonders, seem to be mainly untouched by roving deer.

Next, in my gallery of cold comfort plants are skimmias. Evergreen and tolerant of the deepest shade, surviving with very little water and even in the dry conditions underneath the eaves, these amazing

plants just keep on giving. Female varieties, like *Skimmia* 'Chameleon', grow into large rounded shrubs and providing they are buddied up with a male version nearby, will produce lots of berries. Male and female plants are exquisitely scented in late winter. These are also one of my treasured plants for cutting for winter decoration.

Sarcococca is another group of plants for a dark area, growing happily against the house where it is dry and shady. Come



February, *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis*, barely more than a foot or so tall, is an absolute powerhouse of fragrance.

Nothing brightens up a dull wall like *Jasmine nudiflorum*, winter flowering jasmine. It usually starts blooming quite early in November and its crisp yellow flowers are adored by overwintering hummingbirds. This is also very attractive when grown down a steep bank. Plant it in a sheltered spot and it will carry on blooming all winter.

The great yellow fragrant whorls of flowers of *Mahonia x media* 'Charity', or the slightly shorter and more compact,

M. 'Winter Sun' are worth paying a visit to in the middle of winter. Watch out though, as you're likely to be dive bombed by Anna's hummingbirds seeking their elevesens.

If you have a well drained and protected spot, out of the bitter winds, treat yourself to a glorious winter blooming *Daphne odora* 'Aureomarginata'. Deliciously scented in late winter. One small sprig, bought indoors and placed in water will perfume your office for several days.

If you have room for an outstanding evergreen that will give interest, not only in winter, but all year too, look no further than *Arbutus unedo*, the Strawberry arbutus. This shrub has all the bells and whistles – gorgeous bark, flowers, fruit, great for cutting and decoration, drought tolerant and bird and bee friendly too. This truly is the 'little black dress' of the



all year around garden.

In amongst all those lovely broad-leaved evergreens, I'd like to see more gardeners include hollies in the landscape. My absolute favourite is the

oddly named 'Hedgehog Holly', *Ilex aquifolium* 'Ferox Argentea'. Shiny green leaves, edged in brightest gold, sprouting from purple stems. The leaves are the novelty here, with an almost pincushion of spines on the tops, as well as the edges. This is a terrific plant for a mixed winter container but can get quite large if planted out in the open garden. A fabulous, but prickly inclusion for winter arrangements.

A winter garden without Hellebores is unimaginable. Large plantings of one variety lift the spirits on a cold winter day especially when pockets of snowdrops or other early bulbs are scattered in. Single specimen plants deserve a place where they can really stand out. Planted in among deep green Tassel ferns, or crisply striped *Carex oshimensis* 'Everest' and plug ins of dark purple crocus, really set the heart a flutter.

There are so many other delightful winter plants to include in your garden. Gather some up and install them into a winter container by the front door, then plant out into the garden once spring comes.

Heathers, cyclamen, witch hazels and camellias are all worthy of space. Look too, to the many conifers that make an appearance at the nurseries during the winter. Many are barely given a second thought in the summer but in the cool winter months, some transform into vibrant colours and really given a bit of backbone to the garden of lacklustre twigs we sometimes end up with.

Consider also the many coloured plants with attractive branches as the weather cools – willows, dogwoods and gorgeous trees like the Coral Bark Maple.

So, put another layer on, bundle up and step outside and enjoy the show.

Su Rickett

Garden designer and Contributing Writer
November 2018

President's Report

LEARNING, TRAVELLING AND GARDENING

After WWII my family moved to Sheep Creek in the south east part of BC with Nelson being the go-to centre for special shopping. I started school there – one room and seven grades, later expanding to two rooms and splitting the grades. The mountain mining camp was at about 3350 feet. Spring was a bit late but we had possibilities to wander the trails and look for early flowers, trilliums, stars of Bethlehem and if we were very lucky a small (max 3 inches tall) lady slipper was found. Current research suggests these are rare now and were even at that time. We were discouraged from picking them



because parents suggested they deserved conservation. So, when one was found privileged friends were taken to admire it. (We

were also not supposed to pick the trilliums).

I never had a lady slipper in my hand but I think it looked something like the previous photo in the orchidaceae family, *cyripedium montanum*.

Fast forward to about 12 years ago and I was travelling in the UK and introduced to the wild orchid pointed out by my friend. More recently in Iceland I espied a wild orchid (common spotted?) myself along the side of the road. These orchids look like miniature hyacinths. They are genus *dactylorhiza*.



Last year in PEI, I was intrigued to visit the Pisquid River Lady Slipper Trail to see the provincial flower. This flower was in fact about a foot tall but alas we were too late in the season and blossom had faded to



be barely recognizable. Later we found this lovely photo on cards with the bloom on it (*cyripedium reginae*).

