

CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

March 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:

"In Search of Wild Rhodos" with Jacquie and Tony Clayton. Monday, March 18th at 1 pm at the Legion.

The Bowen Island Garden Club is pleased to welcome Jacquie and Tony Clayton. They will take us with them on a journey

through Sikkim and West Bengal India where they traced the path of western plant hunters to find wild rhododendrons. The Claytons are long time members of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society, the American Rhododendron Society and the Rhododendron Species Foundation. They have a vast knowledge of species and hybrid rhododendrons which thrive in the Pacific Northwest.

Cuttings - March 2019 continued

Please join us March 18, 1 pm at the Legion for this fascinating talk. All welcome. Members free, guests \$3.00

Lyn van Lidth de Jeude
Speaker Coordinator

Self Drive Tour to Linnaea Nursery, Langley on Saturday, April 13th



Our next visit to Linnaea Nurseries in Langley will take place on Saturday, April 13th rain or shine. This is a unique opportunity for Bowen Island Garden Club members only. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Holly Cleator at: hollytim2014@gmail.com.

Linnaea is a wholesale nursery and does not sell to the general public. While we do not receive wholesale prices, we do receive a sizeable discount on all plants-----the larger the plants, the bigger the saving. If you are landscaping a new property or redoing an existing garden, Linnaea is the place to go. Even if you "don't need" or "have room for" any more plants, Linnaea is a fun place to visit. You soon find out that you can always make room for a few more plants.

Linnaea specializes in indigenous trees, plants, ferns, shrubs and grasses, but also carries a great variety of other flora. The inventory is always changing so each visit presents new surprises.

Please do not phone the nursery with questions about plant availability. As Linnaea is a whole sale nursery, it is not staffed for this purpose. John Folkerts will be available on the 13th to assist you.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the general meeting on March 17th or you can contact me directly at: pe7miller@gmail.com.

I will send out directions and other relevant information closer to our visit. As John and Wendy like to know how many people are coming, please let me know if you are unable to attend after putting your name on the list. I will be contacting John just prior to our visit.

Thank you,
Pam Miller

Open Gardens 2019

The 2019 Open Garden season will begin on **Sunday, April 14th** at the home of Ainslie and David Manson (1815 Vista Road). Please mark this date on your calendars and look for further information in the April edition of Cuttings.

Pam Miller and Anna-Marie Atherton
Open Garden Coordinators

Past President's Message

Our new President Janis Treleaven has recently had surgery and is improving slowly but surely. She hopes to be back with the Exec soon. We wish her a speedy recovery!

Our Club is always looking for volunteers. Any little bit you can do is helpful! Potting up plants is something to keep in mind for the May sale although I don't think many of us can get going yet given the frost in the ground! But soon...



There is an exciting project you will hear about at our March meeting. There will be two commemorative benches in front of the library and Su Rickett, one of our Exec members has re-designed the garden beds in front of the library. Some plants will be moved. Some will be pruned. Some new plants will be added. On April 6th we're hoping to have a work half day and get the project accomplished with as many people helping out as possible. Mark your calendar! Su will be supervising and will provide educational tips as we go. As dedicated gardeners a key project element

will be renewing the soil and we hope there will be the right muscles to help with this.

We believe this project will be a special welcoming site for arrival on Bowen Island complementing the Gateway Garden.

Lynn McArthur
Past President

Su Rickett's Column

Zooming Ahead

I seem to have spent a great deal of time in the last month looking at the sky. Perhaps you have too? Certainly, during February we had many days of dirty grey clouds laden with the next snow fall. This was followed by brilliant, clear cerulean days that were only a momentary pause between one system and the next. Currently, looking over towards Vancouver Island, the clouds are starting to stack, the wind is picking up and more flurries are forecast. What is a gardener to do?

All the encouragement and reminders from last month went out of the window a few days after the first snow fell. Too cold to do many things. Patience and waiting it out seemed okay then, but hey, it's March. Shouldn't we be out there dancing among the daffodils?

It really depends of where you live and what your little micro climate will allow. Along with all that 'to do' list for February are now the jobs for March. Thank goodness for longer evenings of light ahead.

If your ground remains frozen and snow covered, stay indoors and get your nose stuck into Christopher Lloyd or Beth Chatto. Sadly, both have now passed, but remain great gardening mentors, full of wise advice and knowledge. If your garden is thawing nicely and you perhaps are chuckling because you've pretty much had a 'green' February, then you can get caught up in the spring frenzy.

