

CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

June 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:

Open Garden

Sunday, July 8th (1:00-3:00 pm) at the home of Ann Ramsay and Chris Pollard. 512 Eves Road

Please join us for our third Open Garden of the 2018 season. Ann and Chris have kindly agreed to let us visit their beautiful garden on Eves Road which is located at the bottom of Adams Road in Sealeigh Park. Parking will be on Eves Road and entry will be through the gate to the vineyard.

Pam Miller & Anna-Marie Atherton, Open Garden Coordinators



Ann writes: *"When we bought our cottage property in 1994, the only plantings were the natural ferns and trees. At the time that we built a new cottage in 2001, some clearing of the land was required as well as 'serious' blasting of rock for the foundation area. This meant that we had tons of BC granite which we proceeded to use for retaining walls and steps. However our property then looked like a quarry! So the main aim in planting was to soften the quarry look between the garage and the cottage with a garden open to the deer. But, of course, the deer nibbled our "deer proof" plants.*

Many years later, we caved and put up a fence, and have been adding a wider array of planting material. It is a challenge as it is a shady area. We also claimed back more garden area from the deer by fencing some of the area below the cottage and closer to the ocean.

In 2009, we had 16 dump truck loads of blackberries removed from the deep top

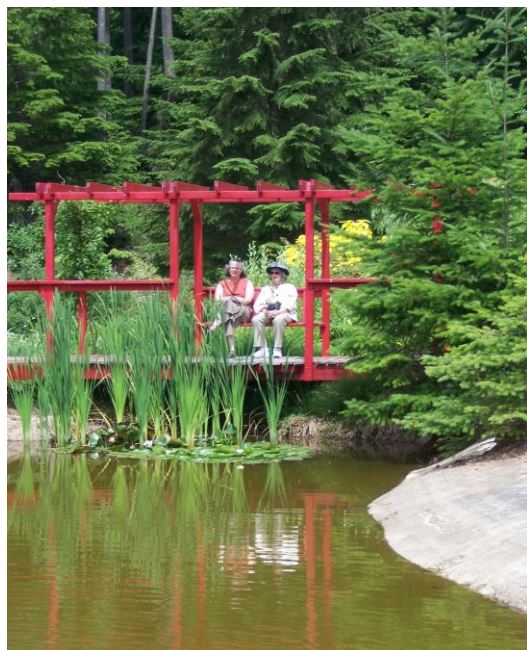
soil at the back of our property on Eves Road. Over the next couple of years, once fencing was in place, we planted roses, a perennial bed, a small vineyard, fruit trees and bushes, a vegetable garden and a grassy area for badminton and croquet etc. The bonus is that this section of the property can be 15 Fahrenheit degrees warmer than the oceanfront.

In 2013, we planted another garden (a 'walk by' garden) near our greenhouse and garage on the path to the 'back forty'. We have left the forested area between the two gardens unfenced so that the deer many eat to their 'heart's content'.

Summer Garden Party

**Sunday, August 5th (1:00 TO 4:00 pm)
at the home of Eileen and John Lord.**

391 SALAL ROAD



Eileen and John Lord have kindly agreed to host our annual Garden Party at their beautiful home on Salal Road. So, please mark August 5th on your calendar and come prepared to take part in Anna-Marie's Scavenger Hunt. Although the Garden Party is not open to the general public, any friends or family you have staying with you are welcome to join us. Everyone is asked to bring either a savory or sweet. If you have any folding chairs, please bring these along. Refreshments will be provided.

Parking will be on Salal Road but as the driveway is long and uphill, a shuttle will be provided for those carrying heavy dishes as well as for those with mobility issues.

If you have never been to the Lord's, you are in for a real treat.

