



January 2015

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

Upcoming

Monday, January 19th, 1 p.m.: Annual General Meeting at The Gallery @ Artisan Square. At this meeting the agenda will include the **Election of the 2015 Executive.**

Our **speaker** will be Janis Matson, talking about **Ground Covers and Vines: The Practical and the Diverse.** Details on page 2.

Monday, February 16th, 1 p.m.: General Meeting at The Gallery @ Artisan Square. Speaker and topic tba.

Wednesday, February 18th: Our first Garden Tour of 2015 to the **Sun Yat Sen Garden** in Vancouver. Meet in the ferry line-up at 10 a.m. Details on page 2.

Monday March 16th, 1 p.m.: General Meeting at The Gallery @ Artisan Square. **Charlie Sale of Bucket Hill Gardens** in Deep Cove will be speaking about **shade gardens.** Bucket Hill Gardens is located on steep slopes, a gardening challenge that is well-known to many of our members.

*The virgin snowdrop, like a lambent fire,
Pierces the cold earth, with its green-streaked
spire.*

– Samuel Coleridge (1842)

From Our President

All the very best to you and yours in 2015. May your garden flourish and bloom! Spring will emerge in its own good time and tempted though we might be by the odd *Hellebore* flowering, bulbs pushing through and other signs of spring there are still a few weeks to go with itchy fingers to get out there.

This year will bring a change in the presidency of the Garden Club which has continued to grow and develop. We already have new blood on the Committee and hopefully this will increase at the AGM. It is great to have new ideas and ways of operating which will hopefully keep the Club vibrant. It is not only down to the Committee but also to the participation of the members, be it in joining tours, opening your garden, attending meetings and parties, or offering a hand when volunteers are needed. I wish the incoming executive all the very best and thank you for your support during my tenure.

– Sheila



Our January Program

This month the Bowen Island Garden Club welcomes Janis Matson who will give a presentation on ground covers and vines.

Janis is the owner and operator of Shoreline Landscape Design Ltd. in Vancouver. She has a diploma in landscape and horticultural design, and a floral design and arborist certificate, as well as extensive experience working in the landscaping business. Janis is also an educator in the horticultural apprenticeship program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and an instructor at Van Dusen Botanical Gardens.

Her presentation will focus on the many uses of vines and ground covers. She will introduce us to the many design possibilities that these types of plants can help us achieve in our gardens. She will touch on what plants to pick for a desired effect, for particular spaces and for problem areas in a garden. And lastly, she will discuss the management of these plants, their growth patterns and pruning requirements.

Please join us at the Gallery at Artisan Square on January 19, 2015 at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome.

– Linda Barratt
Speakers Coordinator

Membership

Now that 2015 is upon us, if you haven't already done so, it is time to renew your Garden Club membership. The yearly fee is \$20.00 for a family (2 people per household) membership.

HOWEVER, there is an Early Bird incentive. If you pay before the end of February, the fee is only \$15.00.

A membership in the Garden Club remains one of the best deals around. Not only does it include fabulous speakers, great tours, wonderful open gardens, and annual Christmas and summer parties, but also discounts at many local garden shops. (Always remember to ask if discounts are given to garden club members before purchasing.) Members also receive "*Cuttings*", the Garden Club's monthly newsletter.

All memberships are due for renewal in January no matter what month you joined or last paid. If you are unable to come to the next meeting to pay in person, please send a cheque, made payable to the Bowen Island Garden Club, to P.O. Box 271, Bowen Island, B.C., V0N 1G0. (Yes, this is still the correct address for those who are wondering about the box number.) Please fill out the volunteer and information sheet attached to this newsletter and include it with your cheque.

If you wish your receipt and membership card mailed to you, be sure to include a self-addressed and stamped envelope with your renewal!

Happy New Year to our many members.

– Pam Miller, Membership Director

Garden Tours 2015

**Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese
Garden Tour
Wednesday, February 18**

Last month we mistakenly said this tour was to be February 16, but of course that is our regular meeting date! Please note the corrected date in your calendar.

The Garden Club will visit the **Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden** in Vancouver on the eve of Chinese New Year festivities. This is an especially auspicious time to visit the garden and experience its celebratory atmosphere.

Prior to our visit, we are planning an optional Chinese Dim Sum Lunch at a local establishment, the Jade Dynasty Restaurant. We will meet at the bus in the ferry line-up at 10am and plan to return on the 4.30 ferry.

The cost is \$23 for gold card members, \$26 for adults, plus the optional cost of the lunch at \$15. If you do not wish to join us for dim sum then lunch is on your own.

You can sign up by contacting Virginia Penny at 604-947-2577 (vpenny@gmail.com) or Susan Heth at 604-947-0898 (sheth@shaw.ca) or at the Annual General Meeting January 19th. Your seat is reserved once payment is received.

Your 2014 Executive

Past President:	Betsy Hodgins	9621
President:	Sheila Webster	0114
Vice President:	Monica McKinley	2318
Secretary:	Denise Lockett	2587
Treasurer:	Marolyn Anderson	0792
Cuttings:	Sharon Haggerty	2244
Membership:	Pam Miller	2349
Social:	Nadyne Hindle	0557
Speakers:	Linda Barratt	0631
Open Gardens:	Diana Kaile	0320
	Betty Morton	604.910.0765
Publicity:	John Lawrence	6953
Tours:	Susan Heth	0898
	Virginia Penny	2577
Workshops:	Marolyn Anderson	0792
Technical:	John Hazell	2441
Editor's E-mail:	smhaggerty@shaw.ca	

Behind the Scenes

This month, in preparation for the Annual General Meeting and the election of our 2015 Executive, we are including a brief description of the roles of each of our Directors. These are the people who ensure that Bowen's Garden Club activities are available to all of our members every month throughout the year: great speakers, beautiful and informative Open Gardens, and Tours of fascinating gardens located elsewhere. On top of all of that, we also sponsor spring and fall trips to the fabulous Linnaea Nurseries and the Annual Plant Sale. What more could a Bowen gardener ask?

