

# Sechelt Garden Club Newsletter

January 2011

<b>President:</b>	<b>Charmaine Harris</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>June Meyer</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Larry Musser</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Chris Blackman</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Lorraine Blakeman</b>
<b>Newsletter:</b>	<b>Sandra Friedman</b>
<b>Membership:</b>	<b>Mary Rowles</b>
<b>Other Directors:</b>	<b>Moira Leishman, Sandra Markley, Lilli McGinn</b>

Next Meeting: **Monday January 31st<sup>h</sup> at 7:30pm** in the **Seaside Centre**

John Gillespie will speak about invasive and non-invasive plants. John is a board-certified master arborist and journeyman horticulturist with a passion for sustainable design and development. He has over two decades experience in the public and private sectors. John's professional practice Landwise Consultants offers sustainable development strategies and progressive landscape design.

## Garden Club Business

**Membership:** We have 144 members which includes 8 life members. If you haven't paid your dues by now, please note that it is time to renew your membership. Please bring a cheque made out to the Sechelt Garden Club or the correct amount of money. It's \$15 for individuals or \$20 for couples. By renewing at the January meeting you will save us the grief of having to remind you.

**Rental of Equipment:** For information about our rental policy and fees for our slide projector and digital Power Point projector, contact equipment manager: Myron Marusiak.

## WANTED!!!

**Raise a cup of tea or coffee in thanks to Kay Ogawa and her crew of Gesa Reid, Shirley Lawson and Sharon Shorter for their 2 years serving refreshments.** Their term ends after the January meeting and we urgently need a new coordinator and crew! Please call Moira and volunteer.

Offer to show your garden this year. So what if *House and Garden Magazine* aren't knocking at your door. We'd love to see it. Call Moira and talk it over.

The Strawberry Tea in June needs a location that has a shelter just in case it rains. Please call Moira if you'd like to offer your place.

We will be holding a mini plant sale at the January meeting. Please pot up and bring some plants.



## Carrot Committee

The University of Minnesota just recently opened its **online plant information database** to the public. It is one of the world's largest collections of information and images for plant enthusiasts and scholars. The site offers links to more than 2,000 North American seed and nursery farms, 300,000+ citations regarding plants in science/garden magazines and books, and links to expert-selected websites.

West Coast Seed Catalogues are now available. It's time to think about starting veggies from seed for the May Plant Sale. More to come about this next month!

## With Thanks and Lots of Appreciation!



**Congratulations** to Niels and Frances Ostergaard, our very newest Life Members who have hosted countless Strawberry Teas and Garden Tours, have supplied the Plant Sale with many hundreds of plants and who have given cuttings and clippings to most of the people in the Sechelt Garden Club.

**Thanks to** Past Chair June Meyer, our very own dynamo for all her hard work and time as Chair. Anytime anyone needed help, June was there.

**The Christmas Party was a blast. Thanks again to the Flower Pot Players (L to R):**

**Charmaine Harris  
Larry Musser  
Nancy Fabbro  
Nattanya Wardel  
June Meyer  
Lester Harris  
Bette Chadwick**



## JANUARY: Gardening 'TO DO' List

Start creating your garden for 2011. Beds should run north-south for best exposure. To get the most out of your space, think about how much zucchini you will use and what vegetables and fruits you and your family actually eat. A few things for you to ponder:

- **Eggplant and peppers** —in coastal zones, try a few in well-fed containers on a hot deck, but do not expect a bumper crop.
- Space-saving **pole beans** are easy to grow and take up only vertical space. Some people avoid Scarlet runners because they have a strong beany taste. They taste best harvested young and their blossoms are beautiful.
- Try **squash** in “bush” or “compact” forms rather than sprawling ones in your vegetable garden. If you have the space and the inclination, dare to grow the rambling types in your front yard in large pots, grow bags or direct-sow. Let them scramble all over.
- **Kale** makes good use of garden space, lasting over winter in some zones. If you like the taste of spinach without the thinning, try ‘**Perpetual Spinach**’, a biennial chard which tastes like spinach. Unlike spinach, leaves may be harvested a few at a time over a long period.
- **Carrots** admittedly can be finicky and attract carrot rust fly (their larvae tunnel through the roots) —if you are a beginning gardener you might feel less frustrated growing these reliable, low-maintenance but high-yielding crops: **potatoes, summer/winter squash, kale, chard, lettuce, arugula and mache**, and Asian greens like **pac choi, mizuna** and **tatsoi**.

