



# CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

SUMMER 2017

***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:

**Sunday, July 16, 2017—1-3pm Open Garden at the home of Jeanette Wrenshall. 457 Cowen Road.** See page 5 for details

**Sunday, August 20th 2017 - Annual Summer Garden Party. At the home of Shelley & Craig McDonald**  
See page 6 for details

**Sunday, Sept 10th, 2017 - 1-3pm Open Garden at Michael & Diana Kaile's home. 835 Hummingbird Lane.**  
See page 5 for details.

**Monday, Sept 18th or 25th, 2017 - 1pm: General Meeting & Speaker Series:** Propagating Plants, details to follow.

**Monday, October 16th, 2017- 1pm: General Meeting & Speaker Series** Wreath Making Demonstration.

**Monday, November 20th 1pm: General Meeting & Speaker Series:** Travel Presentation on Gardens of the World, details to follow

**Monday, December 11, 2017—Annual Christmas Party**  
—Save the date!

## SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

**Sunday, Aug 20th, 2017 (1-3pm)**



***You and your Guests are invited to our annual summer garden party!***

**at**  
**Shelley & Craig McDonald**  
**1675 White Sails Drive**

**Please see page 6 for details about what to bring.**

## General Meetings and Speaker Series:

The following topics are planned for the fall meetings.

September 18th or 25th : Propagating Plants

October 16th: Wreath Making Demonstration

November 20th: Travel presentation on "Gardens of the World"

Be sure to check the Fall edition of "Cuttings" for more details and [www.bowenislandgardenclub.ca](http://www.bowenislandgardenclub.ca) for each of these presentations.

Members no charge, guests only \$3.00.

Linda Barratt  
Speaker Coordinator



Photo supplied by Colleen Tucker, Sechelt BC Garden Club

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Annuals were planted late this year and one can practically watch them grow in the sunshine while the great sprinkler in the sky keeps them well watered –so far. Overall the gardens are very lush after all the spring rain. And the extreme winter has lead to the most beautiful displays of such as rhododendrons with their spectacular colours.

In April, I had an interesting experience in Cuba learning about sustainable urban agriculture. After the Russians left in 1990 and the American embargo remained in place, Cubans were challenged to grow their own food. There were amazing accomplishments using mulch, worms, raised beds, and water in a complementary climate. The trip wasn't all academic. For example, enjoying a tour around Havana in a 1954 bright pink Chevy convertible was fun. The knowledgeable leader for the experience was Bowen Islander and agrologist Wendy Holm.

Thanks again to all who helped with our successful Annual Plant Sale. So many people, so many plants! Thanks to Marolyn Anderson and Monica McKinley for coordinating and thanks to those who helped with the sale amassing draw prizes and doing many other activities. Special thanks to those who potted up the high quality plants, the fundamental underpinning of our sale. And Grace Quarries' coffee and goodie table was most welcome.

Open Gardens have been delightful thanks to Anna-Marie and Murray Atherton, Aubin and David Van Berckel and Katherine and John Lawrence. We look forward to another Open Garden in July, our annual Garden Party in August and an Open Garden is scheduled for September. Look for the information in the Cuttings emails when the dates are imminent.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> the Gibsons and Sechelt Garden Clubs visited 6 gardens on Bowen and stopped at the Tunstall Bay Club House for lunch. What a beautiful day. And the organization for all aspects was excellent. Thanks to Susan Heth and Virginia Penny who were in charge of logistics and Sheena Engelhard who coordinated the lunch goodies as well as the many volunteer drivers and garden hosts who made the day a success. The only aspect out of Club control was the ferry schedule but the sunshine and wonderful gardens made up for it. All with whom I have spoken have been very complimentary.

Now we are ready for summer weather and time to reflect in our gardens while we enjoy maintaining them.

