

# Sechelt Garden Club

Newsletter April 2016

## Coming Soon—PLANT SALE May 7th



Pat Allen, Cathy Belfry, Penny Lyle and Nattanya Wardel are hard at work on a cool rainy morning to pot up the many donations from our Garden club members. See page 4 for more pictures of our intrepid volunteers!



## Thanks for potting up assistance

A big thank you to Ardath Hoole who hosted the potting up on March 22nd and 23rd. We had many pots, lots of soil and hardy volunteers to pot the donated plants and thanks to them many plants were potted. We also had hot coffee and tea—again thanks Ardath. Many treats were brought in by our volunteers to share at coffee break. Yummy!

## Preparations Continue...

The Plant Sale Committee continues to ask for plants to be **divided and potted up at home**, if you can. Soil and 1 & 2 gallon pots are available at Ardath Hoole's; please call or email Ardath to let her know if you wish to pick up from her property.

Phone number: 604 740-5774—email: ardath\_hoole@hotmail.com. Be sure you put a good root mass into the pot and that they are not crowded—there are lots of pots to use. If you are **fostering plants until May**, keeping them moist and in shade will ensure their growth and result in big, healthy plants for sale.

**Ruth Rodgers, the Plant Sale Committee Chair**, asks that all fostered plants be dropped off at Ardath Hoole's **May 2 to May 4th at the latest**. If you can deliver by the 3rd, that is preferable. The address is 6253 Sechelt Road Inlet. Phone or email to let Ardath know you are coming. **Volunteers will be needed for the sale**: drivers to pick up and deliver plants, setting up for and taking down of the sale at the Seaside Centre, sales personnel and cashiers.

**Volunteer for the sale at the April meeting!**

## Next Meeting

Monday, April 25, 2016 at the Seaside Centre @ 7:30 P.M.

Please wear your name tag, and bring your cup for coffee or tea.

## SPEAKER

Dianne Sanford is a Director with the Seagrass Conservation Working group and will speak at our General meeting on the 25th. Her topic is:

**"Eelgrass and Forage Fish, two key players in the big picture."**

Dianne has been mapping and monitoring eelgrass and coordinating restoration projects on the Sunshine Coast since 2001. Dianne is a Streamkeepers Trainer for the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation, & past director of Natural Resources Advisory Committee. See page 2 for more of Dianne's bio.



Eelgrass

## DIANNE SANFORD BIO

Dianne is the sole proprietor of Moonstone Enterprises since 1996 and provides Environmental Education and environmental monitoring services. She works closely with the Sunshine Coast School District and 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 SC Salmonid Enhancement Society and still runs education programs for their hatchery. Children 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. She is the current chair of the Roberts Creek Official Community Plan committee and current director on the Salmonid Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board. Dianne is the volunteer coordinator for Sunshine Coast Friends of Forage Fish, coordinating volunteer sampling for sand lance and surf smelt over the past six years at various local beaches. Several local beaches have proven positive for smelt and sand lance spawn.

### Upcoming events in our community



#### **Penny Lyle, our Community Development Director provides us with community happenings.**

Penny would like members to be aware of the following dates regarding three events which all are beneficial to our community. You may want to mark them in your calendar:

**April 16—Saturday**—Sunshine Coast Arts Council invites you to volunteer to “bring colour back to the SCAC garden on the 16th at 9:00 am.” Please contact SCAC at 604 885-5412 or email them at [info@sunshinecoastartscouncil.com](mailto:info@sunshinecoastartscouncil.com)

**April 22—Friday** -10:00 to 2:00 pm at Mission Point Park—This is a day of information and education on invasive plants. Volunteer to help remove these plants from the Park.

**April 29— Friday**—Arbour Day is sponsored by District of Sechelt—Penny advises you can drop in for as long as you wish dressed for gardening, to remove invasive plants and plant shoreline plants. Do you have a favourite tree in Sechelt? Take your story of why it is your favourite tree to the event.

**Penny reports that safety glasses, gloves and refreshments will be provided for the events on the 22nd & 29th. Call Kim Kangas , District of Sechelt, at 604 740-8477 for more information**

### Sechelt Garden Club Dates to Remember:



Penny Lyle & Verna Kelso, community volunteers

**April 30—Saturday**—Sechelt Indian Band Plant Sale. SGC has been offered a table at their sale at which we can sell plants, and promote our Garden Club and our upcoming plant sale on May 7th.

**May 4—Deadline date for all fostered plants to be delivered to Ardath Hoole’s home –see page 1 for details**

**May 7—Saturday—Sechelt Garden Club Plant Sale**

## Annette Clarke's Bio—Exotic Fruit Nursery Robert's Creek Location

Annette Clarke was born in Germany in 1966. She studied geography, biology, forestry, soil science and pre-history at the University of Bonn. After finishing her masters degree in 2000, she worked in various biological projects and organized several ecological surveys in B.C.'s wild places. Annette and her son Nicholas moved to the Sunshine Coast in 2003 and did wetland restoration projects and taught nature courses.

In 2011, Annette and Nicholas bought a 3 acre sunny property in Roberts Creek and started an organic farm called 'Easter Egg Farm' with fruit trees, pasture, gardens, a llama, ducks, heritage chickens and bees in Roberts Creek.

The latest addition to the farm is a new nursery called 'Exotic Fruit Nursery', that specializes in the sourcing, growing, propagation and sale of uncommon but hardy fruit trees, bushes and vines that grow well in our West Coast climate. The nursery also includes an ever expanding showcase *exotic edible landscape and orchard* - open to the public.

