



June 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:

June Open Gardens

On Sunday June 16th from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Please come and visit the following three gardens nestled high on Cates Hill. These are at the homes of **Monica and Roy McKinley, Jovanka Buchanan, and Sheila and Dan Mcburney.**

NOTE: Because there are three gardens on this tour, we are asking that everyone first sign in at Monica's --937A Rivendell Drive.

Once there, you will be given a "ticket" telling you the addresses of the other two homes. Then you can either tour Monica's garden or go off and see the others first. Refreshments will be set up at Monica's. We encourage people to start at different homes as they are all within walking distance and we would like to avoid congestion. "There is lots of

parking in the two small parking lots below Tir-Na-Nog and also on Rivendell Drive.

Garden #1

**Monica McKinley's Garden
937A Rivendell Drive.**



Our host Monica writes:

It is truly amazing what lots of sun and good soil will do to make a garden incredible. I was moving from my old shade garden of 20 years to a new site literally a rock pile on a hill facing south east. So, I knew it was going to be interesting, fun, and challenging.

I began several months before moving to our new home on June 30, 2017, by potting up many perennials from my old garden. Also, in April of 2017, I bought quite a few young trees and shrubs from Linnaea. I had checked out sales at garden stores in the early spring of that year, looking to replace some of my favourite plants that were being left at my old home.



In May of 2017, I had Richard Mayo install a deer fence, complete a rock wall, build another rock wall around the utility boxes and also build several steps down to the lower "wild" part of the garden. I also got permission to plant drought resistance grass in the exposed dirt on the steep hill to ensure that the soil wouldn't erode during the winter rains. So, at the end of June 2017, with a huge delivery of 15 yards of good soil, I was ready to begin my "instant garden" of approximately 90 pots filled with various sizes and shapes of

trees, shrubs, roses, vines, hostas, and tons of small perennials and ground cover. Over the following weeks, my neighbours were surprised at how fast the new garden developed.

I had a friend build a huge wooden box under the edge of the sundeck overlooking the newly sprouting grass on the hill. This

is where I planted several climbing and shrub roses from Select Roses of Langley B.C. Honeysuckle, clematis, and hydrangea thrived in a very short time. I also took advantage of the large rock support wall at the front of the house and planted lots of succulents and some thyme, all of which are doing amazingly well.

I have found a totally different climate here from my old shade garden and have had some challenges with the intense heat, wind and dryness in the summers. Also, the freezing winds of this last late winter did result in the loss of a few of the younger plants.

I have slowly encroached on the "wild" garden under the two smaller cedar trees with the hope of eliminating the weeds, by planting more hardy plants and ground cover. However, I am finding that this will be an ongoing battle. I have also planted

a few areas with clover, as I have lots of different types of wild bees visiting my garden.

I have encouraged lots of birds with my year round bird feeders. Several of my neighbours are also feeding the birds, so we have at least 8 to 10 different types of birds visiting. I also have three hummingbird feeders which I enjoy watching. Creating this garden has been a fun experiment, as I have never started a garden from scratch. It still has the sense of an English country garden and this spring, I have a few seedlings starting from last year's plants. Poppies, snap dragons, and aquilegia are popping up everywhere."

Garden #2

Home of Sheila and Dan Mcburney

Our host Sheila writes:

