

CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

May 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

"Composting Possibilities for Bowen Island" Monday, May 28th at 7 pm at the Annex Cove Commons

The Bowen Island Garden club welcomes Peter Taggart who will give a presentation on green waste composting possibilities for Bowen Island. Peter, a retired metallurgical engineer, is a Bowen Islander with a keen interest in green waste composting and technologies that are available for small communities.

Peter's presentation will be based on current and projected green waste production on Bowen Island, many site visits and his research. He will discuss practical and environmental advantages for on island composting as well as the potential business opportunities such a facility could provide on Bowen Island.

Please join us for what will be a very educational presentation and discussion. This evening presentation offered by the Garden Club is an opportunity for all islanders to become acquainted with the garden club and all it has to offer members and to learn about green waste composting. Members no charge, guests \$3.00.

Linda Barratt, Speaker Coordinator

Open Garden



Open Garden, Sunday, June 3rd, 1-3 pm, at Kathleen Sullivan and Clive Jones place, 455 Sunset Road.

Please join us as the Garden Club hosts it's second Open Garden of the 2018 season. Parking is either on Sunset or Anastasia Road. Those people with mobility issues may drive up to the house.

Pam Miller, Open Garden Coordinator

Kathleen writes:

"It's a good thing we love to garden as our property on Sunset Road has been a distraction from any idle pursuits. When we moved here 17 years ago, you could not see Mt. Gardiner to the north or the ocean to the west as hundreds of alders had completely taken over the property.

Therein began a slow plod toward taming the land. Early on Su Rickett was on board, helping to create a small potager off the south side of the house. Gradually beds were developed leading up to the house on the east side as a concerted effort was made to xeriscape the area. Perhaps this is what led Fiona Beatty to describe it as "low maintenance" in her article in GardenWise magazine. We begged to differ, as the weeds and the deer kept us hopping.

As Su became busier, Kim Rich stepped in to help create a "tropical garden" in a heatsink abutting a large rock in the lower, west facing garden. Mel Hoskin created the final touch, fashioning a small pond just off this garden.

For several years, we attempted to develop and maintain the property on our own. However, the year the watering system failed in July when we were on holidays and all the vegetable seedlings died, was the final straw. We needed help! For many years, Inga Behm worked with us to get it all under control. The apple trees, the roses, and the cutting garden were reigned in and continue to thrive. Tanya Sorrentino was my "Monday Gal" during this time, helping me with her keen eye for placement and reorganization.

Over the past 4 years, the focus has been on hardscaping, creating a natural stone patio, tiered gardens, and a beautiful entry to our home, thanks to Andy Rainsley. Now Penny Fisher, (our great friend and resident gardener), Clive, and I are undertaking the last (ha ha) garden off the north side of the house. We'll be gradually exposing the beautiful rocks and building more beds for blackberries and ornamental trees. As we head toward retirement, we can easily see why people say they are so busy now that they don't know how they ever found time to work."



Self-drive Tour:

Petals and Butterflies Farm Nursery Self Drive tour. May 23, 2018

Reminder: We are planning a self-drive visit to Gwen Odermatt's garden in south Langley, on Wednesday, May 23rd.

Virginia Penny, vpenny@gmail.com or 604-947-2577

Past Events

Our 2018 Plant Sale and Raffle

The Plant Sale Quartet would like to thank all those who helped to make this year's plant sale and raffle so successful.

Without the numerous volunteers who helped receive, sort, price, arrange, set up, tally, cashier, and clean up, the actual Sale Day could not have taken place. Also, without the people who picked up the donations and those who sold tickets outside the General Store and Ruddy Potato – rain or shine – there would not have been a raffle.

Then there were the wonderful donations made by businesses both on- and off-island, that became the raffle prizes. The generosity of these individuals and organizations was amazing.

Lea Allen and Virginia Penny deserve special recognition for taking on the mammoth job of soliciting the prizes and organizing their pick up. All we can say is "Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!"

Another huge "Thank You" goes to all of you who took the time to "pot up" plants and transport them to the school. Your contributions were vital to the success of this sale. The plants were varied and numerous. Without them, there couldn't have been a sale.

A special "Thank You" goes to Sarah Haxby, Community School Co-ordinator at the Bowen Island Community School, for allowing us to use school space for our sale. We are fortunate to have the use of this ideal venue and are extremely grateful.

Another big "Thank You" goes to the folks at both The General Store and The Ruddy Potato who allowed us set up our raffle tables outside their front doors.



Last, but not least, we want to thank the many people who bought plants and raffle tickets. We really appreciate your support. It was amazing to see so many people happily waiting in line, eager to find just the right plant for their garden. Another heartfelt "Thank You!" to you folks.

