



# CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

MAY 2016

***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:

**Monday, May 16, 2016 General Meeting & Guest Speaker**— 7pm EVENING MEETING for all—especially those who work in the daytime! Please join us! Nick Kiss of Bokashi Living will give a presentation on Bokashi Composting.

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016** -we will visit the private garden of Ted Staunton. See page 6 for details.

**Sunday, May 29, 2016 Open Garden Tour**—at Luke Wang & Rob Dufty. Details to follow.

**Monday, June 13, 2016** - we have been invited to visit Sechelt gardens by the Sechelt Garden Club. See page 7 for details.

**Sunday, June 26th, (2-4pm), 2016 Open Garden** at the home of Mary Pottier & Warren Franklin –1645 Old Eagleclff Road.

**Sat/Sun, July 16 & 17, 2016 PPP** (see Poster for details on page 6)

**August 7th : Summer Garden Party** - at the home of Betsy Hodgins -details to follow

**Monday, Sept 19, 2016 General Meeting & Guest Speaker**— 1pm at the BIAC Gallery, Artisan Square . Speaker - TBD

**October, 2016** Semi Annual visit to Linnaea Nursery

**Monday, Oct 17, 2016 General Meeting & Guest Speaker**— 1pm at the BIAC Gallery, Artisan Square . Speaker - TBD

**Monday, Nov 21, 2016 General Meeting & Guest Speaker**— 1pm at the BIAC Gallery, Artisan Square . Speaker - TBD

## GENERAL MEETING & SPEAKER SERIES

### *Bokashi Composting: An Alternative Method of Composting Food Waste*



On May 16, 2016 the Bowen Island Garden Club welcomes Nick Kiss of *Bokashi Living* who will give us a presentation on *Bokashi* composting as an alternative to traditional composting methods of food waste. The presentation will begin with an introduction to composting in general, a discussion of how it works, why the soils benefit from it and how composting helps our gardens to flourish. More specifically, Nick will discuss *Bokashi* composting , a faster, easier, and more enjoyable method for the composting of all food waste. *Bokashi*, is a method that does not attract rodents and will transform food scraps into microbe and nutrient rich compost in just 4 to 6 weeks. *Bokashi* composting not only keeps our food waste local, it turns it into nutrient rich soils for our Bowen Island gardens. For those of you who can't wait to get started *Bokashi* composting Nick will have a few kits available for purchase!

Please join us at The Gallery at Artisan Square on **May 16, 2016 at 7 PM** our only evening speaker event of the year! Everyone is welcome, non-members only \$3.00. Those of you who can't make day time meetings this is an opportunity to learn about a very important topic and to get to know the garden club. A *Bokashi* Kit will be raffled at the meeting!!

Linda Barratt, Speakers Director

## PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

I have just come from another very successful plant sale (in spite of the parking woes!). A great many of our members were involved one way or another: helping at the sale, contributing plants, selling raffle tickets, and of course all of us who bought raffle tickets and plants. Thank you to all of those who pitched in to help, with particular recognition to the Coordinator, Past President Sheila Webster. This year there were 25 gorgeous plant packages donated to the raffle. The list of the donors will appear elsewhere. We encourage you to note the donors and when you visit those businesses, to inform them how much we appreciate their support.

Then I came home to once again gaze upon my irises! About a third of them are now blooming—the ones I've had the longest.. So far two different varieties of purple, apricot and yellow are open. There are many more to come!

We are currently transitioning from our winter to summer programs. Our spring visit to Linnaea Nurseries was a great success, as usual! We have had two Open Gardens—thank you to both the Millers and the MacDonalds for sharing their gardens with the rest of us. And the last of our General Meetings will be Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. From then until mid-September our summer activities take over—we have tours, Open Gardens and the Summer Garden Party. See page 1 for the lineup!

In closing, let me extend hearty congratulations to one of our members, Susanna Braund. Some of you may not be aware that the Killam is one of the very most prestigious academic awards, and this is a real coup for Susanna. Well done, Susanna!

Sharon, BIGC President



Sharon Haggerty's Iris

## EDITOR'S NOTE

I want to give a shout out to those who send me articles! I am receiving many generous notes and thus have created a new section in the Cuttings for announcements. Feel free to send me photos of your flowers in bloom or your veggies that are thriving! I will be happy to include them in Cuttings or on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/bowenislandgardenclub/>

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

## NEWS FROM CLUB MEMBERS

**Submitted by Club Member Ainslie Manson:**

**Saturday, June 11** (10:00-4:30): *Open Garden Day at Heritage Hydrangeas*, 13970 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Surrey. Come and see how the largest collection of hydrangeas in Canada continues to grow. Admission is free. For a taste of what will be on view, go to [www.heritagehydrangeas.com](http://www.heritagehydrangeas.com) . This may be the last time this garden is open for viewing. **Barry Roberts (Barry spoke to BIGC about Hydrangeas at a previous meeting)**

[www.heritagehydrangeas.com](http://www.heritagehydrangeas.com)

(Tel: 604-531-0388)

**Submitted by Club Member Chris Neys:**



**Submitted by Club Member Marie Neys:**

Have you been away, or super busy...and sad that you have missed (or deleted) your online copy of the BIGC Cuttings Newsletter? No need to worry, simply go to

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

We keep back issues there for you to download in a pdf format any time you need!