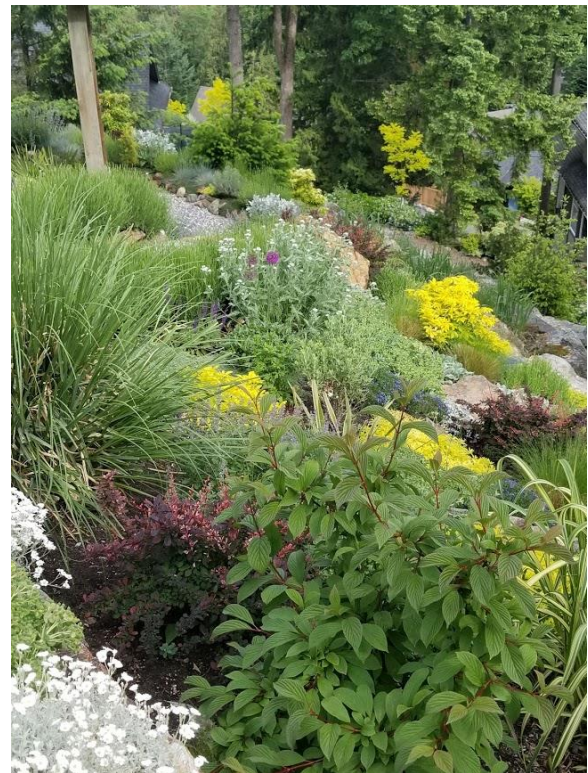
When we purchased our house on the hill in August 2015, the "garden" was all blasted rock with nothing growing but two huge cedar trees that had been left behind. The builder had considered that the front "yard" would be a driveway and perhaps, one day, a garage would be built. However, we wanted to have as much green space and garden as possible, so we started our garden project.

Today, the cars are out near the road and the fenced in yard has a big grassy play area, patio, and several rock gardens. One large garden is well established, while

others are recently built and planted. The property has an irrigation system which really helps for early morning watering and establishing plantings as it is a bright and sunny piece of land. The area of garden that runs down the side of the house is planted mostly with succulents as this area is very hot and dry all summer long."

Garden #3

Home of Jovanka Buchanan



Su Rickett writes about Jovanka's Hillside Haven:

Like many gardens on Bowen, Jovanka's is on many levels and is perched at the top of a hill.

In 2016, I was invited to take a look at possibilities for the site and after a lot of discussion, a plan was made for dealing with access that was safe and easy, pathways linking the various areas, planting that was full and interesting and of course, everything had to be as deer resistant as possible.

To achieve this, two excavators came on site and started construction. A sort of 'machine ballet' ensued and within a week, stairs were built, several levels of rock retaining walls had beautiful new soil in them and gravel was brought in for pathways. Soon after, Jamie Ogden was approached to build the lavender stairs and the wood and storage sheds. Once the main thrust of construction was completed, planting began in earnest.

Beautiful grasses and shrubs, fragrant lavender and herbs and all manner of lush plants were installed, making a garden full of texture and scent.

Jovanka gets pleasure from this garden year round. There really isn't a month that something isn't in bloom. Trees have been added for fall colour and every area has masses of spring bulbs poking up as soon as the snow has gone.

The stunning lavender stairway nudges up to a very productive herb garden. In summer the garden is atwiltch for butterflies and hummingbirds.

In the fall the main grass event starts to happen and as the site is quite windy,

because of its exposure, the garden beds dance with every gust.

This really is a garden that is full of treasures and with a nod to her Australian origins, Jovanka is now starting to collect Eucalyptus, to remind her of home.

Even with its different levels, the garden invites the visitor to stop and pause, enjoy the spectacular view and enjoy this lovely hillside haven."

We hope to see you all there for this trio of Open Gardens on Cates Hill on Sunday, June 16th.

Pam Miller and Anna-Marie Atherton
Open Garden Coordinators

JULY OPEN GARDENS

**Open Garden Sunday, July 14th,
2019 from 1:00-3:00 P.M.**

**at Doug Elliott and Owen Plowman's
place. 680 Minnows Lane**



Our hosts Doug and Owen write:

"Dear Guests, Welcome to 680 Minnows Lane.

We arrived here in May 2004 and inherited most of the lovely rock garden in the backyard at that time. Since then we have extended, relocated, and created numerous plantings and structures. Last year we added a garden shed / greenhouse (have a look inside). The garden is a blend of wild and cultivated areas. The lane-way bisects the oddly shaped property almost down the middle.



It's been a few years since we last had an open garden and as there're now new things to see, we felt it was time to invite everyone back. July is one of the times when the garden is at its prettiest. Please feel free to wander about the property and see all its different corners. We invite you to sit and relax on the front porch or on the garden swing or in any other place you fancy.