Ann Ramsay & Kendra McEown, Social Coordinators

Eileen writes: *"When we moved to our home on Salal, there were only two houses on the street. Now there are about 16. The street has matured, as has our garden. It is an informal garden where uncovered rocks form the backbone. Salal and native trees and shrubs flourish and plants are allowed to self seed (well, within limits). We are about 800 feet above sea level so plants need to be hardy to survive here. One of our Follies is a Longhouse which should provide useful cover during the Garden Party. There are also many cozy spots in the garden to sit and relax. We look forward to welcoming you to our garden."*



*The Garden Club's Garden Party
at
Eileen and John Lord's
391 Salal Road
August 5th, 2018, 1:00–4:00 p.m.*

*Please bring a sweet or savoury dish to share.
Beverages will be supplied.*

Day Visit to Gibsons

Tuesday July 10th

There will be a day trip to Gibsons' Garden Club on Tuesday July 10th. We will be traveling on the Apodaca and leaving Bowen at 9:15 am sharp, being collected at 4.30p.m, which will get us back to Bowen at approximately 5:15 pm.

The cost is \$30.00 inclusive of tax. You are asked to bring your own sandwich; they will provide beverages and sweet goodies.

We can only accommodate 30 people, so if you would like to take the tour please contact Lyn at 604 947 9562 or email ee-flynn@gmail.com as soon as possible.

In the past we have seen some very interesting and lovely gardens, so come

along and be inspired by what is usually a really enjoyable day.

President's Message

What a May we've had in our gardens with extraordinary colourful blooms. My clematis has never been so prolific including the one with protea-like flower.

The Open Gardens we have had the privilege to visit this spring have been exquisite.

At the recent Executive meeting we



(continued)... had a wind-up discussion of the Plant Sale and Raffle. The prizes for the Raffle were wonderful and one could feel the excitement (and disappointment) as names were drawn, or not. All the Raffle prizes are donations from many merchants on Bowen and on the mainland and it is through the generosity of our prize-givers that our annual raffle is as successful as it is. On our website is the full list of all our generous donors for this year's Raffle: www.bowenislandgardenclub.com.

Some of our donors are at a fair distance from Bowen and perhaps not part of your regular shopping route. However, it becomes almost a personal favour when even one or two of us patronize these merchants. I would ask that we support them as best we can, and let them know you are from Bowen.

Keep in mind that some of the nurseries also offer us a discount which is always helpful. Check the back of your membership card for a reminder which businesses offer us a discount. Or often if you mention that you are a member of the Bowen Island Garden Club, you may receive a courtesy discount, unless it's a Nursery like Southlands that has their own program.

This summer, we look forward to our Summer Garden Party on August 5th at the home of Eileen and John Lord. Anna-Marie Atherton has a different challenging fun exercise in which we can all participate!

Enjoy the summer with family and friends and your gardens.

Lynn McArthur, President

Bulb Sale- 2018

Daffodil bulbs will be available again for planting this fall, adding cheerful pops of yellow next spring. This is my first time in this role, so I will keep the offering very simple - limited to bulbs that both naturalize and are deer resistant. King Alfred's, Tete-a-Tete's for sure and maybe 1 or 2 others. (If feasible, Bobbex will also be available.)



The cost to you will cover all costs to the Garden Club; it is not a fundraiser - the goal is simply to add cheerful springtime colour across our Island. Your bulbs will be ready to pick up at Collins Hall on the weekend of October 13th & 14th. More about that in a future article. Cont....

Of course I'll be asking for help that weekend. I promise to make it fun for all (maybe even tasty)!

At the Garden Club meeting in April I asked you to send your ideas for masking the aftermath "messiness" of daffodils. I've had a little feedback, but would love more. So far the ideas are: Plant in pots, then replace with pots of annuals Plant amongst plants that grow through them - delphiniums, daisies, nepeta, Iris, other bulbs that bloom later in the season. Plant in "wild" areas, such as among ferns, where "mess" is part of the beauty.



Special thanks from all of us to Sheila Webster for her original idea of Daffodils for Bowen and for her continued enthusiasm for the project. Also thanks to Collins Hall folks for allowing us to use the Hall in exchange for bulbs.

