



CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB



February 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, Feb 22, 2016 General Meeting & Guest Speaker—1pm at The BIAC Gallery, Artisan Square, Bowen Island. Featuring Guest Speaker— (see Page 1 for Details)

Monday, Feb 29, 2016—Off Island Tour to Van Dusen Gardens. (See Page 3 for details)

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

Monday, April 18, 2016 General Meeting & Guest Speaker— 1pm at the BIAC Gallery, Artisan Square . Speaker - TBD

Saturday, April 23, Visit to Linnaea Green House- 11 am (details to follow)

Saturday, May 7, 2016 Annual Plant sale—start potting your plants now, consider volunteering.

Monday, May 16, 2016 General Meeting & Guest Speaker— possibly an evening meeting. Location & Speaker - TBD

Wednesday, May 25, 2016 -we will visit the private garden of Ted Staunton.

July/August: Open Gardens & Summer Garden Party - details to follow

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

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

December, 2016 Annual Christmas Party



GENERAL MEETING & SPEAKER SERIES

Monday, Feb 22, 2016

Green Roofs for Environmental Integrity

On February 22, 2015 (1PM) the Bowen Island Garden Club welcomes Grant Sauer and Michael Campbell of NATS Nursery located in Langley BC. NATS is a wholesale nursery specializing in Pacific Northwest Plants for the purposes of reforestation, reclamation, restoration, construction and gardening. In addition to growing plants for the above purposes, the nursery also specializes in the propagation and growth of plants for green roofs and in the installation of green roofs.

Grant and Michael will give us an introduction to their particular installation system and process, the environmental, social, and economic benefits of a green roof and lastly, suitable plants for a green roof. A slide presentation that depicts the amazing beauty of green roof projects that NATS has undertaken will accompany their discussion. This includes their work on the green roofs of the Vancouver Convention Center and a school in Inuvik.

Grant and Michael are eager to share their passion for plants and their expertise in the use of plants, both non edibles and edibles that a green roof can provide for both gardeners and non-gardeners alike. This passion is a reflection of their philosophy of gardening as a sustainable and essential element for the overall wellbeing of our planet and its inhabitants. Please join us at The Gallery at Artisan Square Everyone is welcome. Members no charge, guests only \$3.00.

Linda Barratt, Speakers Director

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

Our AGM was last month and we now have an Executive Board in place. As I noted last month, several of the 2015 Executive members have "retired." Once again I would like to acknowledge the contributions by our retiring Executive members: Membership Director, Pam Miller; Treasurer, Marolyn Anderson; Open Gardens Directors, Diana Kaile and Betty Morton; and Secretary, Denise Lockett. Taking over those responsibilities for 2016 are Shelley MacDonald, Membership; Sally Fitz-Gibbon, Open Gardens; and Lea Allen, Secretary. Sally stepped up at the AGM to ensure that our very popular and successful Open Gardens will continue this year.

The position of Treasurer is now open as the person who had originally offered is not able to serve on the Executive. Please put your thinking caps on and help us find the right person for this position. Let us not overlook the men who are Garden Club members. Most of our Executive have historically been women, but surely in the 21st century we should strive for a better gender balance? Our financial records have been maintained using Quicken, so our Treasurer need not be someone who has book-keeping or accounting expertise!

Winter is a quiet time for gardening, but spring is springing up—snowdrops, early daffs and a few other early bulbs are sprouting up, and I note new growth on a number of my perennials. It will soon be time for winter pruning and some of us still have a bit of fall clean-up to take care of. I wonder how those bulbs I bought in October are faring, still in their paper bags out in the garage? Oh dear. . .



Sharon
BIGC President

EDITOR'S NOTE



**Where I would like to sit—when the rains stop...smile!
Think spring...it's just around the corner....**

Marie Neys, Cuttings Editor

HELP! WE NEED A TREASURER!

The nominee for the position of Treasurer has been unable to take up the position, so we need someone to take on this job. It's not onerous—the filing system is set up in Quicken, which is straightforward and easy to learn. Many previous Treasurers have not had professional training, so do not let that deter you. One of our former executive members suggested there must be a male Garden Club member who could be persuaded to take this on.

