

CUTTINGS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

October 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

Garden Insects: The Good, the Bad, and the Pretty with Will Husby. Monday, October 15th, 1 pm at the Legion.



On October 15, 2018 the Bowen Island Garden club will welcome Will Husby, a fellow Bowen Islander, who will give us a presentation on the insects that live and work in our gardens. Will, who calls himself a "recovering entomologist" will

provide us with an opportunity to see close up photos of the many tiny creatures that we meet and wonder about in our gardens. We will learn about their interesting lives and how 90 percent of them are helping our gardens by providing important ecological services that cost us nothing.

Please join us on October 15, 2018 for what promises to be an educational and lively presentation. Everyone is welcome, members no charge, guests \$3.00.

Linda Barratt, Speaker Coordinator

Open Garden

OPEN GARDENS 2018

Now that we have visited our last Open Garden for 2018, we would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the following people who so willingly allowed both Garden Club members and visitors alike, to view their beautiful gardens:

Cuttings - October 2018 continued

April 29th---- Dirk Gigling and Inez Ortner

June 2nd-----Kathleen Sullivan and Clive Jones

July 8th-----Ann Ramsay and Chris Pollard

Sept, 16th—John and Josephine Riley



Your gardens were spectacular and thoroughly enjoyed by the many people who visited them. It was, indeed, a very successful season.

We would also like to thank Eileen and John Lord for hosting the Garden Party on August 5th. Your property was the perfect venue for this event.

A special thank you also needs to be extended to the two co-ordinators of this party---Ann Ramsey and Kendra McEown. You ladies outdid yourselves.

Come January 2019, we will be looking for gardens for the new season. So, if you would like to be an Open Garden host, please contact either Anna-Marie Atherton (auntieama@shaw.ca) or Pam Miller (pe7miller@gmail.com). If you aren't sure and would like our opinion, we would be happy to pay you a visit.

*Anna-Marie Atherton & Pam Miller,
Open Garden Coordinators*

Self Drive Tour



**Upcoming Linnæa Nurseries
Tour, in Langley, on Saturday,
October 13th 2018.**

This is a reminder that the date for our fall tour to Linnæa Nursery in Langley is fast approaching. If you have not yet signed up and wish to go, please contact Pam Miller at pe7miller@gmail.com.

Also, please indicate whether or not you have room in your vehicle for any other passengers. The tour will take place rain or shine, so come prepared for the weather.

Please remember that you must be a member of the Bowen Island Garden Club in order to take part in this tour. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Holly Cleator at hollytim2014@gmail.com. Further information re Linnaea will be sent out to those going closer to the 13th.

Membership

The cost of joining or renewing membership for 2018 is now \$10. (Club membership expires at the end of December.)



The garden club welcomes the following new members: Catherine Bayly, Linda Carvajal, Sally Anne DuMoulin, Doug Bock, Penny Fisher, Clive Jones, Tom McComb, Micheline and Les Meszaros, and Kathleen Sullivan.



Holly Cleator, Membership

Call for Board Members 2019

Our nominating committee will be active during the next couple of months looking for new board members.

There are a few positions that need to be filled, which include the President, the Vice President, Treasurer, and Social Coordinator. Also anyone with an interest in maintaining our website would be a welcome addition. All board positions are up for election/re-election as usual at our AGM in January and anyone interested in getting involved in whatever capacity is encouraged to get in contact our nominating committee for more information: bowenlandgardenclub@gmail.com

Bulb Sale



A reminder to those who ordered bulbs that purchase and pick up is at Collin's Hall on Friday Oct 12th, 3 pm- 6 pm, and on Saturday, October 13th 10:30 am – 2:30 pm.

Joyce is still looking for volunteers who could help out on those days. If you can pitch in, please contact her at: joyceganong@gmail.com

Drought 2018



Wow! It wasn't just your martini that was bone dry this summer. All over the province, wildfires sprouted up every day, the heat was stifling, and water restrictions hailed down upon us. Every day it seemed to get harder and harder to keep our gardens alive. Newly planted areas shrivelled up before our eyes. Plants wilted and went limp and simply refused to accept any words of encouragement, curling their leaves and shunning any further attempts of resuscitation. Even previously 'drought proof' plants gave up the will to live and seemingly overnight went an all too familiar crispy brown.

Now the rains have come. Welcomed by everyone and certainly, for the moment, not taken for granted. Our gardens have sucked up Mother Nature's liquid greedily. It's not called the 'wet coast' for nothing.

For most of the almost 40 years I've lived here, summers weren't too far different from those in England. It rained most of June, then in July and August there would be some two or three week stretches of nice weather. It never really got much above 26C. As Labour Day drew closer,

the big question was - will the PNE be a washout or not?

Our climate is changing. The last five years have seen summer starting in May, or earlier, and temps in July and August of 29C and 32C being quite common.