There is something so delicious about cleaning up after such a cruel winter. When you step outside the garden is full of twittering birds who are revelling in decaying leaves and the possibility of nesting material in your dump pile.

Once we finish having minus temperatures at night, you will start to see all sorts of plants perk up and it will be time to pounce.

A good sign for when to prune roses is to wait until the forsythia is in bloom. You'll notice how this differs in various locations and it is Mother Nature's signal that some places are ready, while others are not. She always knows best, so pay attention.

Before you start, pour some Isopropyl alcohol into a jar and dip your pruners into this between rose bushes. This will prevent transferring diseases between plants. After you have removed broken and diseased branches and anything that is crossing over, observe the shape of your rose and

look to make the shrub like a beautifully shaped chalice. Cut to outside buds with sharp pruners and don't be afraid. Remember, you are in charge and have a hold of the secateurs. Clean up all your rose prunings and tattered leaves and do not put them in the compost, Bag them up for curbside pick up, burn them or perhaps you have a ravine or wooded area to dispose of them in.

If you haven't done so already, it's always a good idea to remove the previous seasons



leaves from hellebores. They are often martyrs to black spot and any remainder left on the plant will just infect the current seasons foliage. Use the same process as roses to sterilize your snips between plants. Be careful around all the new flowers – a sharp pair of needle

nose snips comes in very handy here. Again, because of disease, do not put any of this debris into your compost. It can take the same route as your rose prunings.

Time to remove all the detritus from underneath evergreen trees and shrubs. Southern Magnolias, although evergreen, drop a lot of their leaves over the winter, making room for new ones. Same with rhododendrons and pieris. All that heavy leaf litter makes ideal homes for slugs. It's dark and damp and the perfect

environment for the sultans of slime to thrive.

Once you have them cleaned out, applying a couple of inches of compost, well rotted manure, or both will make them happy and get them off to a good start.

If shrubs are looking a little pale and wan (aren't we all) a good handful of Epsom Salts around the drip line will perk things up. Roses especially love this.

A few warmish days and some sunshine will waken up some of the early perennials. Stalwarts like Brunnera, columbine and iris will be poking through and like to have any of last seasons debris removed. If you left old flower heads of rudbeckia and sedums up for winter interest, these can now come down too.

After such a long winter, many of our lovely ferns are looking past their party best. Once they show us their curled-up fronds almost ready to unfurl, their existing foliage can be removed.

Supposedly around the 21st March, we will hopefully see some more normal temperatures. In what seems like a topsy-turvy start to the garden, it really has been a difficult time to predict and decide on when to attack the great outdoors. Take advantage of any sunny, dry days and spend time in your garden removing the cloak of winter. Spring is on its way.

Su
Member at Large

Membership



A gentle reminder that it is time to renew your membership for 2019 if you haven't done so already. The annual fee is \$20 for a family of two residing in the same household. You can renew in person at a monthly general meeting or by mail. To renew by mail, please complete the membership form available on the club website (www.bowenlandgardenclub.ca then follow the links) and include it with your cheque payable to the Bowen Island Garden Club. The club mailing address is P.O. Box 271, Bowen Island, V0N 1G0. Thanks to those members who have already renewed for 2019.

Holly Cleator,
Membership Coordinator

Other News

Vancouver Rhododendron Society

March 21st 2019: Presentation and Cocktail Hour: Topic: "Plant Hunting – The Experience of an Amateur" by Ole Jonny Larsen

Location: VanDusen Floral Hall 5251 Oak Street at West 37th Avenue (access off West 37th) Vancouver, BC

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019.

Time: Doors open at 6:30 pm

Admission \$10.00 at the door (no advance registration required and fee dropped if membership is purchased). Free admission for ARS members and associate members.

For more information please go to:
<http://www.rhodovanbc.org/>

*Submitted by Sheila Webster
Member at Large*

Garden helpers wanted

Su Rickett has openings for garden helpers. This is part time, casual labour. Flexible hours. Good remuneration. If you have gardening skills already, that's a plus, if not, be prepared to learn lots. Work includes: planting & installation, garden maintenance, watering and much more. Must have own vehicle. If interested please text Su 604-828-3675

Photos of Bowen this past month



Photo by Melissa Rahme



Photos by Jen Ritchie



Stay in touch with us

Keep up to date with us by checking out our website on a regular basis,

www.bowenlandgardenclub.ca

Follow us on facebook: www.facebook.com/bowenlandgardenclub

Email us at: bowenlandgardenclub@gmail.com