President, Past-President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer are probably self evident. However, we do not necessarily expect the Vice-President to succeed to the Presidency. He or she is responsible for acting as chair person when and if the President is unable to attend a meeting. More often than not, the V P does not continue on to serve as President.

Next in the list is the **Editor of Cuttings**. In addition to collecting information and compiling our monthly *Cuttings*, the editor manages the membership email list and sends other notices and information to the members.

The **Membership Director** is responsible for collecting the dues from people who are either renewing their memberships or joining the club. All applicable information must be updated or added to the master list. Receipts and new membership cards are issued at the time of payment. The names of new members are then sent to the editor of *Cuttings* so that these people can be officially welcomed in the newsletter. These names also need to be passed along to the person responsible for printing the membership cards and name tags. Name tags are kept in a special holder which needs to be brought to each meeting.

Any money collected must be carefully recorded and then given to the treasurer who makes the bank deposit.

The Membership Director also prepares and keeps track of the "sign-in" book at each general meeting and other Garden Club events.

At Open Gardens, the Membership Director welcomes visitors, has everyone sign in, and collects the drop-in fee from non-members.

The job of Membership Director requires one to be constantly updating the master list and to work closely with both the editor of *Cuttings* and the Treasurer. It is a job requiring no particular skills and allows one to meet and get to know lots of fellow Bowen Islanders.

— Pam Miller

The **Social Director** has many fingers in the pie! She ensures that we all have yummy snacks at our meetings and at the Open Gardens. And a very important responsibility—she plans, organizes and coordinates our two parties each year: the Christmas Party and the Summer Garden Party. The Director also stores the supplies that are needed for these activities.

— Nadyne Hindle

The **Speakers Director** selects and organizes speakers for the Garden Club's monthly meetings. Speakers are identified from various sources such as the BC Garden Club Association list of speakers, garden tours, suggestions from the membership and research of speakers at other garden clubs. Each year the coordinator attempts to choose a variety of different topics directly related to gardening or of interest to gardeners. The coordinator is responsible for the following organizational tasks: initial and ongoing contact with the prospective speaker, negotiation of an honorarium for approval by the club executive, obtaining pertinent information from the speaker to write an article for the newsletter *Cuttings* and our local paper, the *Undercurrent*, ensuring the speaker has audio visual assistance, travel and ferry information, introducing and thanking the speaker at the meeting and writing a thank you card. The coordinator also arranges and purchases the monthly door prize.

– Linda Barratt

Every year, a handful of Bowen gardeners generously open their gardens on a Sunday afternoon and the community comes to visit. **Open Gardens** are a popular program for the garden club and a primary way that we recruit new members. The work of the Open Gardens Directors begins in the winter when we begin searching out locations and coaxing our friends and neighbours to share their gardens big and small. The rest is easy. A whole team of volunteers steps in to handle publicity, signs, entry gate and refreshments. As visitors, we delight in seeing exciting combinations of flowers and foliage, discovering new plants that thrive here, and marvelling at unique approaches to managing Bowen's abundant rocks, sparse soil, tall trees and pesky deer. If you would like to volunteer to coordinate or have a garden to share, we would like to hear from you. A good way to let us know is with a note on your membership renewal form.

– Diana Kaile and Betty Morton

The **Publicity Director** is responsible for ensuring that our meetings and other activities are advertised in *The Undercurrent* and on the Bowen Forum. He or she collects information from the various Directors and passes it on as appropriate.

The **Tours Coordinators** organize off-Island visits to gardens of note, as well as nurseries, and other sites of particular interest to Garden Club members. Typically these outings go by chartered bus. They are usually on weekdays when gold card users can travel at a discount, although occasionally they are scheduled on a weekend. We make arrangements for the visit including lunch (sometimes it is bring-your-own), the necessary transportation, and then publicizing the outing and collecting fees.

These tours are another way in which the Garden Club provides worthwhile activities for its members. Recent tours have visited several nurseries and the UBC Nitobe and Botanic Gardens. We have planned a visit to the Sun Yat Sen Chinese Garden in downtown Vancouver on the eve of Chinese New Year. Look for more information on this tour in this issue of *Cuttings*.

We are planning, for later in the spring, visits to private gardens on the North Shore and in Vancouver, as well as a couple of nursery visits. Again, once these are finalized, there will be notices in *Cuttings* and at our monthly meetings.

– Susan Heth and Virginia Penny

The **Technical Director** is responsible for consulting with our speakers to ensure that their needs are met. John Hazell, the current Director, also looks after preparing our Membership cards, signs for our various activities, and cards with our logo that are used as Thank You notes by the other Directors.

Other Club activities are coordinated on a one time basis – the **Annual Plant Sale and Raffle** and the exchanges with the **Gibson's Garden Club**. And not to be overlooked are the twice yearly visits to the **Linnaea Nurseries** which Betty Dhont looks after.