In the fenced backyard you will find the more formal (though the style is very informal) part of the garden. There are a series of trails to walk through the Alder

Wood. While doing this, you will most likely pass the sauna (if you want to have a look inside please remove your shoes). The horseshoe hanging by the door was dug up while planting daffodils some years ago and it may be from one of the workhorses from back when this area was logged. The outdoor bathtub is an old cast iron tub that we found rusting in the field behind the gazebo. We restored it and made a special place where you can have a soak among the birds and flowers. It turns out it was the family bathtub from the home of Minnow Davies who the lane is named after.

Outside of the fence there is lots more to see. This is a property of trails that you can explore. You will find some benches and seating areas where you can sit and relax. Don't miss the area across the lane by the duck pond. Stop for a sit in the gazebo next to 'Benedict' our gargoye, and our latest addition, a small folly of 'The 3 Graces'. In this area there is also a lovely trail running from the street sign on the corner parallel to the road. At this time of year, it is lined with tall ferns and horsetails. Next to this trail we have just planted a row of decorative trees that will need a few years to grow in. From the front of the house you can walk down the stone steps through a deer proof planting to the cul de sac.

Enjoy our garden" - Owen and Doug

ADDITIONAL JULY OPEN GARDEN

SUNDAY, JULY 28TH 1:00-3:00 pm

**At the home of Judy and Jim Taylor
736 Arbutus Place at Bowen Bay**

Growing in containers is much more spontaneous than permanent plantings. If something works really well, we keep it in mind for the following year. If plants don't perform well, they aren't invited back.



Many of the more permanent plantings overwinter in the greenhouse: the sago palm, the aeoniums, the eucomis and the salvias, for example. These plants form the background in many of the pots.

To these, more than 80 pots are added, their arrangement depending on pot and plant colour.

We are pleased to be able to include Judy Taylor's fabulous deck garden in the 2019 Open Garden program.

On her deck, Judy has more than 80 pots filled with stunningly beautiful plants. As this is an opportunity you won't want to miss, please be sure to reserve July 28th on your calendars.

A special "Thank You" goes to Kathy Leishman for making this visit happen.

Judy writes:

"Our deck garden is a source of constant enjoyment."

There is the blue side, consisting of mainly blue pots containing cool colours in the pink, blue, and purple range. Then there is the brown-orange side where the pots are predominantly brown or green and the plantings are vibrant oranges, yellows, etc.

We invite you to come and enjoy our deck garden."

We hope to see you all at both of our unique and beautiful July Open Gardens.

*Pam Miller & Anna Marie Atherton
Open Garden Coordinators*

Our Annual Summer Garden Party
Sunday, August 11th
1:00 to 4:00 pm

Diana and Michael Kaile's place
835 Hummingbird Lane

Please mark **August 11th** on your summer calendars. Diana and Michael Kaile have kindly volunteered to host our annual summer party in their beautiful garden. Everyone is asked to bring either a savory or a sweet. Refreshments will be provided.

Although this event is for Garden Club members only and not open to the general public, any family and friends that may be visiting you are welcome to attend.

Mark Your Calendars for fall

Saturday, October 19th is our next Linnaea Visit. Details to follow in the September issue of Cuttings.

Sunday, September 22nd will be the last Open Garden of 2019. It will be a follow up to the **September 16th General Meeting** at which time, Phil Gregory will be speaking. He and his wife, Jackie Bradley, will be inviting people to view how they grow vegetables in a way that mimics nature in order to improve the soil and its associated biological community. Their home is at 1380 Adams Road. More details in the next edition of Cuttings (September).

Past President's Message

Bonuses in the Garden

This season in my garden has been lush. Each rose seems to have more buds and blooms than ever. I can't believe the lushness of the lavender which volunteered in my back yard. I usually plant deer resistant bacopa in containers in my front driveway. One container produced many bacopa seedlings from last year's plants surrounding this year's addition of a different species. I have transplanted many of these seedlings to other pots and they are doing very well.



For a long time I had been very reluctant to move plants in my garden to see if they will flourish in other areas. A couple of years ago, we moved my struggling Black Lace Elderberry to a seaside location and it has loved it, bearing many large creamy pink cluster flowers against the purple-black foliage this spring.

Given its exuberance, careful pruning will have to be the next step!



