

Sechelt Garden Club Newsletter

www.secheltgardenclub.com

MARCH 2012

President:	Charmaine Harris
Past President:	June Meyer
Vice President:	Mardie Campbell
Secretary/Webmaster:	Lilli McGinn
Treasurer:	Lorraine Blakeman
Newsletter:	Sandra Friedman
Membership:	Mary Rowles
Speakers :	Sandra Markley
Tours:	Moira Leishman
Directors at Large:	Christi Blackman, Carol Steedman, Larry Musser

Next Meeting: Monday, March 26th at 7:30pm in the Seaside Centre

Daniel Mosquin, Research Manager and Board member of the UBC Botanical Garden will take us through the "UBC Botanical Garden Through the Seasons." This presentation is very visual and features many Garden Plants.

REMINDER: PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE/TEA CUP TO THE MEETING!

Membership: We now have 167 members. **Please renew your membership** for the 2012 calendar year. You need a 2012 membership card to claim the 10% discount at the nurseries. Cheques for \$15 for individual or \$20 for family membership should be made out to the Sechelt Garden Club. If you renewed your membership in September, 2011 or any time after that, it's good through 2012 but make sure that your card is dated 2012.

Rental of Equipment: For information about our rental policy and fees for our slide projector and digital Power Point projector, contact Larry Musser.

Volunteer Form

Please complete and return the Volunteer Form that was emailed to you or pick up a new one from the Membership Table when you sign in. In order for our club to be successful, it needs people to help out —which is a good way to learn new skills and meet other members.

LET'S ALL START WEARING NAME TAGS!

IT'S THE BEST WAY FOR US TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

March 'TO DO' List

(thanks to Bob Tuckey from *The Natural Gardener*)

- Prune winter-flowering vines and shrubs after blooming.
- Plant summer and fall blooming bulbs.
- Spray fruit trees and roses with dormant oil if you haven't already done so.
- Plant ground covers, grasses, roses, fruit trees, perennials, shrubs, trees and vines.
- Plant warm season vegetables.
- Start feeding your houseplants with an organic fertilizer.
- Start feeding your trees, shrubs, perennials and vines with an organic fertilizer.
- Prepare vegetable beds by working in plenty of compost or manure. Lime two weeks later if needed.

Thanks to all the super diggers!

Thanks to Anne Lempfert, Moira Leishman, Edwin and Pianka Leung, Lorraine Blakeman, Mardie Campbell and Lester and Charmaine Harris for digging up the daylilies, irises and other perennials on a cold and miserable day. Thanks to Mr & Mrs Child in Roberts Creek for donating the plants.

Potting Up

The above plants were supposed to be potted up on Monday, March 11. However, because of the storm and the power outages the date has been postponed to **Monday, March 19th at 10:00**. See you at Moira Leishman's rain or shine.

Great Use for a Shoe Bag!



Gardening is not always easy, but the rewards are personal and fun. Gardening offers the chance to become partners with nature. The reward is not just a salad from the backyard or a gleaming jar of peaches. Gardening is the process of digging the soil, starting small seeds, watching an apple tree grow. Gardening is an education in observation, harmony, honesty, and humility—in knowing and understanding our place in the world. John Jeavons, *How to Grow More Vegetables*. 2012

Dates to Remember:

April 21 - The Informed Gardener. Plant Survival with Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott author of *The Informed Gardener*, research-backed information about growing plants. Morning Topic "How Plants Survive in Urban Environments". Afternoon topic "Myth Debunking",—why we do what we do to plants.
Time: 11:00 am Location: Sparling Pavilion, Botanical Garden, 5941 Mason Road
Cost: \$25 non-members/\$20 members of the Sunshine Botanical Gardens Society. Purchase tickets online.

May 6 - Caron Gardens tour with hydrangea workshop, no cost, just bring your lunch. We have been asked to limit the tour to 25 people this year so reserve your spot early.

May 23 - an exploration of lesser known nurseries on the Coast and a visit to Salish Soils and the garden development presented at our Jan 2012 meeting.



Tips From the Garden Shed...

Succession Interplanting

adapted from

Randy Shore: *The Green Man Blog*

Vancouver Sun, March 11, 2012

Succession interplanting allows you to double the output of each of your garden beds by pairing up plants that will grow together in close quarters without interfering with each other and then following with a full second crop for fall and winter. It is possible to get as many as four crops per bed in a single growing season. You won't end up with nice rows of identical plants like you see in magazines, but the esthetic loss is diversity's gain and it's not so hard on your soil. There are no tomatoes in this plan. Grow them in a separate bed with plenty of space around them. Some plants can't be crowded and few plants are more likely to disappoint when things don't go their way than tomatoes.

Bed One: Radish, Carrot, Leeks, Broccoli or Cauliflower, Lettuce

Sow **radishes** and **carrots** in early spring alternating seeds about an inch apart in rows about six inches apart, about half the normal row spacing. Plant **leeks** in the spaces between the rows to repel carrot rust fly. The radishes will mature and be gone within five weeks, about the time that slower-growing carrots begin to bulk up. Radishes take little in the way of nutrients from the soil and the carrots will really benefit from the extra space.

When you harvest the baby carrots around the end of June/early July alternate three- to four-week-old **broccoli** or **cauliflower** and **romaine lettuce seedlings** 12 inches apart. Broccoli and cauliflower have deep roots that don't compete with shallow roots of the lettuce and the shade from the large fast-growing broccoli leaves keeps the soil cool and moist, which lettuces love.

Bed Two: Peas, Spinach, Zucchini, Arugula

Alternate **peas** and **spinach** seeds about two inches apart. The peas will grow faster and provide shade, which spinach likes. Peas also collect nitrogen from the atmosphere and store it in the soil, which spinach also likes.

When the peas form pods start your **zucchini** seeds indoors. Around the end of June harvest the last of the spinach and cut the pea vines off at the soil, leaving the roots in place. Plant the zucchini seedlings on hills about three feet apart and sprinkle **arugula** seeds in the low areas between the hills, covering them lightly. The shade from the zucchini leaves will help the cool-weather arugula thrive and the nitrogen from the decomposing pea roots will satisfy arugula's nitrogen hunger. You can plant more arugula or spinach when the zucchini vines come out in September and have leafy greens through to December.

Bed Three: Mescluns, Chard, Napa cabbage, Collards

Sow mesclun greens such as **mizuna**, **corn salad** and **radicchio** in early spring. You can just sprinkle the seeds around the bed.

As you harvest greens in May, plant **chard** seeds directly into the spaces you create. By June the greens will have run their course and you can plant **napa cabbage** into the remaining spaces. The chard will mature in mid-July, allowing you to plant **collard greens** as each space comes free until about mid-August. The napa cabbage will mature around the end of September, leaving space for the expanding wingspan of the collards. Harvest collard leaves from the bottom of the plant throughout the winter.

• Note: You can substitute **green beans** for the broccoli in bed one or the napa cabbage in bed three. Cut the bean vines off at the ground to leave the roots in place.