Lynn McArthur, President

## EDITORS NOTE:

I am already reflecting back with fond memories of my time as the Bowen Island Garden Club Cuttings Editor, and I haven't even left yet... smile. But this is what I do.

I am a long term planner and each time I am faced with a decision about the future I enter it with gusto. But I also like to prepare for my departure. I will only have one more edition of Cuttings to oversee and then the task will either be taken on by someone new or fall dormant. My goal is to appeal to one of you today...to see the need and benefits of Cuttings and rise up to the occasion and take on this vital part of Club Communications.

I would love to train the new person for this role...and am willing to do so, but you would need to answer this call before September 15th...so that the Winter issue can stand as our training ground. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to become the new editor. I will no longer be available after January 1, 2018 to assist in this role.



With Sincerity! Marie Neys

### We are keeping you up to date .....

LOOK US UP .... ONLINE.... ANTIME!

[www.bowenislandgardenclub.ca](http://www.bowenislandgardenclub.ca)

[www.facebook.com/bowenislandgardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/bowenislandgardenclub)

### Missing back issues of the Cuttings?

We keep them on the website...

[www.bowenislandgardenclub.ca](http://www.bowenislandgardenclub.ca)

## OTHER NEWS FOR CLUB MEMBERS:

Tour of Bowen Island Gardens by Sechelt and Gibsons Garden Clubs:

On June 6 the Bowen Island Garden Club hosted our sister garden clubs. It was an outstanding day of garden viewing. Thank you to all the volunteers from the BIGC who helped make it such a success: the many drivers who escorted our guests, the lunch servers who provided a lovely experience at the Tunstall Bay Club House, the TBCA who very generously allowed us to use their excellent facility, and finally the six garden hosts who provided a singular experience of Bowen gardens: the Rileys, Smiths, Leishmans, Hockings, Neys, and Taggarts, who each opened their beautiful gardens and made the day such a success.

The Sechelt club wrote us the following:

"Many, many, thanks for organizing such a beautiful garden tour. All of us from Sechelt truly enjoyed the day. The gardens and homes were spectacular and left all of us very inspired and totally in love with Bowen Island. A big thank you to all of your members who showed their gardens, drove us around to the gardens and a big thank you to the people who prepared and served all of the delicious food. It was a very smart idea to stagger the groups at each garden. We all enjoyed having time to speak with the various hosts and not be over crowded. Thanks again for all of your effort, it was the best day."

Cathy Belfry, President Sechelt Garden Club



While we don't run general advertising we do encourage stories that help out fellow garden club members. Enjoy this new section!  
Marie Neys, Cuttings Editor

Hi Fellow Garden Club Members

Firstly I want to apologize for the early deadline date I gave a couple of weeks ago re ordering of bulbs for the Fall. Hopefully this has not kept anyone from thinking of putting an order in again for this year. My excuses are : just learning, anxious to get it right and was focused on going to the Van Berkels just days later and since I had already put the "reserve order" in to the company I had visions the Sunday at Van Berkels was going to go over the top and I would have to call the company and top up the figures. There – that feels better. Thanks to everyone that did order at the garden tour that Sunday. The new cut off date is Sept. 30/17. Please send email to me with your order if you have not already.

The following is the prices on our offered varieties for this year by the 100's

King Alfred Nar. = \$35.00

Tete a Tets \$24.00

Tahiti (Double) \$45.00

Snowdrops (Elwesii) \$40.00

Pink Parasol NEW \$ 50.00

Orders of 50's will of course be half of above price.

Further information will be forth coming as to dates for bagging and location later in the summer. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to drop me a note.

Thanks again Barb



THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB



Order Before Sep 30th. for Fall delivery.

Barb Adams, [badams@vip.net](mailto:badams@vip.net)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH DISTRIBUTION, WEEKEND OCTOBER 14th. & 15th.

