

CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

September 2018

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:



Speaker

“Conifer Use in Your Garden” with Jerome Terhaar this coming Monday, September 17th at 1 pm, at Lisa O'Donnell's place (limited space, see sign up details below).

The Bowen Island Garden club welcomes Jerome Terhaar owner of Pacific Northwest Propagators, a nursery specializing in conifers and Japanese maples. Jerome will discuss the different propagation techniques their nursery uses depending on the type of cultivar and time of year. He will also provide

practical information regarding types and ideal planting locations for growing conifers. Lastly, he and Lisa O'Donnell will take us on a guided tour of Lisa's seaside garden filled with exquisite conifers. You will experience Lisa's vision of a conifer garden, her love of conifers and see how she has transformed an existing garden and added more beauty to her seaside landscape.

Please note that this presentation takes place at the home of Lisa O'Donnell at 1829 Arbutus Point Rd. on September 17, 2018 at 1 PM, rain or shine. Because of limited space and limited parking this presentation is open to only 40 garden club members. Those who wish to participate must e-mail the speaker coordinator, Linda Barratt (labarratt31@gmail.com) or phone Linda at 604 947 0631.

The first 40 people to register will be the participants. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to you. Parking is on the street but not in the Cul de Sac. For those

unable to stand for 15 to 20 minutes please bring a chair. Dress warmly and wear sensible shoes as you will walk along rock paths. Refreshments and sweets will be served. Plants will be available for purchase.

Linda Barratt, Speaker Coordinator

Open Garden



Open Garden at the home of John and Josephine Riley, 620 Laura Road, Sunday, September 16th, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Please join us for the last Open Garden of the 2018 season. Although the property has already been sold, John and Josephine Riley are kindly opening up their beautiful property one last time before moving to Vancouver Island.

"The garden and orchard on this five acre property has been slowly enhanced over the past twenty-eight years. This and the surrounding area was logged in the 1089s before being subdivided. We

are the original owners. The terraced property has south-facing exposure with a seasonal creek that provides irrigation for the garden and orchard. The "soil" consists of a shallow layer of sandy clay and an abundance of rocks of all sizes.

The upper part of the garden has a rockery and an area where a large number of species rhododendrons are planted. This landscaping project was completed in 2006 with invaluable help from Andre Chollat.

For those interested in something different, we have a living museum of rare apple varieties collected over several decades. Most of them are trained using the oblique cordon method, i.e., growing on a 45 degree angle and about 26" apart. The orchard also includes pears quince, figs, almonds, and even a medlar (native to Iran).

In the Fall, we process barrow loads of apples for sweet cider using an Italian crusher and bladder press. The browsing deer look forward all year to feasting on the mounds of crushed apples.

There are many ornamental trees and shrubs scattered throughout the property. Some were planted 25 years ago from two gallon pots and are now handsome trees.

We are often asked the name of our favourite apple. Our response, usually, is: 'The last one tasted.'" - John and Josephine Riley

We hope to see you at the Riley's this coming Sunday, September 16th.

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

Self Drive Tour



Upcoming Linnæa Nurseries Tour, in Langley, on Saturday, October 13th 2018.

Linnæa is a whole sale nursery and as many of you know, specializes mainly in indigenous trees, plants, ferns, shrubs and grasses, but also carries a great variety of other flora of excellent quality. We always have a fantastic time finding all kinds of very special treasures. I'm sure Wendy will host us with hot coffee and her famous muffins. Especially for new members it will be a wonderful experience to see such a beautiful nursery.

This tour is for Garden Club members only. We would like to remind garden club members to please not to phone

the nursery with questions about availability and details of plants etc, as Linnæa is a wholesale nursery not a retail nursery. If there are any questions, I can collect them and see if I can get answers for you.

A sign up list will be at our first Garden club meeting Monday September 17th or please email me to sign up for the tour.

Betty Dhont, blushrambler@shaw.ca

Past Events

Gibson's Garden Tour



On July 10, 2018 thirty-three Bowen Garden enthusiasts boarded the Apodaca and headed to Gibson's for a day.

We were met on the dock by members of the Gibson's Garden Club who chauffeured us around to five special gardens.

Each garden was uniquely special, the owners willingly answered our questions

and guided us through their private space with joy.

We enjoyed lunch looking out onto the Salish Sea and visiting with our neighbours to the West.

One gardening tip we were given is that deer can be kept away from favourite plants with by spraying a fermented combination of urine and egg liberally on their leaves. This concoction may even keep your neighbours at a safe distance!

A big "thank you" goes out to the Gibsons' Garden Club for their kind hospitality.

Lyn van Lidth de Jeude, Board Member

President's Message

Dear Gardeners

What a lovely Garden Club Summer Party we had at the Lords. The garden is so wonderful and there are delightful paths to wander and special visual treats in so many angles. Anna-Marie outdid herself with the Scavenger hunt, making us find all the paths again.