The responsibilities are that the Treasurer receive and account for (but not collect) all monies, including membership and guest fees and special fundraising events; make appropriate payments on behalf of the Club; maintain a balance of the Club's B.C. Ferries Experience Card; monitor the Club mail and mailbox; complete Club banking, balance Club accounts and prepare monthly statements for the Executive and prepare an annual budget for approval by the Executive.

Essentially the Treasurer pays the bills, monitors the bank account and reports to the executive. The book-keeping system is already set up in Quicken. It is not a challenging job! If we cannot find a member willing to take this on, then we will have no choice but to hire a book-keeper to handle the book-keeping role with some of the Executive members authorized to sign cheques.

Sharon

OFF ISLAND TOURS 2016

Our tour schedule is filling up!

Leap into Spring

As announced at the January AGM: on Monday, Feb 29, we visit the Van Dusen Botanic Garden for a tour of their winter-flowering and early spring bulbs. After our morning tour we will enjoy lunch at Shaughnessy Restaurant. The \$35. fee includes a charter bus from Horseshoe Bay and back, lunch with a choice of four entrees plus tea or coffee, as well as the tour. The ferry cost back to Bowen will be extra.

We still have a few spaces, please contact Virginia at 604-947-2577 to register. Everyone who has registered should pay by February 8 to reserve their spot. Please send or drop off your payment to Susan at 1770 Emily Lane, tel: 604-947-0898 After Feb. 8, we will register anyone who is on our waiting list.

Later this spring:

Thanks to the efforts of Betty Dhont, on Saturday, April 23 we will enjoy our spring visit to Linnaea Nursery. This opportunity to buy from a wholesaler and visit this fascinating place is open to members only. Arrange your own transportation and arrive at 10.30 that morning. (Date to be confirmed.)

Wednesday, May 25, we will visit the private garden of Ted Staunton. This garden has been hand-built over the last twenty years. More details to come. Reserve your place at our April meeting or later.

Finally on Monday, June 13, we have been invited to visit Sechelt gardens by the Sechelt Garden Club. We are currently still finalizing this tour, but wanted to give you the date now. More details to come. Reserve your place at our April meeting or later.

Tour Co-ordinators

Susan Heth & Virginia Penny

ON ISLAND TOURS 2016

I am very happy to introduce myself to you as your Open Gardens coordinator. Suffice it to say that I love gardens; old gardens that are 'done' but growing in all their glory, new gardens that are still just a twinkle in the eyes of their owners and anything in between.

I love seeing how people have solved their problems of deer, rock and too much or too little water, sun, etc.. I love being in a garden, dreaming in a chair with a cup of coffee. I love rooting around in the soil after that last weed that won't come out and wondering how I will extricate myself once I have got it. I love roses and fruit trees and native grasses. I love ponds and all the wild life that they bring to a garden.

I love vegetable patches big and small where hummingbirds buzz after scarlet runner flowers and the cabbages show such promise. I must say that I love them all and, if you want to show off yours, get in touch with me about your garden. You can reach me at sallyonbowen@hotmail.com or phone me at 604-947-6904. I look forward to meeting you.

Also, If you wish to Volunteer to assist with this position...please contact Sally.

Sally Fitz-Gibbon
Open Garden Tour Co-ordinator

We are keeping you up to date

LOOK US UP ONLINE.... ANTIME!

www.bowenislandgardenclub.ca

www.facebook.com/bowenislandgardenclub

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER:

Thanks for your patience while I get accustom to my new position when renewing your memberships for 2016. Pam has done an incredible job in the past 10 years. To date we have 90 family memberships paid. Please take advantage of the Early Bird rate of \$15.00 After February 29th, the cost will be at the regular fee of \$20.00. This is 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.

Shelley MacDonald,
Membership Director

We WELCOME all NEW MEMBERS:

Darryl Grigg, Kirsty Johnstone, Burle and Martin Konopa, Mary Lepatourel, Barbara and Reg Nicholls, Karen Nicholls and Mark Pennington. Welcome to the Garden Club!

2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

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

Editor's Email: 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 Dunderave, Maple Leaf in Lynn Valley, Mandeville Gardens in Burnaby, David Hunter Garden Shops, Vancouver.