Barb can be reached via email

[badams@vip.net](mailto:badams@vip.net)

## ON ISLAND OPEN GARDEN TOURS

### OPEN GARDEN AT THE HOME OF JEANETTE WRENSHALL

**Sunday, July 16<sup>TH</sup> 1:00-3:00pm—457 Cowan Road**

Please join us on July 16<sup>th</sup> for our 4th Open Garden of the 2017 season. Jeanette calls her property a permaculture food forest and it is a definite “must see” for all those interested in growing their own food. Although the address is 457 Cowan Road, the access is via Salal. Turn left off of Sunset onto Salal and drive to the very end of the paved road. Please park at the turn-around where the pavement ends and either wait for the shuttle or follow the signs and walk along the 400 meter easement to Jeanette’s home. Sturdy shoes are recommended.

Jeanette writes:

We bought our off-grid property in August 2014 after searching for years off island for something that we’d never thought we’d be able to find on Bowen. So it was our good fortune to find an on island property with a derelict cabin at a price that was manageable.

Our property is just over 6 acres with old growth forests, one large pond with a rock bluff, 2 smaller ponds and lots of room for growing food.

Incredibly, the soil is more than 6 feet deep in places and there is enough southern exposure for fruiting trees.

The cabin of 672 square feet, was built in the 1950’s and was considered by most to be a tear down. We gutted and restored it to our liking, but maintained the original footprint.

Solar panels, a soon to come water turbine, batteries, and a generator give us all the power we need. We miss nothing of our previous way of living. In fact, we love being free from hydro bills.

When presented with enough land to grow food, I decided to create an organic, permaculture food forest. It’s an ancient way of providing a sustainable food supply for our family. I have planted fruit and nut trees, vines, berries, annual and perennial veggies, pollinator plants, medicinals, ground covers, fuel for heat, and fodder for our chickens.

The property backs onto the Bowen ecological reserve which rises another 600 feet and provides me with the challenge of managing the winter water flow.

Berms and swales slow down the water to keep it on the land as long as possible.

The goal is long term with high output required in the first few years of setting up and with, hopefully, less work re-

quired over time.

Last year I started the first section of a food forest which is doing well. This year I have added another section with yet another to come next year in the already prepared hugels. Approximately an acre and a half will be devoted to good growing.

### OPEN GARDEN AT THE HOME OF DIANA AND MICHAEL KAILE

**Sunday, Sept 10<sup>TH</sup> 1:00-3:00pm**

### 835 HUMMINGBIRD LANE

Please join us for our final Open Garden of the 2017 season.

Diana and Michael write:

We moved to Bowen in March of 2006. To say that the garden of our new home was wild, neglected, sad, and totally unloved would be an understatement. During the past 11 years, we have had rock walls built, laid patios, created numerous flower beds, and have had many loads of soil, bark mulch, rock, and edging rocks come through our gates. Indeed, a new deck has just been finished ocean side.

Though we consider our garden a spring garden, in the fall, there is still lots of color. We enjoy many hydrangeas plus a large variety of dahlias lovingly lifted and stored away each winter. Roses continue to bloom and there are corners of the garden where one can sit and while away the hours (when not weeding, dead heading and picking the veggies.) We have had many raised beds installed and enjoy the fruits of our labour all summer and into the fall. On the water side, we reclaimed and exposed elements of the rock. In a quiet corner facing west, we have a small orchard of apple and plum trees, along with a very old honeysuckle which threatens to take over the entire arbour.

Ours is a friendship garden--a product of many cuttings and offerings generously given by friends. In addition to the floral aspect, we have created a peaceful haven for birds. In the spring, robins nest and feed their young along with the chickadees who commandeer the nesting box. We are host to northern flickers, thrushes, siskin, and hummingbirds who seem to have taken note of our address. This is a garden to rest your soul. So, please take a moment to breathe in the sea air, admire the view, walk barefoot on the lush carpet of grass, listen to the wind, the bird song and wind chimes. In essence, lose yourself in nature – Welcome and Enjoy.....

