

Sechelt Garden Club Newsletter

www.secheltgardenclub.blogspot.com

April 2009

President:	June Meyer
Past President:	Christine Chandler
Vice President:	Charmaine Harris
Secretary:	(To be filled)
Treasurer:	Lorraine Blakeman
Newsletter:	Sandra Friedman
Membership:	Mary Rowles
Other Directors:	Elaine Clayden, Judy Marusiak, Lynne Bogardus, Larry Musser
Members at Large:	Nattanya Wardel, Margaret Boyd

Next Meeting: SEASIDE CENTRE –April 27– Doors open at 7:00; Meeting time 7:30.

Gary Lewis from Phoenix Nursery will speak on “Beating the Winter Doldrums – Great Perennials for High Summer and Early Fall.” Gary Lewis began botanizing his local fields and forests around the age of four, began collecting house plants at the age of 10 and began gardening at the age of 15. He holds a MSc in Plant Ecology from UBC. The focus on the botany and ecology of wild plants informs his horticulture. Gary became the owner of Phoenix Perennials in 2004 on his 28th birthday. He has expanded the nursery to include one of the largest and most exciting selections of perennials in Canada. He strives to include cutting edge new perennials, tried and true garden stalwarts, and the rare and unusual in his plant offerings. Gary is the ‘Image Bank’ coordinator for *E-Flora BC*, an online atlas of BC native plants. He is a member of the Perennial and Bulb Selection Committee of Great Plant Picks, an educational awards program of the Miller Botanical Garden that works to build a comprehensive palette of outstanding plants for BC and Pacific Northwest gardens.

Garden Club Business

Membership: A warm and earthy welcome to new members Bronwen Boddington, Andrew Morin, Nancy Fabbro, Alda Grames, Flo Rublee and Sandra Vickers. We now have 125 paid up members and 8 Life Members. Mary Rowles has sent out an email and phoned people who have not yet paid for this year. Remember that to keep receiving your Newsletter you must be up to date on your membership fees. Fees are \$12.00 per person and \$17.00 per couple guests \$3.00. **To win a door prize you must be wearing your name tag.**

Secretary: We are still in need of a secretary. Please phone June Meyer if you are interested.

Show & Tell (formerly Mini Show): Play the Shell Game: A display table will be set up at the meeting with flowers presently in bloom and a list of plant material and names. Make sure that a shell or shells are predominant in the arrangement. Bobbi will answer questions during the break.

Rental of Equipment: We now own a Power Point (digital) projector and a slide projector. Both are available for rental to our members. For information about our rental agreement, fees and policy contact our equipment manager, Myron Marusiak.

Annual Plant Sale: The May 10th Plant Sale is being organized by Nattanya Wardel, Lynne Bogardus and their trusty volunteers. If you want to help out please phone Lynne.



Carrot Committee

- *The "Grow your Own Dinner Project"* is a community gardening mentorship program sponsored by Vancouver Coastal Health and the One Straw Society through the Sunshine Coast Food Action Network. For information or to get started call Randie.
- *Hands on Lands* connects gardeners and farmers with available growing space. To learn how your land could be used for local food production, or how to gain access to a space to grow, please contact Nadi.
- *The Creator's Touch Garden:* Sechelt Indian Band Elder Barb Higgins offers ongoing workshops and activities in year-round food harvesting, preparing and processing, as well as sharing other traditional skills in the use of natural resources for sustainable living.
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Dishing the Dirt

Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it. (The Natural Gardener Newsletter, January 2009)

Want and Share: – The clipboard will be passed around at meetings.

Plants to Share:

Acer, Querus, Walnuts, Hickory, etc	Jon Bell
Campanula (ground cover, rockery)	Nattanya Wardel

Plants Wanted

Red Rhubarb	Marguerite Johnson
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Did you know that.....

you can use Hydrogen Peroxide (H₂O₂) to treat fungus, rot and other diseases on trees and plants as a natural fungicide, insecticide as a weed killer, and for your pets. The 3% version can be mixed with 8 oz. per gallon of water to spray as an organic disease fighter on plants and is quite effective on bacterial diseases. Concentrated hydrogen peroxide can be used to kill weeds, even aquatic weeds. The concentration in this case needs to be 10%. Purchase 30% concentrated material and dilute with water down to 10%.