And there are Club member bonuses to look forward to this summer with the trio of situations for the June Open Garden, and two Open Gardens in July and then our Summer Garden Party in August. Look for details of these events in this issue of Cuttings, which will be the last issue for the summer. The next issue of Cuttings will be coming out in September.

I look forward to seeing you at these special events.

Lynn McArthur, Past President

Su Rickett's Column

One is a lonely number

During the summer months, we can only hope that our gardens have turned out, or are developing into the gardens we dreamed of in the deepest snows of February. Remember sitting by the woodstove with the seed catalogues and a stack of gardening books, planning out how summer was going to look?

For some plants, June is a little early to answer a resounding yes or no to whether our devilish plans were successful. For many of us, plants are still waiting their final placement in the ground and wait patiently to be planted.

Planning a successful garden and one that brings great pleasure can be fraught with mishaps and mis steps. One of the most common that a great number of us are guilty of is 'horticultural guzzling' at the nursery trough. 'Couldn't resist it.' 'I just had to have one.' And, the perennial favourite, 'I loved it and I have no idea where it's going, but I will find a place.'

Yes, we are all martyrs to the plant that jumped out at us and begged us to be taken away from the cruel world of the garden centre. The biggest problem is that we end up with gardens where these 'little treasures' get lost and their original intentions forgotten, as we stuff them in anywhere before they croak on us.

A sad by-product of this practice, is that these usually come home with us as individuals. The reality is, one plant by itself, is a lonely number. Certainly, there are plants where singletons are best – rare trees, huge spectacular shrubs and little jewels for the rock garden, but really, how good is that one lavender, thyme or geranium going to look by its lonesome in the back forty? If that solo plant can't be ignored and just has to come home, just think how happy it will be if you include some of its 'traymates'. Always think in odd numbers, fives, or sevens, or more, if you have room. Planted in blocks or ribbons together, they always look better than one solitary, and ultimately sad soul.

When planning out your garden, the one thing that will turn it from mediocre and ordinary to fabulous and memorable, is repetition. Whether it is by repeating a colour throughout, or a plant that links different areas. Duplication planting is going to lead your eye through the garden and make you want to move forward within it. If its just a mixed bundle of 'licorice allsorts' its very hard for the eye to settle and find a direction and the garden will feel jumbled, even if its very tidy and organised. By repeating a plant, the eye feels settled to move from one to the next with ease.

For some reason, the lead in my garden is the colour yellow. It's by no means my very favourite colour, although its starting to creep up the charts, but I love

every shade of it and, for me, every shade oozes happiness and light.

An all yellow garden might be a tad like eating scrambled eggs at every meal but it is such a fabulous colour to partner up with. Or is it? I find yellow and red a bit too 'gas stationy' but each to his own. Yellow and all the different variations are just fun to play with. One plant I thread through my garden is *Oreganum vulgare*



'Aureum' - yellow oregano. It's drought-proof, deer-proof, smothers weeds and boy, you can partner this with so many plants. Try it in golden puddles under *Berberis* 'Rosy Glow' for a nice contrast. With any blue flowering plant, be it lavender, *Lithodora* 'Grace Ward', catmint, *Baptisia australis* or Russian Sage, it looks divine. Plant purple alliums underneath it and have them burst through an acid yellow carpet come May. Sidele it up to feathery silver artmesia, or velvety lambs ears and it looks delicious.

Or my favourite, have a dark, Phormium 'Platt's Black' erupt out of its centre.

I'm also drawn to shrubs with yellow foliage, Choisya 'Sundance' is gorgeous planted alongside plants such as maroon berberis, purple smoke bush and coppery coloured Physocarpus. For those of us, slowly discovering the joys of conifers, many come with gold needles that look amazing in the cooler months. In a dark and shady garden, the yellow speckled and splotched leaves of Aucuba are very handsome and lighten things up, repeating Golden Hakone grass around in the same area lifts the spirits and brightens the gloom.



Choisya "Sundance" with maroon berberis behind

Any of these shrubs planted nearby, but not too close. to one of the most iconic yellow leaved trees is the Honey Locust, Robina pseudoacacia 'Frisia', will make a real statement. Many Japanese maples either start off yellow leaved in spring or

finish up the year in a gold cloak. Thread any of these shrubs through the garden and your eyes will be gently pulled from one similar tone of golden yellow to the next.