Thank you, Pam Miller (604) 947-2349  
 p&jmiller@telus.net Open Gardens Co-ordinator

# BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB



## SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

**Sunday, Aug 20th, 2017 (1-3pm)**

*You and your Guests are invited  
to our annual summer garden party!*

at

**Shelley & Craig McDonald  
1675 White Sails Drive**

*Beverages will be supplied but please bring:*

- 1. Bring a Plate of Sweet or Savory to share...*
- 2. Bring a lawn chair.*
- 3. This is a members & guests only event.*

Thanks to  
Shelley & Craig  
for opening their  
house to us!



## MEMBERSHIP

Most of our members have already renewed for 2017 and it's nice to see so many new members joining the club too. For those who haven't yet gotten around to renewing, we hope that you will. The easiest way is to write a cheque payable to the Bowen Island Garden Club and mail it to our club mail box at P.O. Box 271, Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G0. The regular yearly membership fee for two family members residing in the same household is \$20. Alternatively, you can renew at any of the BIGC open gardens.

Remember that membership has its privileges including the quarterly Cuttings newsletter, guest speakers at the monthly general meetings, open garden tours on island, occasional garden tours off island, summer and Christmas parties, and a spring and a fall trip to Linnea Nurseries in Langley. As well, some garden shops/nurseries in the Lower Mainland provide a discount to our members so carry your membership card and ask before paying.

Holly Cleator, Membership Director

### NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to the following new members who have joined since April: Austin Austin and Steve Rio, Anita Bleick, Robin and Hilary Butler, Sandra Dawson, Opal Eriksson and Paul Whitecotton, Meribeth and John Fleetham, Sylvia Kirk and Barry Cleator, Emily and David McCullum, Teresa Plowright, Melissa Rahme and Jon Bell, Jennifer and Colin Ritchie, Sharon Rowles, Marie-Claire Seebohm and Rob Nynen, Kate Thomson, Bev and Laurence Turner, Wendy Wanvig and Emily Hauner.

Holly Cleator,  
Membership Director

### MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

1. Monthly CUTTINGS NEWSLETTERS, delivered to your inbox. Those who do not have email will receive in regular mail.
2. Bi-monthly BC GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTERS, delivered to your inbox.
3. GUEST SPEAKERS.
4. GARDEN TOURS in the lower mainland.

## 2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT	LYNN MCARTHUR	604-290-3245
VICE-PRESIDENT	ANNA-MARIE ATHERTON	604-947-0333
SECRETARY	LEA ALLEN	604-947-9933
TREASURER	DAVID WRINCH	604-947-9639
CUTTINGS	MARIE NEYS	604-947-0684
MEMBERSHIP	HOLLY CLEATOR	883-984-7124
OFF ISLAND TOURS	SUSAN HETH & VIRGINIA PENNY	604-947-0898 604-947-2577
SPEAKERS	LINDA BARRATT & BECKY DAWSON	604-947-0631
TECHNICAL	JOHN HAZELL	604-947-2441
PUBLICITY	JOHN LAWRENCE	604-947-6953
SOCIAL	SHEENA ENGEHART & DALE HARDING	604-947-9835 604-947-9946
OPEN GARDENS	PAM MILLER ANNA-MARIE ATHERTON	604-947-2349
PAST PRESIDENT	SHEILA WEBSTER	604-947-0114

Editor's Email: [marie@marieneys.com](mailto:marie@marieneys.com)

### MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES cont'd:

5. OPEN GARDEN TOURS on Bowen.
6. SUMMER & CHRISTMAS parties.
7. DISCOUNTS ON PURCHASES AT Phoenix Perennials in Richmond, The Flower Shop in Artisan Sq., West Van Florist in Ambleside, Maple Leaf in Dundarave, Maple Leaf in Lynn Valley, Mandeville Gardens in Burnaby, David Hunter Garden Shops, Vancouver.