## PLANT SALE NEWS....

This is a BIG, but really big thank you to all you wonderful volunteers who worked so hard on the raffle and plant sale. With the two together we raised approximately \$3,600 which is a very good outcome for the Club. Another thank you to the folk who donated plants, the quality was really good this year and the vegetables really popular. A great job done by Lea Allen, helped by Diana Kaile, and John and Katherine Lawrence as well as Diana Kaile on the raffle. Until next year!

Sheila Webster

sheilawebster@shaw.ca

The Garden Club wishes to thank the following donors whose contributions have made our Raffle possible.

Donors to the 2016 B.I. Garden Club Raffle and Plant Sale

Annie Davidson-Bowen Island  
 Art's Garden Centre - Langley  
 Atlas Pots - North Vancouver  
 Bowen Island Flowershop - Caroline Walker  
 David Hunter - Vancouver  
 Dykhof Nurseries - North Vancouver  
 Fresh Street Market – West Vancouver  
 Garden Works - North Vancouver  
 Home Depot - Vancouver  
 Irly Bird Building Centre - Bowen Island  
 Lee Valley Tools – Vancouver  
 Linnaea Nursery – Langley  
 Lee Valley Tools – Vancouver  
 Leong's Nurseries - Burnaby  
 Maple Leaf Gardens - West Vancouver  
 Northwest Landscape and Stone - Burnaby  
 Phoenix Perennials – Richmond  
 Safeway - Caulfield  
 The General Store - Bowen Island  
 The Pharmasave - Caulfield  
 Van Noordt Bulbs - Langley  
 West Coast Gardens – South Surrey

## ON ISLAND GARDEN TOURS 2016

BIGC offers Open Garden Tours during the spring and summer months. If you have a garden that you wish to share with us please contact Pam Miller. We are looking for gardens for this season plus next year.... Gardens are open to the public.

**OPEN GARDEN  
SUNDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> (1:00 – 3:00 P.M.)  
950 WINDJAMMER ROAD**

Please join us on May 29<sup>th</sup> for another fabulous Open Garden at the home of Luke Wang and Rob Dufty. Members of the Garden Club first visited this garden 6 years ago and were deeply impressed with the beauty and variety of exotic and unusual plants. Since then, Luke and Rob have continued to expand and change their garden. The following is the write up submitted by Luke and Rob.

### THE GROWING AFFAIR

The two started their growing affair in 2002 on an east-facing balcony in Yale town where the sight of white strawberry and clematis against a backdrop of Mount Baker and Burrard Inlet brought them much joy. Still wondering why, in 2004, they brought their growing affair to Bluewater on Bowen Island where a half acre half blank canvas allowed them to create and experiment—one shovel at a time and, sometimes two, not sure if it was because of impatience or excitement.

Coming from very different climates, the Canadian Prairie and Southeast China, the two set their minds on finding plants from all corners of the earth that would thrive in the Pacific Northwest. Their first plant was the Chinese Dove Tree, which will take up to 15 years to bloom. This was followed by plants like the Katsura Japanese Maple, the Spanish Fir, the Giant Himalayan Lily, the South American Monkey Puzzle, and the Eurasian Molly-the-Witch, just to name a few.

To add life to their garden, the two hand-dug a 5,000 gallon pond which became the centre piece. The growing affair then expanded from land to water as the pond gradually became home to

dozens of Koi, Goldfish, and Rosey Minnows and now sustains a sizeable population of the native Red-legged Frog, Dragonflies and Damselflies, as well as some unwelcome visitors such as the Great Blue Heron, the King Fisher, and recently, a River Otter.

The garden features fragrance from flowering shrubs including Wintersweet and Witch Hazel in the winter, the elegance of six Magnolia varieties and over a dozen tree and herbaceous Peony species in the spring, the towering and heavenly scented Giant Himalayan Lily in the summer, and the vibrant colours of both Japanese and native Maples in the fall.

The two have also enjoyed experimenting with year-round displays of structure, texture, form, and colour through various plant combinations.

After seven years, the Giant Himalayan Lily did bloom as anticipated, and patiently, the two continue to await the first blossom of the Chinese Dove Tree. Nonetheless, the growing affair happily continues.....still not sure why.



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)

## MEMBERSHIP

We now have 163 paid family memberships - very impressive. Some people who were members last year have not renewed their memberships. If you would like to continue to receive the benefits and wonderful information with our monthly "Cuttings" newsletter, please renew by mid May. The cost is \$20.00 for a family of two residing in the same household. If you wish to mail in your renewal, please make your cheque payable to the Bowen Island Garden Club and send it to P.O. Box 271, Bowen Island, V0N 1G0.

A big welcome to this month's new members: Helen Ashmore, Diane Charette, Jane Ferguson, Lynne Hartle, Laura and Bruce McGregor, Geri Stimpson, Peter Vaisborg and Carole Goldsmith. Welcome aboard! It is a wonderful time to join the club and get out to see the many gardens on Bowen Island.

