

2016 Guest Speakers

January 25, 2016

- Laurie Creak

Laurie gave a visual presentation of several Chinese UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site gardens and Buddhist temple grounds that he visited on his trip to China. Featured gardens will include the Yu Garden (in Shanghai), the Lingering Garden (Suzhou), the Humble Administrator's Garden (Suzhou), the Summer Palace (Beijing) and assorted pagoda temple grounds. All photos were taken on a 16 day garden tour of China arranged by Steve Whysall (garden writer for the Vancouver Sun) and Laurus Travel Inc. We ran out of time before he was able to show us the temple ground. We are hoping to have him back, soon to finish his fascinating presentation.



Feb. 29 - Panel Discussion

Bill Terry moderated a panel discussion on the use of greenhouses at our general meeting on February 29th. The panel consisted of Verity Goodier, who is a Master Gardener and Karin Tigges, who attained her Certification in Applied Horticulture and Design. Verity, Karin and Bill provided the members with excellent information and tips on the use of greenhouses, and answered our questions. Karin showed us pictures of her greenhouse which she uses for propagating seeds and wintering plants. Karin uses a Promix high porosity soil mix to plant her seeds and plants. Verity shared that she starts her seeds indoors under lights. It was suggested by Bill and Verity that you can reduce costs by using a combination of warm light and grow lights, rather than exclusively grow lights. She does a spring clean up of her greenhouse before using it for the season. Verity showed up warming mats she utilizes to coax the seeds to sprout and says she uses lights on timers to grow her chili peppers and tomatoes.



Bill mentioned that a great site to use if you want to build a greenhouse is www.greenhouse.com. The members appreciated getting answers to their questions from the experts. Thankyou to Bill, Karin and Verity!

Mar. 21

- Annette Clark

Annette Clark from the Uncommon Fruit Nursery gave a presentation on uncommon winter hardy fruit trees that grow on the Sunshine Coast. She showed us some plants from the nursery and provide information on winter hardy fruit trees. She expects their Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) to be in flower shortly. Click on link for the list of trees and plants mentioned at the meeting. EXOTIC FRUIT NURSERY & price list



April 25

- Dianne Sanford

Dianne is a Director with the Seagrass Conservation Working group and been mapping and monitoring eelgrass, as well as coordinating restoration projects on the Sunshine Coast since 2001.

She is sole proprietor of Moonstone Enterprises, since 1996, and provides Environmental Education and environmental monitoring services, working closely with the Sunshine Coast School District and the many camps on the Sunshine Coast, as well as the Regional District and local governments.



Marine education is her specialty, and she has developed and delivered many beach programs.

As a long term facilitator for Wild BC programs, she has facilitated many training sessions in various school districts.

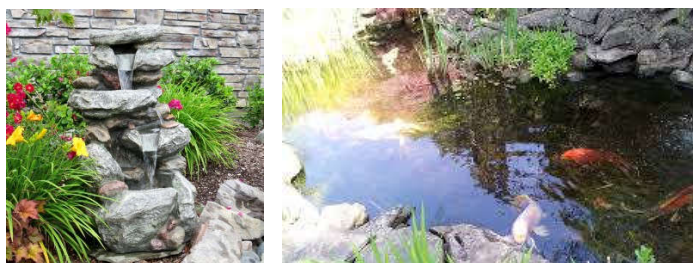
She is a past director and education coordinator for the Sunshine Coast Salmonid Enhancement Society, and still runs education programs from their hatchery.

Many children on the Sunshine Coast know her through the Salmonids in the Classroom program, as she holds the Education Coordinator contract for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (since 2002), in which salmon are raised from eyed eggs to fry.

May 30, 2016

Ponds, Fountains and Pondless Waterfalls

Marcel Koller, owner of Stream Works Design will be the speaker at our next meeting. This company designs and installs water features for residential gardens and commercial properties. These include waterfalls, ecosystem ponds, and fountains.



September 26, 2016

There is Just Something Special About Succulents

Gary Lewis is the owner of Phoenix Perennials and Specialty Plants Nursery in Richmond and one of B.C. most knowledgeable plant experts with a deep and special interest in rare and unusual herbaceous perennials.

His cottage-garden nursery on No. 6 Road in Richmond is one of Canada's top perennials nurseries, carrying more than 4,000 different garden plants.

Gary says his goal is to concentrate on acquiring specialty plants, particularly on what he calls "cutting edge new perennials and garden stalwarts."



The nursery is also promoted as carrying "a knock out selections of vines, shrubs, unusual trees, groundcovers, alpines, hardy and non-hardy succulents, grasses, ferns, herbs, rare and heirloom veggies and fruit, and much more."

This is perhaps why it is sometimes referred to by the loyal following of gardeners who shop there as a "candy store" of plants treasures.

In addition to his work as a busy nurseryman, Gary is also a popular garden lecturer, director on the board of the international Perennial Plant Association, member of the Great Plant Picks committee in Washington State and organizer of various garden workshops and seminars.

October 31, 2016

Unfortunately our speaker was ill and could not attend our meeting. Our Club is fortunate in that we have members who are expert gardeners, so Cathy Belfry, our President, facilitated a question and answer hour in which Jon Bell, Ron Knight and David Thompson fielded questions from the floor. One question was regarding the **planting of garlic bulbs**. Jon recommended the bulbs be planted in November as once they root, you do not want them to send up top growth which may be lost to frost. Planting 3-4 inches deep and 7-8 inches apart, planting "fat" side down is best. Ron Knight advised that **pruning rhododendrons** should be done immediately after they bloom. He recommends in planting the Rhodo, you should be aware

of how big they will grow, so you can plant in an appropriate spot. David Thompson shared his experience in growing and caring for the New Zealand Kiwi. Excellent information gentlemen!

Our **Mini Plant Sale** went well! Thanks to our members who brought in plants to sell—\$2.00 for small plants and \$5.00 for larger plants and to Karon Kosof for pack-aging up the special Canada 150th tulip bulbs for sale. Thanks as well to Verna Kelso, Christi Blackman and Carol Corbet for organizing the plant tables. Another plant sale for members and guests will be held at a general meeting in the Spring.