

CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

May 2019

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:

**Open Garden at Janet and Bob
Sims, 823 Taylor Road
Sunday, May 26th from 1-3 pm**

Please join us on May 26th for the second Open Garden of the 2019 season which will be held at the home of Janet and Bob Sims on Taylor Road.

Our host Janet writes:

"Over the years a yard which started as a mass of brambles, alders of various sizes, bracken ferns and thistles has evolved into flower and vegetable beds.

We began clearing in 1983, shortly after moving to Bowen. Since that time the original fenced part of the garden has been expanded twice. As some parts of the property have been left unfenced, the deer are able to peer in and plot their methods of encroachment.

Our rock pile attests to the time spent in appreciation of Bowen's well-earned nickname, "The Rock".



Unfortunately, the ornamental banana tree which did produce some small

bananas in the last two hot dry summers, suffered some loss during the harsh February weather.

However, with warmer spring days now upon us, lots of fragrant plants are appearing: peonies, roses, and lilacs, to name a few, as well as some annuals.



We invite you to come and enjoy a wander through our garden."

Janet Sim

Please wear sturdy shoes as there is some uneven ground. There is lots of parking available on Taylor Road. We hope to see you all there for our second Open Garden of this year.

*Pam Miller and Anna-Marie Atherton
Open Garden Coordinators*

Saving and Sharing Garden Worthy Roses with Jason Crouch.

Monday, May 27th at 1 pm at Collins Hall

Please note change of venue and date

For those of us who love roses, late May and early June give us the first peeks at the petals of our hearts. This month's Speaker knows all about a love for roses. He is Jason Crouch of the Fraser Valley Rose Farm. Jason has a soft spot for old roses and has titled his talk "Saving and Sharing Garden Worthy Roses."

Jason will demonstrate how to propagate roses and is bringing a nice selection to sell at the meeting.

Due to the May long weekend this month's meeting will be held on the last Monday of the month and will be held in Collins Halls. Be sure to sign in when you arrive. Some lucky person will go home with a free rose.

We hope to see you there. All welcome, members are free, guests just \$3.

Lyn van Lidth de Jeude
Speaker Coordinator



Complicata Rose taken by Jason Crouch

Open Garden June 16th, 2019

Please mark your calendars for June 16th when our Open Garden program will offer you the opportunity to visit not one, not two, but three beautiful small gardens in the Cates Hill area. What a wonderful way to spend a couple of hours on Fathers' Day. Please see the June edition of Cuttings for further details.

Thanks so much,
Pam Miller, Open Garden Coordinator

President's report

It's taken me a while to realize we can choose to have beauty surrounding us no matter where we live, no matter what situation we're in. All we have to do is look for it because it's never far away. It's no wonder people suffer from the blahs in the winter. The lack of colour and new life can be dulling to the soul. We wait and wade through it knowing around the corner, nature will gift us all in the form of flowers and plants.

I am house sitting in Vancouver for 10 days in a small apartment that has made incredible use of any outdoor space available. They are lucky to have a rooftop deck which is filled with potted trees and flowers. Beautifully displayed, there's also an abundance of blueberries, strawberries and raspberries and a full and happy herb garden. It proves to me that with a little effort we can turn our environment into something positive with some effort.



Photo by Janis Treleaven

Recovering from surgery and at the same time watching things struggle through and bloom is inspiring in many ways. I thank you all for your patience and understanding while I am recovering from this injury and things are improving daily. I look forward to seeing you all again soon and don't forget beauty is always surrounding us.

Janis Treleaven
President

Su Rickett's Column

Summertime Thrills

It seems that everywhere you go, there are massive trays of vibrant red geraniums, luscious velvety petunias and pots of buxom tomato plants seemingly ready to fruit. Even the lowliest corner convenience store appears crammed full of plants waiting for a home. Any nursery or garden centre worth their salt has been thrusting flats of coleus, impatiens and begonias in our faces since the beginning of April. Have you succumbed to these temptations yet?

I do admit to having had a snoop at what's on offer, but really, my winter pansies seem to have just got going and I feel rather sad having to turf them out after they struggled so bravely for me through February.

It all looks so captivating when you see rows and rows of handsome, healthy plants. It's as if by bringing them home, they will announce that summer has arrived at your house. Yippee!

This year, I urge you to be brave and be different. It is too easy to be lulled into the 'what worked once should work again' train of thought when it comes to planning out the summer display. Are you bringing home the same colour red geraniums, blue lobelia and Dusty Miller as you have for years? A few impatiens perhaps, same colour pink because that's the way it's always been and while you're there, don't forget the usual tray of marigolds for around the vegetable beds. Nothing wrong with any of these plants but there are so many more new and exciting annuals waiting for you to enjoy.

I happen to love geraniums, they can be relied upon for ongoing, long blooming colour and ease of care and they are one of the few annuals that thrive on a lot less water but maybe it's time to switch it up? Try some different colours perhaps. Think of how some of those vibrant new shades of hot pink, plum and orange can pop against your house colour. They also come in trailing and fancy leaf varieties. Try some gorgeous coral pink geraniums, with sun loving claret coloured coleus, black mondo grass and Silver Falls Dichondra. Delish.

Time to think beyond the usual lobelia too, which fries to a crisp in the heat anyway. Try Scaevolas instead, they are

much more heat tolerant and available in deep blue or white.

A simple, but stunning container for the shadier area might include, amber coloured coleus with delicate apricot fancy-leaf begonias, in both upright and trailing varieties. Or turn this into a larger display and combine those with white upright begonias, white trailing geraniums, white trailing Euphorbia and mauve Swan River daisies to make a real statement.



Swan River daisies

Try going to the nursery or plant store mid week, when it is not so crazy. Go in the morning, when everything has been watered and plants are fresh. That way, you are not loading stressed plants in your car.

