



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

February 2015

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

Monday, February 16th, 1pm: General Meeting at The Gallery @ Artisan Square. All Welcome. **Guest Speaker :** Laura Dohney from David Hunter Garden Center. See details on page 2

www.davidhuntergardencenters.com

Wednesday, February 18th: Our first Garden Tour of 2015 to **Sun Yat Sen Garden** in Vancouver. Additional details on page 3.

www.vancouverchinesegarden.com

Monday, March 16, 1pm: General Meeting at The Gallery @ Artisan Square. All Welcome. **Guest Speaker :** Charlie Sales 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.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015: Open Garden Tour Charlie Sales will open his Bucket Hill Garden in Deep Cove. Details to follow.

April, 2105 Semi-annual Visit to Linnaea Nurseries. Exact date to follow

<http://www.linnaeanurseries.com/>

Monday, April 20, 1pm: General Meeting at The Gallery @ Artisan Square. All Welcome. **Guest Speaker:** details to follow.

Tuesday, May 5, 2015: Open Garden Tour Free Spirit Open Garden tour. Details to follow.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I must admit it seems very strange to be writing a President's Report instead of compiling the next issue of *Cuttings*. I guess I'd better get used to it!

As I write this we are in the midst of that off again, on again rain that has been hitting the west coast. As I hear about those interior communities getting two metres of snow, rather than rain, I am reminded of my years in Ontario and all that shovelling! Give me rain any winter day!

Our new executive met earlier this month and we have an amazing group of people, busily planning activities for 2015. Linda has lined up a wonderful variety of speakers for our General Meetings, starting with Laura Dohney (growing and nurturing fruit trees and shrubs on Bowen). That is one I do not want to miss! Betty and Diana are finalizing plans for our spring to fall Open Gardens. They are always looking for ideas for host gardens. We also need a host garden for our Annual Summer Garden Party—any volunteers? Susan and Virginia have a full schedule of tours planned, starting with the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden Feb 18th. Betty Dhont co-ordinates our visits to Linnaea Nurseries, and I'm sure we are all working on our shopping lists for the April visit.

Saturday, May 9th is scheduled for our Plant Sale. Please consider donating some of your favourite perennials (as many need to be divided and this supports the sale.) As soon as this rain lets up I must get to dividing mine! There is topsoil in my driveway (486 Melmore) waiting for you! There are also some pots available, although we could probably use more. I hope to see you Monday, February 16 at 1pm at our upcoming General Meeting .

Sharon Haggerty, President

OUR FEBRUARY PROGRAM

MONDAY, FEB 16, 2015—1PM

How to Integrate Fruit Trees and other Small Fruits into your Garden on Bowen Island

On **February 16, 2015** the Bowen Island Garden Club welcomes **Laura Dohney** who will give a presentation on how to integrate fruit trees and other small fruits into Bowen Island gardens. Laura is and has been the manager of the David Hunter Garden Center on Broadway Street, Vancouver for 10 years. Laura is a certified garden designer and a former Master Gardener. She is a self-taught horticultural teacher and an avid gardener herself. Laura's presentation will focus on fruit trees and other small fruit varieties that can be grown successfully on Bowen Island. She will discuss seasonal care, planting guidelines and soil amending for fruit trees. She will also touch on bugs and simple diseases that affect the health of fruit trees as well as how to protect trees and plants from deer.

Please join us at the Gallery at Artisan Square on **February 16, 2015 at 1 PM**. Everyone is welcome.

Linda Barratt, Speakers Director

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many people join organizations, such as the Bowen Island Garden Club in order to meet people who share a similar passion. My reason was not so altruistic. I joined 2 years ago, believing it would be a great place for my Mother In Law, Chris, to meet islanders -as she is the true gardener in the family. But with each meeting, open garden tour or get together, that I attended, I found myself enjoying both the people and the subject matter. As an Artist I found myself studying gardens, plants and the people within. The colors, play of shadow and light... all spoke to me.