From Howard Garrett, The Dirt Doctor, Natural Organic www.dirtdoctor.com
(Thanks to Anne Lempfert for this tip)

APRIL/MAY GARDENING 'TO DO' LIST

- Plant summer- and fall-flowering bulbs
- Spray for peach leaf curl, peach leaf blight, and canker
- Plant permanent ground covers, ornamental grasses, fruit trees and bare root and container roses
- Plant or transplant warm-season annuals and perennials
- Plant ornamental and evergreen trees, shrubs, and vines
- Prune spring-flowering or tender shrubs and vines after blooming
- Plant vegetable seedlings
- Apply a mulch of compost, mushroom manure or steer manure to your garden beds
- Deadhead your daffodils. Don't tie up the leaves, let them go brown naturally
- Divide summer blooming perennials such as Hostas, Daylilies and phlox
- Plant or repair lawns
- Aerate your lawn and over seed any thin or bare patches of lawn
- Check your roses for aphids. If there are any squish them or apply Safers Insecticidal Soap. Doing this now means relatively aphid free roses later

(*Natural-Gardener Newsletter*. Thanks to Judy Marusiak for sending these tips)

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, April 21: Nattanya Wardel is going to Select Roses in Langley and can take two more people in her van. She'll leave on the 10:20 and return on the 3:30 ferry.

Sunday, April 26: Caron Gardens Tour- 11am to 2 pm. Bring lunch. Sign up with June Meyer . If you want to car-pool meet at the Sechelt Library at 10:00. Gas contribution is \$3 per person.

Monday, April 27: Gibsons Garden Club Richmond Tour. Leave on the 8:20 and return on the 3:30 ferry. Visit Phoenix Perennials, the Buddhist Temple of the International Buddhist Society and the Paulik Garden. Cost is \$25 for Sechelt Garden Club members. For more information or to sign up call Sharon Jones .

Sunday, May 10: Sechelt Garden Plant Sale from 10 am to 12 pm at the Seaside Centre. Volunteer, bring your friends and buy, buy, buy.

Saturday, May 16: Caron Gardens' Annual Rhododendron Festival from 11am to 4 pm. (A printable map can be found at www3.telus.net/rcknight.) There will be over 100 different rhodos in bloom. Admission is free, as are tours, seminars, refreshments, and parking. A Master Gardener will be on site to answer your gardening questions and there will be a flower show featuring rare and unusual rhododendrons. Bring a friend and enjoy the garden that was featured in the March 2009 edition of Gardens West magazine. For more information contact Ron Knight.

Saturday, May 16: The Botanical Society Spring Plant Sale from 10 am to 1 pm at their new facility 5941 Mason Road. Free admission; open to the public. Guided walks of the garden site will also be available.

Treasures from Terry

This is the first of Bill Terry's series called "Plants of Distinction". Every month Bill will describe the merits of a particular plant and how to grow it.

Now that we're all thoroughly conversant with botanical Latin, I'm starting a new series about perennial plants which have flourished in my garden for years and which I have grown from seed or cuttings. These will be plants which are generally not available in nurseries. Their hardiness in our region will be proved by their survival through this last nasty winter. They will require no special care and no special skill or equipment.

They will require patience. Many, particularly bulbs, can take up to four or five years from seed to bloom. Think of it like buying bonds. Start a few seeds in a pot every year and, in time, every year you'll have a plant reaching maturity.

First, here's a general description of starting from seed. You can assume it applies to all the plants described, unless I suggest otherwise. *Clip and save.*

Take a clean pot. A 5-6 inch square pot is ideal. Fill with damp, sterilized compost -- a fast-draining, peat-based mix, such as Sunshine #4. Or Sunshine #1 with 20% perlite added. Do not use your own garden compost or soil. (You don't want the bugs, weeds and diseases). Firm up the compost to fill the pot to one inch from the top. Then scatter the seeds evenly and sparingly. Cover thinly with more compost, but do not press down. Then fill to the top with a mulch of fine gravel, coarse sand or perlite. (This will help to conserve moisture and inhibit weeds). Do not use play sand. It clumps. Do not fertilize.

Label with the plant name and date. Then leave it outside in all seasons. It should be off the ground and out of the mid-day sun. It must be protected from slugs. A north-facing deck will do nicely. Beginning next month I will introduce you to plants that I am growing from seed.