Have a scout around the annuals but don't forget that compact perennials and small grasses can be included too. Check out all that they have on offer before

making any final decisions. If you are putting together a window box combination or planter, consider your house colour and type of planters you have.

Then, the golden rule is: you need a Thriller, some Fillers and some Spillers. Translation – you need a bolder plant, usually taller, for the Thriller, or centrepiece. Some nice full, middle size plants for the Fillers and yes, you guessed it, trailers for the Spillers. Abide by this recipe and your planters will always look good.



Photo from 'Proven Winners' website

Decide on what you like for your Thriller and walk it around the nursery and see what plants look good with it. For instance, a dark spike dracaena (Thriller) looks quite dramatic when you cosy it up to Lime coloured coleus (Filler), some Red Angel Wing begonias (Filler),

burgundy leafed Heachera (Filler) and lemon scented Thyme (Spiller), Goldheart Ivy (Spiller) and Yellow Angelina Sedum (Spiller).

When putting a planter or window box together, don't leave too much space between plants. The idea is to give them the opportunity to thread together and appear lush and full. Feed well and feed often.

As with anything in the garden, nothing works better than repetition. Find a winning plant combination and repeat it. Or choose a winning colour arrangement and repeat it throughout your planters. An all white and silver scheme is classic but maybe add some soft lemon yellow to that. Apricot or peach looks ravishing with violets and blues but throw a little silver in for glamour.

Purple and orange with silver is also quite scrummy and you can't beat mixing burgundy or wine colours with citrussy lime.

It's so much fun when you start playing with colour. A word of warning here. Stay near your cart and sharpen up your elbows. You may have to fight people off once they see the exciting visions of loveliness that you have selected and wondering why theirs are looking so drab.

Su
Member at Large

Past Events

Our 2019 Plant Sale Raffle

We had another successful plant sale raffle this year. This was due to all the volunteers who contributed their time and effort with organizing prizes, signage and the raffle tables, and selling tickets – rain or shine – outside the Snug Cove General Store, The Ruddy Potato, and at the plant sale.

Barb Adams and **Diane Buchanan** deserve special recognition for taking on the Herculean job of organizing all aspects of selling the raffle tickets. **Anna-Marie Atherton** handled everything related to the prizes and **John Hazell** created the eye-catching prizes poster. To these individuals, in particular, goes a BIG THANK YOU!

This year most of the prizes were purchased from businesses who have donated raffle prizes in the past. The following ones also generously donated prizes:

[Atlas Pots \(North Vancouver\)](#)

[Bowen Building Centre Ltd \(Bowen Island\)](#)

[Maple Leaf Garden Centre \(Dundarave & Lynn Valley\)](#)

[Snug Cove General Store \(Bowen Island\)](#)



Photo by John Hazell (see back page for more photos)

Many thanks to the folks at both the Snug Cove General Store and The Ruddy Potato for once again allowing us set up our raffle tables outside their front doors.

Last, but not least, we are grateful for the many people who bought raffle tickets. We really appreciate your support.

Holly Cleator

Membership



Please note that members who have not renewed for 2019 by May 15 will not receive club communications after that date. For details on how to renew please visit the club website (www.bowenislandgardenclub.ca) and follow the links.

The garden club welcomes the following new members: Hal Barber, Bruce and Pat Greyell, Lisa Howland, Ann Lonergan, and Diana Romer.



Holly Cleator, Membership Coordinator

Other News

Conifer Camp with Jermone Terhaar, on May 31st, 1 pm at Lisa O'Donnell's



I am having Jerome TerHaar back to Bowen on May 31 at 1 pm for 'Conifer Camp'. I'd love to invite any members of the Bowen Garden Club who are interested in conifers- please note that this is not a garden 'tour' as such, but more a discussion of how and where to grow conifers, led by Jerome, walking around in my garden. It will likely be similar to the talk that Jerome did for the Club last fall, but there's always new information. There is room for about 20 or so people-

I just need a confirmation email from people who are interested in coming so I can keep track of numbers. Of course Jerome will be bringing plants! Hope to see some of you there.

Lisa O'Donnell: lisaod@shaw.ca
1829 Arbutus Point Road

Reminder: Take your BIGC membership card when you go plant shopping

Just a reminder that as a member of the Bowen Island Garden Club, you are eligible to receive discounts at some nurseries. Please see the back of your card for a list of which ones. However, you do have to present your card at the time of purchase or no discount will be applied.

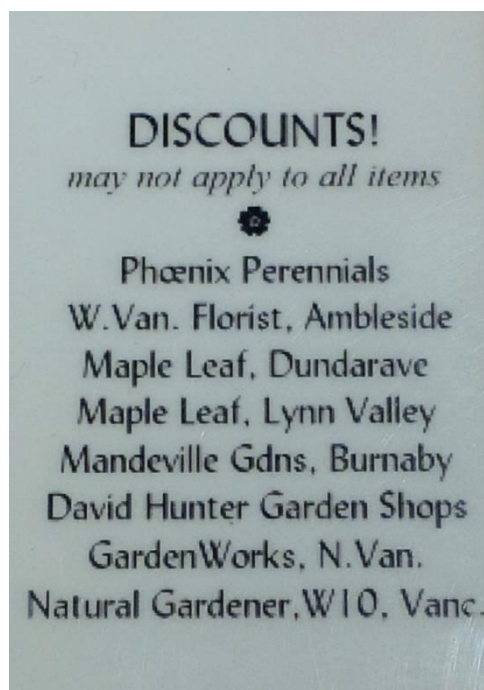


Photo: Back of your membership card

Photos of Plant Sale and Raffle

by John Hazell



Cuttings - May 2019 continued



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