This June in the Hebrides another species, a marsh orchid, was growing

along the path, and again it looked like a miniature purple hyacinth.



And in addition I visited High Grove, Prince Charles' garden in Gloucestershire. He has a meadow area with many wild flowers including orchids growing there. We were told that he had personally spread them with their own seeds and that's why there were so many.

So the learning from the mountain lady slipper continues. Realizing it is in the orchid family was a break-through! Orchid viewing is not limited to indoors and hot houses!

Do we have wild orchids on Bowen Island? These plants appear to be challenging to grow, particularly some varieties, but our climate could be okay. Maybe we have member(s) who know all about this. Please let me know.

In the meantime our Club is busy identifying enthusiastic members to succeed in positions on the executive including President, Vice President, a second or third Social coordinator for special occasions (Christmas and Summer party and help with Open Gardens). No one is excluded and if you have a good idea of what we could be doing or should be doing, please let us

know:

[\(bowenislandgardenclub@gmail.com\)](mailto:bowenislandgardenclub@gmail.com).

Lynn McArthur
President

Membership



The cost of joining or renewing membership for 2018 is now \$5.

Current memberships for the Garden Club will expire at the end of

December. The regular 2019 yearly fee for two family members residing in the same household is \$20. However, as in previous years, there will be an Early Bird Special of \$15 if you renew or join before the end of February.

If you are not going to be on Bowen in January or February, you can renew your membership at the November general meeting. If you prefer to renew by mail, please make your cheque payable to the Bowen Island Garden Club and enclose a self addressed stamped envelope. The mailing address is P.O. Box 271, Bowen Island, V0N 1G0. Please let me know if there are any changes in your e-mail address, home address, or phone number.

The garden club welcomes the following new member: Janis Treleaven.



Holly Cleator, Membership

Call for Board Members 2019

As Lynn mentioned, our nominating committee is active during the next couple of months looking for new board members.

All board positions are up for election at our AGM in January. Among those, we are particularly in need of volunteers interested in the Vice President and Social Coordinator positions. Anyone interested in getting involved in whatever capacity is encouraged to get in contact our nominating committee for more information:

bowenislandgardenclub@gmail.com

Bulb Sale

Joyce Ganong has reported that our bulb sale this year was a blooming success!

14,750 bulbs were distributed. Here's the breakdown of the new blooms you'll be seeing next spring on Bowen:

3,400 King Alfred
1,500 Snowdrops
4,500 Tete-a-tetes
1,950 Tahiti
2,000 Adila Dwarf Iris
(light blue)
1,400 Clairette Dwarf
Iris (dark purple with yellow stripe)



One thing to note for next year, is that the new offerings sold out quickly... so best

to order early if you are wanting to try something new.

A huge thanks goes out to Joyce for all her hard work in organizing this year's bulb sale, as well as the many volunteers who helped out in various capacities. Because of your hard work Bowen will be blooming beautiful this coming spring.

Gardening Tip of the Month

All gardeners should be aware that they are at higher risk of contracting tetanus if they have not had a booster tetanus shot.

Tetanus is caused by a neurotoxin produced by the *Clostridium tetani* bacterium, which is widely found in soil and has been detected in animal feces. Infection usually occurs when a person is exposed to the toxin through a cut or puncture of the skin.

Tetanus affects the nervous system and leads to paralysis and potentially even death. Symptoms of infection include stiffness of the jaw, known as lockjaw, and severe muscle spasms that usually appear about eight days after exposure. A booster dose is needed every 10 years to keep your protection up.

You can update your tetanus shot for free at the pharmacy. Call or drop by to inquire.

We had extended the voting for Star Volunteer till the end of November.

Please vote at the next meeting, or email in your vote.

BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER

Many organizations operate with only volunteers – the Bowen Island Garden Club is one of these organizations. Our volunteers come in many stripes and colours. They may be the people who take your membership payment, host Open Gardens, set up chairs for meetings, or help at the plant sale. Some people are active on a regular basis for many years running. Do you know such a person in the Garden Club?

The Garden Club would like to acknowledge these people by recognizing their contributions to the club with a designated STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER name tag for the year. Please complete the attached nomination form telling us what makes your nominee a STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER - reply to bowenislandgardenclub@gmail.com by October 31st.

The club executive will select the top 4 nominations for the HONOUR ROLL recognition. The annual STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER will be selected by the top nominees to receive their personalized name tag and Club recognition.

STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS: (suggested criteria: volunteer activities – plant sale, meetings, Executive positions, etc.; length of volunteer service; impact on community)

YOUR NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____