It doesn't always have to be a colour that trains your eye around your garden, its equally successful with a plant or plant group. Boxwood is a good example of a plant that is easy to have run like a continuous thread throughout the garden. It comes in various forms, Buxus 'Suffruticosa' is the true dwarf and is universally used for low hedging. B. 'Jaket' is a tall narrow form and quickly grows into a hedge six feet high. And for us folks who still want a yellow glow, B. 'King Midas' is worth looking for.

Ornamental grasses are another plant that works well in recurrent form. The feathery Stipa tenuissima, Mexican Feather grass does a great job, while it ripples and waves around, it catches the eye, which leads one to the next.

Whether it be bold use of a colour echoing throughout a small border or the entire garden, or a reprise of a plant that acts like a little black dress among your garden, the art of repetition is a clever way to pull your garden together. With luck, the single orphans and strays will finally get some company.

Have a wonderful summer.

Su
Member at Large

Plant Sale 2020.

While you are weeding and scratching in the garden please bear in mind that there is another plant sale coming up in 2020.



Small plants potted up now and kept over the winter might not all survive, but those that do will make good strong plants for the next sale. If they are kept in a shaded and protected place in a corner of your garden, watered when you do your other plants and given a drink of 20-20-20 in the early Spring they will be beautiful by the time the sale comes around.

This last year was brutal late in the winter but normally, if one can pack some leaves or mulch around the containers for the winter all will be well. Dividing is best left until Fall. There is potting soil at the home of Dale Harding at 1050 Harding Rd. Good luck

*Sheila Webster,
Member at Large*



Membership

For details on how to renew please visit the club website

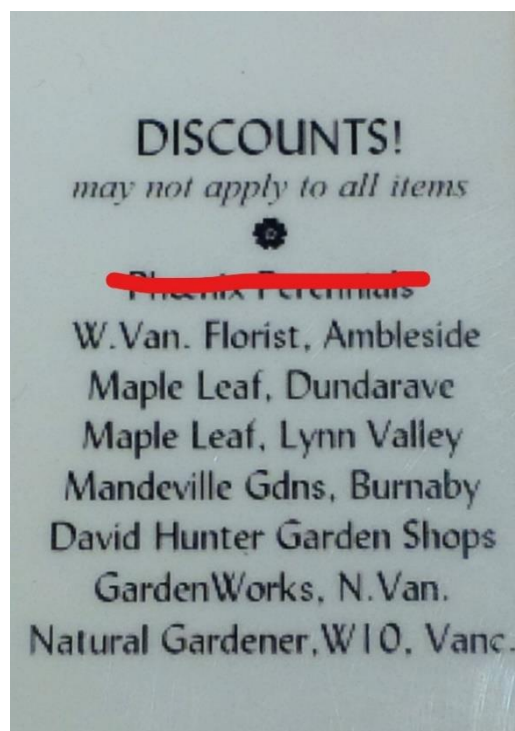
www.bowenlandgardenclub.ca and follow the links.

The garden club welcomes the following new and returning members: Lisa Arthur, Karen Davis, Patricia Laursen, Sandy Miller, Tom Rafael, and Jacqui and Mimi Scoretz.



Holly Cleator, Membership Coordinator

Please note a change of stores that give discounts to club members (listed on the back of your membership card).



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Bowen Islanders: Do You Eat Food?

Of course!?! And, even though we live on Bowen Island, which makes food a little more expensive, we will continue eating food. Silly.

But, seriously, we need your help. Please take our short survey on The Future of Food on Bowen Island to help us understand how our local food web (system) can be better, especially given the challenges of living where we do and threats to our future food supply (climate, weather, etc.) Here's the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B9TJGJM>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
hellobifs@gmail.com
please share the link!

Photos of our latest events...

by John Hazell

Su Rickett cuts down to encourage bushing out



Jason Crouch shows us where to make a cutting



Janis Treleaven's shoulder is healing!



Photos from the Sim's Open Garden

By John Hazell



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