I find my passion for gardening developing and I find the passion in the Bowen Island Garden Club members intoxicating! I'm proud to take on the responsibilities of **Cuttings** Editor and appreciate the opportunity! Marie Neys, **Cuttings** Editor

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER:

Time is quickly running out if you wish to take advantage of the Early Bird rate of \$15.00 for a membership in the Garden Club. After February 28th, the cost will be at the regular rate of \$20.00. This is for a family of two residing in the same household. If you wish to mail in your renewal, please make your Cheque payable to the Bowen Island Garden Club and send it to P.O. Box 271, Bowen Island, V0N 1G0. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with a completed information form. Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed.

Pam Miller, Membership Director

We WELCOME all NEW MEMBERS:

Shelley and Craig MacDonald

Beth and Patrick Hawkes

Marie Martinez

Nancy and Ken Huntingford

Also, we welcome back Lynda and Paul Truelove after a year's absence.

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

1. Monthly CUTTINGS NEWSLETTERS, delivered to your inbox. Those who do not have email will receive in regular mail.
2. Bi-monthly BC GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTERS, delivered to your inbox.
3. GUEST SPEAKERS.
4. GARDEN TOURS in the lower mainland.
5. OPEN GARDEN TOURS on Bowen.
6. SUMMER & CHRISTMAS parties.
7. DISCOUNTS ON PURCHASES AT

Phoenix on Bowen in Village Square,
Phoenix Perennials in Richmond,
The Flower Shop in Artisan Sq.,
West Van Florist in Ambleside,
Maple Leaf in Dundarave,
Maple Leaf in Lynn Valley,
Mandeville Gardens in Burnaby,
David Hunter Garden Shops, Vancouver
GardenWorks in North Vancouver
Natural Gardener W10, Vancouver &
2 trips to Linnea Nurseries in Langley

NOTE: ASK if discount is given before shopping, you may need to show your membership card and register.

GARDEN TOURS 2015

We have some exciting offerings planned for this year. One of the benefits of membership in the Bowen Island Garden Club is the opportunity to take part in our tours at a very reasonable cost.

Our first tour of 2015 takes place on Wednesday, February 18. We will enjoy a dim sum lunch at the Jade Dynasty restaurant followed by a tour of the Sun Yat Sen Chinese Garden.

Sun Yat Sen Chinese Garden participants please take note: we will meet at 10:15 a.m. under the wooden rain shed as walk on passengers for the 10:30 am ferry. Peter King will meet us with his bus in Horseshoe Bay and drive us to lunch. It is a short block and a half walk from the Jade Dynasty to the entrance of Sun Yat Sen. At 3:00 p.m. Peter will meet us at the Garden with his bus before making his first express pick ups downtown. We will arrive in Horseshoe Bay in time for the 4:30 p.m. ferry. All expenses will be covered by the cost of your tour and lunch payment. You may wish to bring along some extra spending money as there may be a bit of time for shopping in Chinatown prior to our 2:00 pm tour.

Please keep the following spring tours in mind: **Charlie Sales**, our March speaker, will open his garden in Deep Cove to our club on Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Free Spirit in Langley will host a tour of their private home garden and nursery on Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Susan Koelink in Kitsilano will show us her garden in early June and a second garden will be announced for the same date.

The Gibsons Garden Club will host us in the latter part of June.

More details about these tours will be available at our monthly meetings and in future editions of *Cuttings*.