In the fourth week of January start seed for **fibrous begonia, coleus, cleome, petunia, primula, snapdragon**. They need good air circulation and temperatures of about 18 to 20°C (64 to 68°F) in the daytime, cooler at night. Pansies prefer a cooler germination temperature of 12 to 15°C (54 to 59°F).

**Remember to plant some for the Plant Sale in May.**

Keep your eyes on perennials you are overwintering in a cool greenhouse. Don't let them dry out.

Turn your compost. If you don't already have a winged metal compost turner, try to find one – ask at your local garden centre. This handy tool will save you a lot of work and you won't hurt your back trying to turn heavy compost with a fork.

Keep layering your compost, adding leaves from your nearby stash. Avoid the “dump and run” method of adding veggie wastes and closing the lid. Take that extra moment to add a layer of leaves (or shredded paper). You'll have useable compost quicker and will be far less likely to attract rodents.

When you peel potatoes and/or trip fruit and veggies do it directly onto a sheet of newspaper. Roll it up like a cabbage roll and place it directly into your compost – instant carbon/nitrogen layering. This also saves you washing a cutting board or bowl.

Go easy on the compost. Don't put more than 5 cm (2 in) of fresh organic material onto your existing garden per year; 2.5 cm (1 in) if it's animal manure. Too much organic matter uses up soil's available nitrogen to aid its own decomposition. This causes slow/stunted plant growth and poor yields.

When weather allows, **prune** fruit trees, grapes, berries and summer-and fall-blooming deciduous shrubs.

If you practice **dormant-oil spraying**, now is the time if you're on the coast; a little later in cooler zones. It is vital that leaves have not begun to unfurl, that they are still in tight bud – otherwise you'll do more harm than good. Apply dormant spray when you anticipate 24 hours of dry weather. Beware of using rancid or old oil which may burn.

(From GardenWise Online, January 2011)



## **Amended Resource List compiled by Harry Burton**

of APPLE LUSCIOUS ORGANIC ORCHARD  
Salt Spring Island, BC [www.appleluscious.com](http://www.appleluscious.com) 250-653-2007

### **Apple Books**

**The Apple Grower – A Guide for the Organic Orchardist** by Michael Phillips. This is a very comprehensive book on all aspects of organic apple growing.

**Apples for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** by Warren Manhart. Based in the Portland area, Warren gives his 50 best recommendations for apple varieties that will thrive in the Coast North West.

**Fruit, Berry and Nut Inventory**, Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, Iowa. The 2010 Edition is available now. A fabulous compilation of every nursery catalogue for all fruit, berry and nut varieties sold in the USA.

**Apples** by Roger Yepsin. A good book, featuring 90 different apple varieties common to the Eastern USA.

**Pomona's Harvest** by Frederic Janson. An Illustrated Chronicle of Antiquarian Fruit Literature.

### **Resource Books**

**Omnivores Delimma** by Michael Pollan. This book follows the path of 4 food types: *conventional, large organics, small organics* and *hunter/gatherer* from farm to table,

**Trauma Farm** by Brian Brett a wonderful book about life on his small farm (Salt Spring Island) and the difficulties of surviving as a small farmer.

**The Botany of Desire** by Michael Pollan This book traces the evolution of 4 foods: apples, tulips, marijuana & potatoes. Also available in DVD.

**The Queen Must Die** (and Other Affairs of Bees and Men) by William Longgood. A fabulous insight to the world of bees.

**Seeds of Deception** (2004) by Jeffrey Smith. Author exposes the corrupt science of GMO's and the suppression of opposition data.

**Silent Spring** (1962) by Rachael Carson was a landmark book that stopped the selling of DDT in North America.

**Our Stolen Future**, by Theo Colburn, Dianne Dumanoski, and John Peterson Myers (1996) published by Dutton Signet (a division of Penguin Books, USA. Inc.) This book explains the dangers of hormone mimics to human health.

### **Fruit Related Websites** [www.appleluscious.com](http://www.appleluscious.com)

**The British Columbia Fruit Testers (BCFTA)**– An organization of amateur fruit growers centered around Victoria and Vancouver, with lots of benefits to apple growers. [www.bcfta.ca](http://www.bcfta.ca)

**The Western Cascade Fruit Society (WCFS)**– An organization of amateur fruit growers centered around Seattle, Washington, with lots of benefits to local apple growers. [www.wcfs.org](http://www.wcfs.org)

**The Home Orchard Society (HOS)**– An organization of amateur fruit growers centered around Portland, Oregon, with lots of benefit to local apple growers. [www.homeorchardsociety.org](http://www.homeorchardsociety.org)

**All About Apples**– this website is a great resource for apple growers. [www.allaboutapples.com/varieties](http://www.allaboutapples.com/varieties)