

Sechelt Garden Club Newsletter

www.secheltgardenclub.blogspot.com

November 2009

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

Next Meeting: Monday November 16th at 7:30pm in the Seaside Centre

Come and see the floral demonstrations on making Christmas wreathes and centerpieces. This meeting is our AGM so please make an effort to come and ensure that we have a quorum.

Garden Club Business

Membership: Welcome to new members **Linda Buckingham, Ann and Geoff Hoile, Brian Russell and George and Lucia Senichenko**. We have 169 members which include our life members. They are Bob and Inga Hudson, Bobbi Kelly, Tony and Eileen O'Connor, Andrew and Alison Steele, and Bill Terry. Please try to pay your dues now. Remember that dues paid after September 1 will be good through 2010.

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

Found: Please call Moira if you left a black knit jacket at her house after the pot-up workshop. A Preziosa Hydrangea was left at the Seaside Centre. Please reclaim it at the next meeting.

Welcoming Committee

Chris Blackman has agreed to chair the Welcoming Committee

Christmas Party and Lunch

Come to the Christmas Party and Lunch – Sunday, November 29th at the Sunshine Coast Golf Club. Have fun with friendly people, eat great food, and win interesting prizes. **THERE WILL BE SURPRISE ENTERTAINMENT YOU DEFINITELY WILL NOT WANT TO MISS!**

The lunch is \$20:00 per person. Tickets will be sold at the next meeting or from Nattanya Wardel. The organizers need to know how many people are coming by November 23rd. If you would like to create a centerpiece and/or donate a door prize they will be much appreciated.



Did you know that urine makes a good fertilizer? A study from Finland found that tomatoes fertilized with a mixture of diluted human urine and wood ash produced over four times as much fruit as those without. The fruit also had more beta-carotene and more protein than the pee-less ones. This is because human urine contains nutrients like nitrogen, potassium and phosphate, which are all great for plants. You may be a little hesitant to collect your own urine, but remember fresh urine is basically sterile and odour-free. Also, using urine as fertilizer is not only another step toward a sustainable garden—think of the water you'll save by not flushing—it's the free alternative to the store-bought fertilizer.

- Urine should be diluted 10-15 parts water to 1 part urine for outside plants, 30-50 parts water for inside plants, and undiluted for lawns, trees and shrubs is just fine.
- The urine needs to be used fresh because as urine sits it turns into ammonia and becomes less and less nutritious for plants.
- Apply the homemade fertilizer to the roots and spread it around. Don't put too much in one area and there's no need to use it every time you water.
- If your plants are taking on a yellowish tinge or if they are not growing fruit, cut back on the urine application.
- Use the urine on your compost. Urine can speed up the composting process.
- Male urine is best because female urine burns the ground. Male urine also works to keep unwanted intruders out of the garden, too. Sprinkle some undiluted urine around the perimeter of the area you want to keep safe to deter pests.

Read more: <http://www.gardenwiseonline.ca/gw/blogs/rhizome/2009/09/22/urine-makes-great-natural-fertilizer-notes-novice-gardener#ixzz0V3XA2uMj>

NOVEMBER: Gardening 'TO DO' List

- Complete your bulb planting and dig up summer bulbs.
- Mulch borders with compost or manure after clean up.
- Remove leaves off cushion-type plant like dianthus and saxifrage to avoid plants rotting.
- Cut back chrysanthemums after they have finished flowering.
- Pot up geraniums and fuchsia storing them in frost free places. Once a month water them.
- Edge and weed flower beds.
- Plant bare root roses. Roses can have a light pruning after the final dead-heading. Apply dolomite lime around established roses.
- Plant berry bushes and fruit trees. Take cuttings of bush fruits and remove crossed and crowded branches.
- Add manure or compost to the freshly dug vegetable garden in preparation for Spring planting.
- Plant garlic, shallots and wintering onions.
- Why not write for the free seed catalogues?
- Water all your evergreen trees and shrubs really well before the first hard frost. Even with all the rain we get even a few days without rain can dry out evergreens and lead to 'winter burn' or even death.
- Stop fertilizing your indoor plants since they use less water and fertilizer because of lower light.

(Thanks to June Meyer)

Plants to Share

Angel Plant (Datura)

Wandering geranium

Hostas, Shasta daisies, day lilies (yellow/Maroon)

Nattanya

Marsha

Moira

Plants Wanted

Red hellebores, flowering current

Bette

Plants of Distinction

by Bill Terry



The Gas Plant

About 30 years ago, my wife and I took a short holiday on the Mediterranean Island of Crete. We rented a motor scooter and drove into the mountains to visit the cave on Mount Dicte where, according to Greek mythology, the infant Zeus took shelter from his father who intended to eat him, as he had all his siblings.

Named for the mountain, *dictamnus albus* grew wild all around. It's commonly known as the 'Gas Plant' or 'Burning Bush' (although the latter name is more often associated with a euonymus, *euonymus alata*, which turns flaming red in fall). The common name, Gas Plant, arises from the fact that, in hot and dry conditions, the leaves and flowers exude an aromatic oil, so intense that a lighted match will briefly flare if held close.

The variety *dictamnus albus var. purpureus* (illustrated) is a beautiful, trouble free and long-lasting herbaceous perennial; an excellent border plant, 2-3 feet tall, that blooms in early summer and bears attractive seed pods and leaves that last well into fall. It's seldom found in garden centres, perhaps because it resents dividing or transplanting and takes three or more years to flower from seed. It's therefore likely to be expensive.

However, the Gas Plant is dead easy to grow. Seed planted in the fall (in a pot, using a sterile peat-based compost such as Sunshine #4) and left outside, will sprout the following spring. The Gas Plant flourishes in a sunny spot on the Sunshine Coast. I wouldn't be without it.

Bill Terry — Blue Heaven www.meconopsis.ca



Dates to Remember:

Sechelt Garden Club Christmas Party and Lunch: Sunday November 29. See notice on page 2.

Botanical Garden Information Meeting Sunday Nov. 15, 2:00 p.m. Community Room, Sechelt Public Library.

Botanical Garden "Grow the Garden Gala" Jan. 30 2010. Tickets go on sale Dec1.

Potting Up Session: About 175 plants were potted up in October. The next pot up session will be in April. Stay tuned for the notice in the March newsletter.

Ultimate Rhododendron Conference: April 9-11, 2010 at the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research. For more information email Ron Knight at or visit www.rhodos.ca.

Sechelt Garden Club Plant Sale: Saturday, May 8th at the Seaside Centre. A committee and volunteers will be organized. It's not too late to start thinking of potting up your plants for the plant sale.