

# Sechelt Garden Club Newsletter

[www.secheltgardenclub.blogspot.com](http://www.secheltgardenclub.blogspot.com)

March 2010

**President:** June Meyer  
**Vice President:** Charmaine Harris  
**Secretary:** Chris Blackman  
**Treasurer:** Lorraine Blakeman  
**Newsletter:** Sandra Friedman  
**Membership:** Mary Rowles  
**Other Directors:** Judy Marusiak, Larry Musser, Moira Leishman  
**Members at Large:** Nattanya Wardel

Next Meeting: **Monday, March 29 at 7:30pm** in the **Seaside Centre**

**Margaret Rogers** will speak and show slides about **Gardens in Northern England**. We will also have a *Garden Boutique*. If you have plants and garden related items you would like to donate, please bring them to the Seaside Centre at 7:00. Make sure the plants are labelled. If you have items that you would like people to see, please bring them for our *Display Table*.

## Garden Club Business

**Membership:** Welcome new members Maria Stokel, Lili McGrinn, Erica Van den Grinten, Hal Eglinski and Bev Wilkes. Please pick up your name tag if you haven't already done so. Time is running out for paying your dues. After April you won't be able to get your discount at the nurseries and you won't receive your newsletter.

**Rental of Equipment:** For information about our rental policy and fees for our slide projector and digital Power Point projector, contact interim equipment manager: Larry Musser 885-3403.

### Sechelt Garden Club.....May Tour

**Date:** Tuesday, May 11

**Time:** 8:00 am to 6:30 pm

**Cost:** \$20 per member

#### Itinerary

- Meet at Langdale Ferry Terminal at 8:00 am for the 8:20 ferry.
- Board bus at Horseshoe Bay
- Tour Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Garden in Vancouver's Chinatown.
- Lunch at Garden Works in Burnaby. They have a cafeteria or you can bring your own lunch.
- Tour Shadbolt Gardens in Burnaby
- Board 5:30 ferry in Horseshoe Bay for the trip home.

To sign up and pay for the trip contact Nattanya Wardel

## Potting Up Session

**Sign up for the Potting Up Session** on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 at Nattanya Wardel's

**Wanted by Nattanya:** Patio pots to be used for Mothers' Day gifts and plants for the sale.

**Wanted by Lorraine Gallant:** One gallon pots to pot up plants for the garden sale.



## Carrot Committee

The **Grow Your Own Dinner** project helps individuals and families to grow their own food in whatever space they have - big or small. Participants will be assigned a mentor for the season who will help design the right garden to fit their space, and be available for questions throughout the year. If you want to grow your own dinner and need some help contact [nadi@onestraw.ca](mailto:nadi@onestraw.ca)

### Make an insecticide spray:

#### Soap Spray

1 tablespoon liquid soap (Dr. Bronner's liquid Pure Castile)

4 cups water

Mix together and put in a spray bottle

#### All Purpose Spray

2 garlic bulbs

Small onion

1 tablespoon cayenne or use a hot pepper

4 cups water

Blend together. Let it steep for 1 hour. Strain.

Add:

1 tablespoon soap (Dr. Bronner's liquid Pure Castile) or cooking oil

Put in a spray bottle. Keep in a cool place.

(Submitted by Elizabeth McNeill)

## Members-at-Large

The Directors of the Sechelt Garden Club invite you to become a Member at Large. This is a two year position. In the first year you will learn how to organize and maintain our two main committees—Plant Sale and Tours. In the second year you will help incoming Members at Large who will then pass on what they have learned to others.

This is a great opportunity to share the fun and get to know other members and it's not a heavy work load. All you need is curiosity, a willingness to learn, an ability to ask questions and a sense of humour. We need your help to keep the Sechelt Garden Club going.

Please contact June Meyer.

## MARCH Gardening 'TO DO' List

- Continue to clear and weed flower beds and mulch with well-rotted compost or manure.
- Plant summer bulbs of lilies, acidanthera, montbretia and nerines and corms of gladioli.
- Continue to lift and divide perennials.
- Prune forsythia and grey-leafed plants like lavender, lavender-cotton and senecio.
- Prune roses and apply organic rose food to soil.
- March 1-15 begin to sow radish, garlic and broad beans.
- March 16-31 begin successive sowings of peas, spinach, leaf lettuce, Chinese vegetables, onion sets, turnips and shallots.
- Sow tomatoes indoors.
- Plant new strawberry plants and feed established plants.
- Feed rhubarb with rich organic material.
- Sow seeds of annual herbs and prune established herbs such as sage, rue and thyme if they have become leggy.

(from *The Twelve Month Gardener*, Elaine Stevens et al)

## Plants of Distinction

by Bill Terry

Blue Heaven [www.meconopsis.ca](http://www.meconopsis.ca)



Viola Odorata

Whatever happened to the Sweet Violet: *viola odorata*? This is the flower that Eliza Doolittle sold on the streets of London in Shaw's *Pygmalion*, and subsequently in the even more famous *My Fair Lady*. It was immensely popular in Victorian and Edwardian England -- a little bouquet easily affordable for a Beau to present to his Belle -- and its exquisitely scented, tiny blooms were used in bridal bouquets, symbolizing faithfulness and love. Acres of glass houses were devoted to growing and hybridizing ever more fragrant varieties.

Centuries earlier, the Romans made wine from the flowers, and it's said the ancient Brits used it in cosmetics. To dream of violets was a lucky sign, signalling good fortune was on the way.

Today, it has disappeared almost entirely from the commercial trade, and varieties of *viola odorata* you may find at nurseries are likely to be showy but entirely lacking in fragrance. And without fragrance, this plant has no meaning for me.

Years ago, I smuggled in a piece from my Aunt's garden in England. It's not among the most showy specimens, the flowers having a habit of hiding among the leaves, rather than standing clear. However, it has seeded itself quite merrily and if you feel as nostalgic as I do about this sweet wildling, I might even share a piece with you.

The Sweet Violet, or English Violet, is a plant for deciduous woodland or the wild garden. It's edible too. Add a dab of blue to your salads.

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### Dates to Remember:

**March 13, Saturday:** the Sechelt Garden Club and Sunshine Coast Botanical Society are co-sponsoring two workshops with Linda Gilkeson at the Sechelt Legion for a one-day price. 11 am – 12 noon: Year-Around Vegetable Gardening on the Coast. 1 – 2 pm: Diagnosing garden pests and diseases and how to control them in an environmentally-sound manner. Admission: \$18 members, \$22 non-members. Tickets available at nurseries, Sechelt Visitors' Centre and online at [www.coastbotanical.org](http://www.coastbotanical.org)

**EARTH HOUR 2010 IS SATURDAY MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> 8:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M.**

Take a stand for the earth (and your garden!!). Pledge to participate at [www.EarthHourCanada.org](http://www.EarthHourCanada.org). All you have to do is turn your lights off for one hour! The Royal Astronomical Society will be partnering with the District of Sechelt for a Free Community Celebration 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Municipal Square (outside Sechelt Library). Join us for a Lantern procession, music, astronomy & displays!

For details check [www.coastastronomy.ca](http://www.coastastronomy.ca) & [www.sechelt.ca](http://www.sechelt.ca)

**April 25, Sunday:** is the trip to **Ron Knight's Caron Gardens** in Pender Harbour. We will be visiting two gardens on the way. To sign up please call June Meyer.