*Your Plant Sale Quartet,
Holly Cleator, Diana Kaile, Jen Ritchie &
Pam Miller*

Many thanks again to our Raffle donors:

Raffle prizes were generously donated by the following businesses and individuals:

Annie Davidson— *Bowen Island*
Art's Nursery Ltd.— *Surrey-Port Kells*
Atlas Pots— *North Vancouver*
Body Vitality Massage Therapy— *Bowen Island*
Bowen Building Centre Ltd.— *Bowen Island*
Bowen Island Flower Shop— *Artisan Square*
Canada Safeway— *Caulfeild Village*
Dykhof Nurseries and Florist— *North Vancouver*
Fresh Street Market— *Ambleside*
GardenWorks Ltd.— *North Vancouver*
Home Depot of Canada, Inc.— *Vancouver*
Hunters Garden Centre (David Hunter Garden Centers)
Lee Valley Tools Ltd.— *Vancouver & Coquitlam*
Leong's Nursery Enterprise Inc.— *Burnaby*
Linnæa Nurseries Ltd.— *Langley*
Maple Leaf Garden Centre— *Dundarave & Lynn Valley*
Northwest Landscape and Stone Supply — *Burnaby*
Pharmasave— *Caulfeild Village*
Phoenix Perennials & Specialty — *Richmond*
Snug Cove General Store— *Bowen Island*
The Ruddy Potato— *Bowen Island*
van Noort Bulb Company Ltd. — *Langley*
West Coast Gardens— *Surrey*
West Vancouver Florist Ltd.— *Ambleside*

All proceeds from The Annual Plant Sale and Raffle are used to support
Horticultural Education
The Garden Club's Speakers Programme
Community Beautification

President's Message

Dear Gardeners

Thanks to all who participated in the Plant Sale on Saturday led by the awesome Plant Sale Quartet. It was a very successful sale and raffle.

The bad news: the barrel for which I have had responsibility is on its last legs but the daffodils and nepota made it pretty attractive as they would for a crumbling



castle from medieval days. Now that the flowers are rather spent, I am arranging for help from the muni to have the barrel disappear. Several years ago the Garden Club arranged for the barrels to be placed near mailboxes but most have disappeared to oblivion thanks to time and weather.

The good news: I have a pink dogwood tree in my back yard planted about 20 years ago. In recent years it has had fewer and fewer flowers. Last year it had none. Over the past several years we have done judicious pruning and put lime on its base. This year it is amazing,



covered with blooms. And the blooms are bigger than I ever remember them.

Nature can be our friend when we get it right.

So I'm hoping you will find the right solutions and in our Garden Club are some amazing people with such helpful information.

Lynn McArthur, President

Membership



Please note that members who have not renewed for 2018 by May 20 will not receive club communications after that date. For details on how to renew please visit the club website (www.bowenislandgardenclub.ca), then follow the links.

The garden club welcomes the following new members: Marcel Bally, Jlonka Bally-Brown, Lyne Brindamour, Jovanka Buchanan, Jane and Rodney Bucke, Dorothy Buckland, Frank Dale, Mark Ellis, Robert and Lynn Forbes, Kathy and Keith Fuller, Melissa Harrison, Fae Logie, Suzie McArthur, Julia and Brian McCaig, Christine Miller, Patricia and Rudy North, Caroline Orr, Jenny Penberthy, cont....



Sukie Scarfe, Nancy Shang, and René Weideman and Kitt White.

Holly Cleator,
Membership

As I always grow my daffodils in pots, I will take this extra step to ensure healthy bulbs for fall planting.

Anna-Marie Atherton, Vice President

Note from Cuttings Editor:

If you have a gardening tip you would like to share, please submit to bowenilandgardenclub@gmail.com attention: *Melissa Rahme, Cuttings editor*

www.bowenilandgardenclub.ca

facebook.com/bowenilandgardenclub

bowenilandgardenclub@gmail.com

This Month's Gardening Tip

Narcissus Bulb Fly – how to prevent this fly from ruining your daffodil bulbs.

I recently visited the Bradner Daffodil Show and had the good fortune to sit beside a lady (Sadly I can't remember her name) who is the granddaughter of Fenwick Fatkin, who started in daffodil show in 1928.

She and her sister still operate the Fatkin family farm growing mainly daffodils. After the flowers have completed flowering, they dig up the bulbs and allow them to dry out.

At this stage, they submerge the bulbs in very hot (not boiling) water for about an



hour. This process kills the narcissus bulb fly larvae. Remove the bulbs from the water and again, allow them to completely dry before storing them in a dark location.