### Annette's Presentation at our March 21 meeting

Who would not like to walk out their door and pick a persimmon fruit, a paw paw, pomegranate or a fruit from the Middle Ages—a Medlar? Annette Clarke provided Garden Club members with her experience in growing some of the more exotic fruits that we usually only have access to in the grocery store. She and her son Nicholas brought several of the fruit trees she has planted in pots, to our meeting, so we could have first hand look at them.

Annette talked about the fruits already mentioned, plus other highly unusual ones as well, including the Blue Sausage tree, the Seabuck Thorne, the Chinese date tree which is called the Jujube tree, olive trees, Guava and the Autumn Olive tree. Annette and Nicholas are working tirelessly to provide these hardy fruit trees for sale at their Exotic Fruit Nursery. At the meeting, Annette invited Garden Club members to visit her exotic nursery in Robert's Creek to view the unusual variety of fruits that she grows.



Blue Sausage Fruit



Fruits from left: Persimmon, Pomegranate and Jujube Fruit

**Ardath Hoole, who arranges our speakers, has received an invitation for members from Barry Rodgers—previous speaker at a Sechelt Garden Club meeting.** He is inviting members to attend an open house in South Surrey on June 11th.



### Invitation

**Saturday, June 11 (10:00-4:30):** *Open Garden Day at Heritage Hydrangeas, 13970 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Surrey.* Come and see how the largest collection of hydrangeas in Canada continues to grow. Admission is free. For a taste of what will be on view, go to [www.heritagehydrangeas.com](http://www.heritagehydrangeas.com). This may be the last time this garden is open for viewing.

## Potting up on March 21, 22 & 23



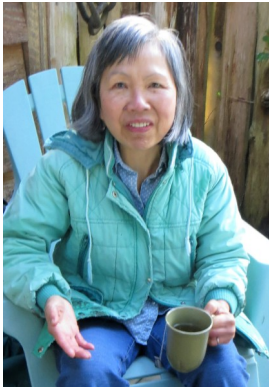
Penny Lyle, Ardath Hoole,  
Ruth Rodgers



Lorraine Gallant, Pianka &  
Edwin Leung



Peek-a-boo! Verna Kelso &  
Cathy Belfry



Pianka Leung on a well  
earned break



Diane Paulson & Verna Kelso  
busy potters



Carla Knight & June Meyers –  
happy at their work!!



John Lyle, Penny Lyle, Verna  
Kelso & Carol Corbet



Edwin Leung, Cathy Belfry & Penny  
Lyle



Ruth Rodgers making labels

Thank you to all above volunteers for potting up, including Linda Lamont,  
Ron Knight, Sandy Friedman and Pat Allen  
Thanks! And thanks again!!

## April Checklist from The New Twelve Month Gardener



### Annuals perennials and bulbs

- Deadhead daffodils but leave seed pods on squills and grape hyacinths to seed themselves. Remove foliage when it has started to yellow. Feed with fish fertilizer.
- Divide up primroses and polyanthus after flowering
- Edge flower beds, weed well and check carefully for invading pests and diseases.
- Stake perennials that need it and mulch if not already done.
- Continue to sow seeds of hardy annuals in ground.

### Trees, shrubs and climbers

- Rose pruning should be completed by the beginning of the month. Mulch with aged manure or well-rotted compost. Check for aphids and rub off, or use an insecticidal soap.
- Shear winter-flowering heathers after flowering.
- Continue planting trees and shrubs.
- Prune early-blooming shrubs such as Spirea thunbergii and Forsythia spp. after flowering.
- Evergreen and conifer hedges can be clipped now.
- Check vines growing on the house to make sure they are not invading window frames or working their way under gutters and shingles.

### Fruits, vegetables and herbs

- April 1—15, plant early potatoes, green onion, bulb onion, kohlrabi, cabbage and leeks.
- April 16—30, sow beets, carrots, Swiss chard, broccoli, cauliflower, parsnip, kale and lettuce. Sow zucchini, cucumbers and tomatoes indoors in a sunny window or a cold frame. Plant out strawberry plants
- Keep the vegetable garden well weeded and keep a lookout of signs of pests and diseases

### Other garden activities

- Continue preparing new lawns and repairing worn patches on existing ones. The first three lawn mowing should be done with the blades set higher than usual.
- Aerate the lawn, start planting water plants in pool—turn compost

Authors: Elaine Stevens, Doris Fancourt-Smith, Dagmar Hungerford, Jane Mitchell, Ann Buffam —Publisher is Whitecap Books, Vancouver/Toronto

## Board Members

### President

Cathy Belfry 604.740.9877

### Past Co –Presidents

Charmaine Harris & Christi Blackman

### Vice-President

Vacant—looking for a volunteer

### Secretary

Edwin Leung 604.885.0100

### Treasurer

Lorraine Gallant 604.885.6495

### Co-Communications

Carol Corbet 778.458.2287

Karon Kosof(&Webmaster) 604.885.1935

### Membership

Sharon O'Brien 604.885.2623

### Speakers

Ardath Hoole 604.740.5774

### Community Development

Penny Lyle 604.740.9819

### Directors

Nattanya Wardel 604.885.2271

Verna Kelso 604.747.9048

### Correspondence

Janet Crowe 604.885.3366



Call Karon 604.399.9889 for more information on volunteering and to get started

More information about the club can be found at:  
[www.secheltgardenclub.com](http://www.secheltgardenclub.com)

### It is with sadness we report the

passing of 2 former Garden Club members. **Ed King** was a long time member of the club, who moved to North Vancouver 2 years ago and passed away at age 85.

**Diane Moore** was also a long time, past member. Club members would remember her volunteering at Garden Club meetings as the "Coffee lady".