Susan Heth & Virginia Penny, Tours Directors

CHRISTMAS 2014



If you have photos of events, flowers, etc please feel free to send them...I will do my best to include them

Email: marie@marieneys.com

2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

Past President	Sheila Webster	0114
President	Sharon Haggerty	2244
Vice President	Tamsin Miley	
Secretary	Denise Lockett	2587
Treasurer	Marolyn Anderson	0792
<i>Cuttings</i>	Marie Neys	0684
Membership	Pam Miller	2349
Social	Nadyne Hindle	0557
Speakers	Linda Barratt	0631
Open	Diana Kaile	0320
Gardens	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 Email: marie@marieneys.com

TO TAKE A CUTTING

By Sheila Webster

Softwood is the term used to describe the stage of growth on a deciduous woody plant that's neither the new, green growth at the end of a shoot nor the stiff, woody growth near the base of the stem. The softwood stage lies between the two. The best way to know if a shoot has reached the softwood state is to bend it. If the softwood snaps, the shoot is ready to be taken as a cutting. If the shoot is very flexible and doesn't snap, it's too green. If the shoot is not flexible at all, it is too far gone.

From a healthy plant, cut off a growing tip 4-5 nodes long. Then with a sharp knife or cutters remove all but 4 leaves at the tip, and keep a "tail" below the bottom node of approximately 1/2". The remaining leaves may be trimmed to half their size, to help with evaporation, but this is not essential.

Dip the bottom tip into a rooting hormone. There are several on the market, but an effective mix can be made by soaking willow leaves in water for approximately 10 days...it works just as well as a commercial hormone. The rooting hormone speeds up the development of roots.

Insert the bottom tip of the cutting into well moistened growing mix, making sure that the bottom node is in the soil as this is where the roots will grow from. The potting mixture should be 60 percent perlite and 40 percent soilless mix, which provides the good drainage and maximum aeration that new roots need. Cuttings placed into a mix that holds moisture are apt to rot before rooting occurs.

There are various containers for rooting cuttings but I have found a good one to be a 6" pot as one can then use a 2 liter plastic bottle with the top cut off to make a cover to keep the moisture in.

Alternatively, push 3 or 4 supports in the pot and cover with a plastic bag. Each pot will take 4 or 5 stems, more is not a good idea because when they are ready to be potted up the roots will be entwined. The pot or pots should be kept in a warm, not hot, place—away from direct sunlight. I find the top of my fridge is a good place.

Some cuttings root faster than others. I've found that the best way to check for root development is with my eyes. After 4 to 5 weeks, I can check the bottom of each tray for small white roots that may be poking out of the drainage holes of the pot. If none are visible, another way to check for root development is by gently pulling on a cutting. If it shows resistance, then it is a good bet that roots have developed. If it pulls out of the tray easily, I inspect the stem for very fine root hairs. If no roots are apparent, I place the cutting back into the tray, reseal the bag and wait for a few more weeks before checking again.

Apart from checking for roots, it is a good idea to keep an eye on your pots to ensure that there is no wilt or mildew (spray with a fungicide) or that the pots are not drying out.



"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

-William Wordsworth

Name/s (1 or 2 per household): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM & VOLUNTEER INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Everyone is welcome to become a member of the Bowen Island Garden Club. However, in order for the Club to exist, volunteers are needed. Many of our members already contribute. We urge all of you to help out, even a small amount of your time would be appreciated.

Below are some areas requiring volunteer time. Please check off any that you might be able to assist with and return to the Bowen Island Garden Club (BIGC). The mailing address is PO Box 271, Bowen Island, B.C. V0N 1G0.

Executive Positions:

President _____
Vice-President _____
Secretary _____
Treasurer _____
Newsletter _____
Membership _____
Social _____
Tours _____
Technical _____
Speakers _____
Open Gardens _____
Publicity _____

Plant Sale:

Sale Organizer _____
Sale Day Helper _____

Raffle:

Prize Co-ordinator _____
Ticket Seller _____
Pick up Prizes _____

Visits by Other Garden Clubs:

Visit Co-ordinator _____
Baking for Visit _____
Driving for Visit _____
Offering Garden _____

Beautification Projects:

Planting Daffodils _____
Other Projects _____

General Meetings:

Baking _____
Set Up/Take down
of Chairs _____

Hosting an Open Garden:

Is there any garden-related topic that is of
particular interest to you?