Joyce Ganong, Bulb Sale Coordinator

Article: Common reasons why bulbs and perennials may not bloom

The overall cause of a bulb not growing or not producing a bloom, but many nice leaves, is either the bud was damaged or a flower bud wasn't formed. NO bud equals NO flower. Cultural conditions can also lead to diseases or conditions that cause the leaves to be deformed or the bulb to disappear. The following may lead to no flowers or no growth:

- **Fertilizing & Watering:** If bulbs have been fertilized or watered too much. Most bulbs prefer dry summers and a single application of bulb fertilizer in the fall. If your bulbs were planted near perennials, annuals or a lawn that you are constantly watering and fertilizing, they will not be happy.
- **Sun:** If there wasn't enough sun last spring or they are planted in a shady area. Most spring blooming bulbs prefer full sun for 6 hours per day.
- **Competition:** If they are in competition with other plants, such as shallow rooted trees and aggressive perennials they may be weakened.
- **Poor drainage:** If water puddles where they are planted, they will get basal rot fungus, not grow properly and die out. Bulbs need excellent drainage.
- **Leaves Removed:** If the leaves were cut off last season before they withered on their own. The

leaves produce and store energy for next year's flowers. If they were removed too soon, the bulb cannot flower.

- **Need Dividing:** If they have multiplied and are crowded, you may just need to divide them. This is not normally a problem in a home garden setting, but if there are scads of crowded leaves, you can try division.
- **Shallow Planting:** They may be planted too shallow. They should be planted to a depth equal to at least three times the width of the bulb, up to 10", but at least 3" for small bulbs.
- **Planted Too Early:** You may have planted them too early last fall. If the bulb had rooted and the soil was still warm, it may have started to produce a flower bud. Once the flower bud emerges it will live or die depending on the current soil temperature. If it emerges when it is too cold, it dies and then next spring, no flower. Plant most fall bulbs after the soil has cooled. This is usually September in Zones 2 and 3, October in Zones 4 and 5, November in Zones 6-7 and December in Zones 8. Plant your daffodils in the early part of your fall (when leaves start to fall from the trees) to give them some extra time to root in.
- **Animals Pests:** Squirrels, mice, deer, rabbits or other pests may have eaten or damaged the bulbs.
- **Winter Temperatures:** If you had severe alternating temperatures

during the winter, the bulbs may have been pushed out of the ground or started to grow during a mild spell and been damaged by subsequent very cold weather. A heavy winter mulch of straw, leaves or evergreen boughs helps prevent this.

- **Immature Bulbs:** In rare cases, if bulbs are immature or too small, they may not have a developed a flower bud and so cannot bloom. They may bloom the second year.
- **Spring Temperatures:** If temperatures fluctuate severely before bloom time, flower buds may be aborted.

*Excerpt from: "Growing from Bulbs and Roots" at Veseys.com/ca
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Submitted by Sheila Webster*

Gardening tip of the Month:

To keep your planters from becoming too heavy: instead of stones or other heavy material for drainage in the bottom of outdoor planters, try using small(ish) empty plastic containers. Place them bottom up so the water will drain around them. Or if you are worried about the drainage punch extra holes in the bottom (now top) of the plastic container.

These containers are surprisingly strong and do bear the weight of the soil. It is possible to have more than one layer. The size of the original planter will dictate the

size plastic containers to be used. This trick makes large planters a little lighter if they need moving.

Sheila Webster, Past President

Note from Editor: We welcome submissions from members. If you have a gardening tip you would like to share with others, please send it to Melissa Rahme, Editor of Cuttings. Email: wvhoneybee@hotmail.com

Membership

The garden club welcomes the following new members:

Deborah Cooper,
Neil Cusworth,
Brenda Duce,
Tess McDonald,
Lisa and John
O'Donnell, and Donna and Tim Scorer.



Holly Cleator, Membership

To find out more about the Bowen Island Garden Club, check us out at:

www.bowenlandgardenclub.ca

www.facebook.com/bowenlandgardenclub/

email: bowenlandgardenclub@gmail.com