Thanks so much to the Lords for having us and special thanks to Anna-Marie for adding to the fun. Also kudos to Ann Ramsay and Kendra McEown for the fabulous social convening....not to mention all the delicious goodies contributed by the attendees. And I think we had close to a record number

of attendees according to our great numbers person, Holly Cleator.

This summer there has been a number of enquiries about the identity of the large flowering tree in front of the library. Tina, the librarian supplied the following information:



Trees and Plants

- 1 **Sophora Japonica, Styphnolobium japonicum** (L.) (Pagoda tree, Chinese scholar tree, Japanese pagoda tree)
 - o Planted on Earth Day 1990
 - o Located on the east-south-east side of the original library building.
- 2 **Ornamental Cherry Trees. White Blossoms**
- 3 Grounds maintained by Bowen Island Municipality – Public Works Department

The Saphora Japonica has lovely little flowers when you look at them closely (included is a close-up photo from the internet). They are now a brown carpet below the tree. Although I did find one

to compare with this photo and verify its relatively tiny loveliness.



On another note, the drought this summer has played havoc with our gardens and we can more clearly define our truly drought resistant plants.

Highlights from my own garden include: the wisteria by my driveway continues to send out shoots almost obscuring my ability to get into my car so I cut it back regularly. Also along my fence is a wild sweet pea with many colourful blooms.

We welcome with great relief the September rains. There will be bulbs to plant as we move into the next seasons and anticipate spring. Last call for ordering bulbs is at the next general meeting September 17th.

Lynn McArthur, BIGC President



Membership

The cost of joining or renewing membership for 2018

is now \$10. (Club membership expires at the end of December.)

The garden club welcomes the following new members: Judy Christensen, Phil Dowad, Madeline Duff, Micheline and Les Meszaros, Jeff Rosenfeld, and Laura and Chuck Venhuizen.

*Holly Cleator,
Membership*



Call for Social Coordinator/s

The position of Social Coordinator has opened up on the Bowen Island Garden Club Board of Directors. The responsibilities of this position are to organize the Garden Club Christmas Party, and the Summer Garden Party. We invite anyone who is interested to get their feet wet by helping us organize this year's Christmas Party on December 10th, prior to our annual AGM in January. For more info please contact us at: bowenislandgardenclub@gmail.com

Bulb Sale Volunteers wanted

A huge "thank you" goes out to Joyce Gagnon for organizing this year's Bulb sale. The bulbs will be distributed in October. We had lots of orders, so if you would like to help us with bulb distribution, please email us Attention: Joyce Gagnon at bowenislandgardenclub@gmail.com

BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER

Many organizations operate with only volunteers – the Bowen Island Garden Club is one of these organizations. Our volunteers come in many stripes and colours. They may be the people who take your membership payment, host Open Gardens, set up chairs for meetings, or help at the plant sale. Some people are active on a regular basis for many years running. Do you know such a person in the Garden Club?

The Garden Club would like to acknowledge these people by recognizing their contributions to the club with a designated STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER name tag for the year. Please complete the attached nomination form telling us what makes your nominee a STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER - reply to bowenislandgardenclub@gmail.com by October 31st.

The club executive will select the top 4 nominations for the HONOUR ROLL recognition. The annual STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER will be selected by the top nominees to receive their personalized name tag and Club recognition.

STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS: (suggested criteria: volunteer activities – plant sale, meetings, Executive positions, etc.; length of volunteer service; impact on community)

YOUR NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

In other news

"Incredible Edibles" BC Council of Garden Clubs, Saturday, October 20th, 2018, 4 pm Fall General Meeting at the Firefighters Banquet & Conference Centre, 6515 Bonsor Avenue Burnaby, BC .

"This Fall we focus on the INCREDIBLE EDIBLES: what to grow and how to grow them! Our guest speakers will focus on those two simple questions. Guest speakers are Karin England, Mike Lascelle, and Andrea Bellamy. Join us on October 20th and find out what they can teach us."

Anyone who is a member of the garden club can attend. Please go to their website at: www.bcgardenclubs.com for more information on how to purchase tickets.

Gardening Tip of the Month

Here's a tip I picked up last January at our Annual General Meeting: **Use a mailbox to store your small gardening tools.**

This idea struck a chord with me as our "garden shed", aka garage, is an uphill hike from our house. This has tended to interfere with my previous habit of spontaneous bouts of weeding on summer mornings, in my pjs with my cup of coffee in tow. I am not one who

weeds with regularity so when the mood strikes, I need my tools handy.

Happily this spring I was perusing the Knick Knack Nook one day, and there was a lovely mailbox, perfect for the purpose. I hung it by my door and had easy access all summer whenever the mood struck.

Who knew that one of the upsides of no home mail delivery service is you can use your mailbox instead as discreet mini tool shed to house your trowel, pruners, fork, and garden gloves.... without confusing any postal workers!

Melissa Rahme, Cuttings Editor



If you have a gardening tip you would like to share, please submit to bowenislandgardenclub@gmail.com

Attention: *Melissa Rahme.* -