Meanwhile, our gardens are taking on a different character. Gone are the days of just planting anything and not looking at what water requirements are needed. For most of us, any plants labeled with, 'requires ground that is constantly moist' are hastily stuffed back on the shelf and replaced with 'minimal water needed' specimens.

This doesn't mean we are all destined to have gardens of cacti and succulents, shoved in among some coloured pea gravel. It does seem to indicate that we need to observe and make notes of what has done well and survived

Fall is a great time for some honest thinking in the garden. It's also the best time for planting and moving plants around. Memories are still fresh when it comes to skirmishes with the hose. Don't allow yourself, however sharp your recall is, to wait until next spring to figure out whether cosmos worked for you. Or whether the sweet peas were a complete bust.

Walk around and focus on the positive - what looks happy and healthy? What seemed to thrive on little or no water? A good snoop around your neighbourhood

is another good way to see what has done well. Take photos and make notes to include more of those plants in your landscape.

Once you've got some good vibes about what varieties did well, it's time to set forth with some serious editing on those plants that don't look happy. All plants that have the 'blast furnace' look, sorry, it's time to go. Shrubs that



are brown and crisp – off with their heads! Perennials that have withered into sad looking sticks – goodbye! Yes, yes, I hear you say, but they'll come back up in the spring. You're right, they may well do then and by next August they'll be right back where they are now - looking like someone was practicing their crème brûlée skills. Be ruthless. Your garden can no longer be a stop off point for thirsty malingerers.

For the unfenced among us, the amazing coincidence of 'deer resistance' and 'drought resistance' being pretty much one and the same list, brings joy to the heart.

Many grasses have stood up to the heat well. Plants such as catmint and Russian sage have come through the scorching

days without flinching. Other plants, like the much maligned shasta daisies, didn't seem to mind the heat but bloomed very early and were finished in a couple of

weeks. What can we learn for this? Plant lots of variety. Look for 'reblooming' varieties of daisies, red hot poker and others.

One thing that is key for keeping your garden looking good is making sure your soil and growing medium are of the very finest quality. No room to skimp here. You can spend a fortune on plants but if

what you intend to grow them in is thin, sad looking stuff that hasn't been amended for years, you may as well give up. After a long, hot dry summer, you will notice that your soil has sunken, looks quite sandy and has no real goodness left in it. This is because the plants, in a valiant attempt to survive, have gobbled up every scrap of nutrients and moisture and by next spring, many will have a pale and anemic look to them.

Feed your soil! It will then feed your plants. Nourishing compost, manure, Seasol, all make your soil a happy place for plants to thrive in. A well-fed soil is also more water retentive. Top this with some mulch and your plants will survive the drought better.

In any season, there are plant losses and disfigurements – ask anyone without a fence. Ahem! By making a few adjustments to the why's and wherefore's of what we plant, the next heatwave may not claim so many victims.

*Contributing Writer and Garden Designer,
Su Rickett*

October Tasks in the Garden

- Clear beds of annuals by month's end and compost
- Plant shrubs, perennials and spring flowering bulbs.
- Winterize your pond.
- Move tender plants like pelargoniums, brugmansia, fuchsia, phormium and biouchina back into the greenhouse or a frost free place for the winter.
- Lift dahlias, wash off tubers and store them in a frost free place for the winter.

*From: Best of Bowen, Bowen Island
Garden club*

Gardening Tip of the Month

Storing Dahlia Tubers:

Here is a tip that comes from Ziggy of Surrey, via our board members Anna-Marie



Atherton and Pam Miller, who visited his garden. Ziggy has a garden full of dahlias, which require digging up each fall. He offered this tip about storing Dahlia tubers over the winter:

His recommendation: DO NOT USE PEAT MOSS to store your tubers, which he says dries them out. Instead wash, and dry your Dahlia tubers, then wrap them in newspaper and store them in a cool dry place. Check them occasionally over winter. If they seem to be getting dry, mist them and then re-wrap in the newspaper.



BOWEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER

Many organizations operate with only volunteers – the Bowen Island Garden Club is one of these organizations. Our volunteers come in many stripes and colours. They may be the people who take your membership payment, host Open Gardens, set up chairs for meetings, or help at the plant sale. Some people are active on a regular basis for many years running. Do you know such a person in the Garden Club?

The Garden Club would like to acknowledge these people by recognizing their contributions to the club with a designated STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER name tag for the year. Please complete the attached nomination form telling us what makes your nominee a STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER - reply to bowenislandgardenclub@gmail.com by October 31st.

The club executive will select the top 4 nominations for the HONOUR ROLL recognition. The annual STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER will be selected by the top nominees to receive their personalized name tag and Club recognition.

STAR GARDEN VOLUNTEER NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS: (suggested criteria: volunteer activities – plant sale, meetings, Executive positions, etc.; length of volunteer service; impact on community)

YOUR NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____