Shelley MacDonald - Membership Director

## 2016 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

Past President	Sheila Webster	0114
President	Sharon Haggerty	2244
Vice President	Tamsin Miley	0882
Secretary	Lea Allen	9933
Treasurer	David Wrinch	9639
<i>Cuttings</i>	Marie Neys	0684
Membership	Shelley McDonald	604-816-8479
Social	Nadyne Hindle	0557
Speakers	Linda Barratt	0631
Open Gardens	Pam Miller	6904
Publicity	John Lawrence	6953
Tours	Susan Heth	0898
	Virginia Penny	2577
Technical	John Hazell	2441

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

### 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.

5. OPEN GARDEN TOURS on Bowen.

6. SUMMER & CHRISTMAS parties.

7. DISCOUNTS ON PURCHASES AT Phoenix on Bowen in Village Square, 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.

## OFF ISLAND TOURS 2016

### A Woodland Garden Tour

There are still a few places available for our visit to the lovely private garden of Ted and Nadine Staunton. This tour on Wednesday, May 25, will be by car. Bring your own lunch. Cost is \$15./\$12. for seniors (ferry fare included).

### Garden Tour of Sechelt and Environs

On Monday, June 13 we have been invited by the Sechelt Garden Club for a day of gardens.

Look for more information in the advertisement in this issue of *Cuttings*. Space will be limited and so we will limit purchases to two tickets per person. Your place on the tour will be confirmed upon receipt of payment. Cost is \$40/person.

### If you wish to join either tour:

Contact Virginia Penny 604-947-2577 / [vpenny@gmail.com](mailto:vpenny@gmail.com) to register.

Payment can be mailed or dropped off to Susan Heth at 1770 Emily Lane, Bowen Island V0N1G2

These tours are open to current Bowen Island Garden Club members only.

Tour Co-ordinators  
Susan Heth & Virginia Penny

Shelley MacDonald,

## People, Places & Plants Tour

By Isabel Otter

Bowen's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the People Plants and Places tour is the weekend of July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Enjoy spectacular sites, including those of historical, architectural, artistic and garden interest, in a variety of areas on Bowen – Valhalla, Hood Point, King Edward Bay and Cowan Point.

Your tickets may be used on both days, and as usual the tour requires a car and a fair amount of walking. Buy your tickets at the Bowen Island Museum and Archives (1014 Miller Road), or online through our website [bowenisland-museum.ca](http://bowenisland-museum.ca).

We always appreciate Garden Club volunteers because of their insights into Bowen's micro-climates and challenges for our gardens and house sites! If you can help out please contact Alison Morse, PPP Volunteer Coordinator, at 604-947-9875 or email [amm5@shaw.ca](mailto:amm5@shaw.ca) (tickets for volunteers are \$10). Regular tickets are \$25, or \$20 if 10 or more are bought in one order.

The PPP Tour is a charitable event, and all funds support our museum and archives. Join us in celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour.

# A Peek at Island Life

## Bowen's People Plants & Places Tour

July 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 4:00pm



### Tickets on sale now

Tickets can be purchased online  
[www.bowenislandmuseum.ca](http://www.bowenislandmuseum.ca)

Or call 604 947 2655

Individual \$25. M&A member \$20. Groups (10 or more) \$20.

All purchased tickets to be picked up at the Museum and Archives

## A Woodland Garden Tour

Visit the private garden of Ted and Nadine Staunton

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

Visit their [website](#) for more about this enchanting garden.

Situated near the south bank of the Fraser River, this garden of about one acre has been handbuilt by Ted Staunton over the last 10 years.

Cost of tour is \$15. / \$12. for seniors (ferry fare included).

We will carpool (drivers needed), leaving on the 9.30 ferry, planning to return on the 3.30.

Bring your own lunch.

Cold beverages will be provided.

Remember to dress for the weather.

Contact Virginia Penny 604-947-2577 / [vpenny@gmail.com](mailto:vpenny@gmail.com) to register.

Payment can be mailed or dropped off to Susan Heth at  
 1770 Emily Lane, Bowen Island V0N1G2

Open to current Bowen Island Garden Club members only.

<http://www.tedstaunton.com/>



# The Gardens of Sechelt

Visit a number of delightful gardens  
in Sechelt and environs

Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

This tour is hosted by the Sechelt Garden Club. We will go to Gibsons on the Cormorant Marine water taxi, and from there be driven by our hosts.

We will meet at the Cormorant dock at 9.00am sharp.

Lunch is provided. Bring your own water if you like.

Remember to dress for the weather. A hat, sunglasses, and a sweater will all be appreciated if it looks sunny.

Cost of tour is \$40. Limit of two per purchase, 32 maximum.

Contact Virginia Penny 604-947-2577 / [vpenny@gmail.com](mailto:vpenny@gmail.com) to register.

Payment can be mailed or dropped off by May 25 to Susan Heth at 1770 Emily Lane, Bowen Island V0N1G2

Open to current Bowen Island Garden Club members only.



Thanks to all who participated in the Bowen Island Garden Club Plant Sale & Raffle  
Volunteers, Raffle Donators, Plant Donators, and Raffle Winners!