Be sure to show your membership card and ask if you receive a discount.



Imagine a city with all
Green Rooftops!

From November 2015
(missed in the January Cuttings)

The library garden was put to bed for the winter. I have enjoyed this project and it has been very rewarding to hear all the positive comments from the public. The Garden Club has done a fantastic job supporting this beautification project. I would like to thank all the volunteers who came out (some several times) to help weed, plant and mulch.

To Angela Powell, Sheila Webster, Sharon Haggerty and Linda Barrett – thank you very much for your help with the watering this summer. It was difficult to keep the new plants alive during this hot, dry summer but we did it! Thank you.

Kelly Smith

What the heck is xeriscaping?

By Mark Macdonald from West Coast Seeds.

Posted on Sept 12, 2014

www.westcoastseeds.com

Simply put, xeriscaping is a system of landscaping with water conservation as the priority. In areas that receive little rainfall in the summer, some thoughtful xeriscaping will allow flowering plants to thrive, adding visual appeal – as well as important forage for pollinators.

There are five principles that are key to xeriscaping success:

Plant selection is fundamental to xeriscaping because different plants have different needs when it comes to moisture, light, and soil. Drought tolerant plants are the most useful for this system, and there are masses to choose from.

Plant grouping keeps plants with similar needs together. If your property has a high, exposed point, as well as a low area where water gathers, you would select drought tolerant plants for the high area, and plants that require more moisture for the lower area.

Prepare the soil in your xeriscaped area with this in mind, adding more moisture-retaining organic matter where necessary.

Grading takes advantage of the natural tendency of water to move downhill, even over low grades. This is an important concept in xeriscaping design. Xeriscaped areas are rarely flat like lawns might be.

Mulching prevents weeds from growing, and it conserves what little moisture there is in the soil below. Mulching with finished compost or well-rotted manure helps to build soil's structure and fertility over time.

Irrigating efficiently is perhaps the most important concept to achieve a really robust and healthy xeriscape landscape. A carefully designed xeriscape might survive well simply using the naturally occurring rainfall. But in times of extended summer drought, some additional irrigation may be necessary. The trick is to irrigate efficiently. Watering deeply and infrequently encourages deeper root growth. Irrigate in the morning, before the heat of the afternoon. Drip irrigation is more efficient than overhead sprinklers.

Even if you don't have the resources to convert a whole yard or landscape, maybe it's time to focus on gardening with drought-sensitive plants. The list below is not exhaustive, but it shows how diverse the selection of flowers might be. All of these plants will perform well with minimal extra irrigation. Alyssum, Asclepias, Calendula, California Poppy, Chives, Cosmos, Gaillardia, Gypsophila, Hollyhocks, Iberis, Lavender, Marigold, Nasturtium, Poppies, Sage, Scabiosa, Sunflower, Thyme, Yarrow, Zinnia....



Name/s (1 or 2 per household): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

**BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM &
VOLUNTEER INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Everyone is welcome to become a member of the Bowen Island Garden Club. However, in order for the Club to exist, volunteers are needed. Many of our members already contribute. We urge all of you to help out, even a small amount of your time would be appreciated.

Below are some areas requiring volunteer time. Please check off any that you might be able to assist with and return to the Bowen Island Garden Club (BIGC). The mailing address is PO Box 271, Bowen Island, V0N 1G0.

Executive Positions:

President _____
Vice-President _____
Secretary _____
Treasurer _____
Newsletter _____
Membership _____
Social _____
Tours _____
Technical _____
Speakers _____
Open Gardens _____
Publicity _____

Plant Sale:

Sale Organizer _____
Sale Day Helper _____

Raffle:

Prize Co-ordinator _____
Ticket Seller _____
Pick up Prizes _____

Visits by Other Garden Clubs:

Visit Co-ordinator _____
Baking for Visit _____
Driving for Visit _____
Offering Garden _____

Beautification Projects:

Planting Daffodils _____
Other Projects _____

General Meetings:

Baking _____
Set Up/Take down
of Chairs _____

Hosting an Open Garden:

Is there any garden-related topic that is of particular interest to you?

