

Sechelt Garden Club Newsletter

www.secheltgardenclub.com

FEBRUARY 2015

Co-President:	Christie Blackman
Co-President:	Charmaine Harris
Secretary	Edwin Leung
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Next Meeting: Monday, February 23 at 7:30pm in the Seaside Centre.

Professional agronomist and certified horticultural technician Conway Lum will talk about "Beneficial Organisms for the Home Gardener." **NOTE:** Conway will be doing a workshop at Ardath Hoole's house at 1:30pm on February 23. There are still spaces available and spaces for a second workshop if the interest is there. Please contact Charmaine by February 20.

Please wear your name tag, bring your coffee/tea cup and *don't* park at Gilligans.

Membership: We are now collecting membership dues for 2015—\$17 for individuals and \$25 for families. Please bring cheques made out to the *Sechelt Garden Club* to the check-in table at the meeting or mail them to Barbara Peters. If you want your membership card and receipt mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. We will be reviewing the membership list at the beginning of March. Those people who have not paid will be removed from the list.

Seaside Centre Set Up: Thank you for participating in our new chair format. We will continue to ask people to take take down and return their chairs.

Bidding Adieu to Bobbi

Life Member Bobbi Kelly has moved to the Mainland to be closer to her son. Many of us remember the Mini Shows that Bobbi put on at our meetings. We wish Bobbi all the best!

POTTING-UP for the May 9th PLANT SALE

The 2015 Plant Sale will be on Saturday, May 9th.

Potting-Up will take place at Ardath Hoole's house.

Please **save the following dates** so that you won't miss out on the Potting-Up activities.

- Tuesday, March 24th from 10 to 1
- Wednesday, March 25 from 1 to 4
- Thursday, April 30 (if necessary) from 10 to 3 (Note change)

We **need plants for our potting-up sessions.** Even if your neighbours and/or friends are not garden club members, their plants are most welcome. If you are not able to participate in the potting up sessions, please bring the plants to Ardath's on the day of or day before the Potting-Up. If you put them in plastic bags, please **label** the bags.

STRAWBERRY TEA

We need a garden for the Strawberry Tea. We know you are out there. You want to volunteer your garden for the Strawberry Tea on June 7 but you are afraid that you don't have the very best, most developed, most cultivated garden in the Sechelt Garden Club. Don't worry. Take a chance! Every garden is a valuable one. And best of all you won't have to do very much work. Our great group of volunteers will do the rest. We also need a **coordinator** (or co-coordinators) of the Strawberry Tea. It's fun to work with a group and it's satisfying when there is a great outcome. Please contact Charmaine or Christi to offer your garden or volunteer.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Gibsons Garden Club Fundraiser: Rock the Garden with Master Gardener "Rock'n" Egan Davis presenting "Signs of Spring". Heritage Playhouse Theatre, February 18, 6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:30 for a Silent Auction. Reserve your tickets (\$15)

Sechelt Garden Club: Barry Roberts of Heritage Hydrangeas will be sharing his passion at our April meeting. He will guide us through his collection of over 100 hydrangeas on his 1.5 acre garden in Surrey and address cultivation, pruning and propagation techniques. As this is a great event and a mini fundraiser we will be inviting a limited number of people from the Gibsons and Pender Harbour Garden Clubs as well as the general public. Please bring all your friends. The fee for guests is \$5.

February Gardening 'TO DO' List

(thanks to Bob Tuckey from *The Natural Gardener*)

- Lift and divide perennials as long as ground isn't frozen.
- In case of a late cold spell watch that your pots don't freeze and then collect water on top.
- Start seeds of Statice, Dusty Miller, Pinks, Ornamental Peppers, Lobelia, Geranium, Gerbera, Heliotrope, & Petunia etc.
- Increase light and water to geraniums and fuchsias that were brought indoors and went dormant.
- Start seeds of lettuce, spinach, radishes and corn in cold frames.
- Start tomato seeds indoors. (Some people wait until March).
- Bring in potted bulbs of hyacinths, tulips and daffodils for a splash of early spring colour.
- Prune back miscanthus and pennisetum grasses to about 1 foot from the base.
- Prune fruit trees.
- Prune winter flowering shrubs and vines right after flowering.
- Prune roses when forsythia is blooming.
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees, roses and deciduous shrubs and trees.
- Plant new trees and shrubs as long as the ground isn't frozen.
- Watch out for aphids. If you find any either squish them or spray with Safers soap.
- Keep an eye out for any weeds that are starting to grow. If you pull them now while it is still easy to do so you will have much less of a problem this summer.
- Spend time going over your seed catalogues and plan your garden. Think about new seeds that you would like to try and foster for the plant sale.

Tips from the Garden Shed

European Chafer Beetle: (*Rhizotrogus majalis*)

Steve Whysall and Linda Gilkeson



The European Chafer Beetle is a serious pest of lawn turf. It is new to B.C. and was first identified in New Westminster in 2001. This beetle is now found throughout Vancouver, Burnaby, part of Port Coquitlam and Delta.

Although it is a close relative of June beetles, it is smaller (1.5 cm long) and completes a generation in one year, thereby allowing for large population increases. Adults appear in early summer, mate and lay eggs. The larvae hatch and feed on lawn roots through the summer, doing the most damage

in August and early spring. Lawn roots become diminished, allowing birds, skunks and racoons to dig up the 2-2.5 cm fat, white, C-shaped grubs.

To find out if you have a problem, cut a small square out of your lawn — a foot [30 by 30 cm] by 5 cm [two inches] deep — and look for grubs. If you find more than five or 10, you have a chafer problem. So what do you do? According to Peter Isaacson, pest management expert with the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, the best form of prevention is quality lawn care. Lawns that are diligently cared for — raked, dethatched, aerated, reseeded, fertilized, watered (appropriately), and not mown too severely — are far less vulnerable to chafers than lawns that are neglected. Turf grass seed can be sprinkled on lawns in February and March to fill in thin areas. Damaged patches can be reseeded in April and May.

The insect parasitic nematode, *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, can be applied to home lawns to help control moderate infestations. These organisms attack the developing chafer larvae and can dramatically reduce the population. However the window of opportunity to use nematodes effectively is usually in the third or fourth week of July or the first week of August. The ground needs to be moistened in advance and ideally the nematodes should be applied in the evening or on a cloudy day. Fifty million nematodes — *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* is the most effective kind — are available from garden centres for \$79.99 a packet. Two packets are recommended to treat a lawn of 1,400 square feet.

Having re-established the lawn, it is important to implement a good maintenance program that involves watering deeply twice a week (about 2.5 cm a week) according to water regulations. This will ensure deep roots. Mowing your lawn once a week, cutting grass no shorter than 5 or 6 cm.

Instead of replacing a lawn with a lawn, another option is to use plants such as salal, thyme, heathers, ornamental grasses, sedum, and Dutch white clover as groundcovers.

Please refer to www.lindagilkeson.ca (root feeders) for color photos of the European Chafer beetle and further information about prevention. Reference: West Coast Gardening, NATURAL INSECT, WEED & DISEASE CONTROL. Linda A. Gilkeson, Ph.D. p. 82