

Sechelt Garden Club

Newsletter October 2016



Mini Plant Sale

Buy a boo-ti-full plant at our October 31st meeting! Bring a plant or two from your garden or a favourite house plant. Please label it with name of plant, if the plant likes sun or shade, and also your own name. It will be sold in our mini plant sale for \$2.00, with larger plants costing \$5.00. Plants that do not sell will go home with their owners.

You can buy or place your order for Canada's 150th celebration tulip bulbs. The Canada 150 tulip is white with red flames and bears a striking resemblance to our Maple Leaf flag.



Bring your favourite plant to sell.



Next Meeting

Monday, October 31, 2016

at the Seaside Centre,

5790 Teredo Street

@ 7:30 P.M

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



Speaker will be

Michelle Young, a local food grower and garden planner.

Topic

"Grow your own Food"

Our speaker will be Michelle Young, a local food grower and garden planner.

Michelle is an avid organic farmer and landscape contractor who has spent the last 25 years working in the fields of healing arts and organic land-care.

Michelle's land-care projects have ranged from ornamental landscaping to edible landscaping to organic market gardening.

An early innovative education in Ecological Landscape Design and becoming a Certified Organic Master Gardener propelled her to pioneer the implementation of organic land-care practices into the Whistler commercial landscape scene. Her portfolio contains a collection of Whistler strata properties and numerous private residences. See our web site www.secheltgardenclub.com for more information on Michelle.

**DRESS UP FOR OUR
HALLOWE'EN
MEETING!
WE DARE YOU!**



Sizzling Succulents—Gary Lewis, M.Sc. Phoenix Perennials

Gary Lewis from Phoenix Perennials, Richmond



Gary’s talk on September 26th included the drama, structure and intrigue that he sees and absolutely loves with succulent foliage and flowers. Gary brought with him a number of plants from his nursery to show us why he is so in love with succulents. We were welcome to purchase plants during and after the meeting. Gary talked about Stonecrops, Crassulaceae —the Crassula Family which includes Hen and Chicks and sedums; the Cactus Family, Carrot/Parsley Family (includes Sea Hollies); Saxifrage Family and the Yuccas— the Asparagus Family. There is also the Carpet Weed Family, Brassica Family which includes Sea Kale, the Spurge Family, Pineapple Family and the Asphodel Family.

As Gary said, “ all cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti.” Some succulents are in the Aster Family. His talk was fascinating!

Gary pointed out that for example hens and chicks have over 150 different types and they are drought tolerant and love full sun. It is important, he says that all succulents have good drainage and some in the Cactus Family need overhead protection from rain.

Phoenix Perennials, in Richmond B.C., is an award-winning retail and mail order nursery. They feature over 4000 different perennial species and cultivars. They have over 800 different plants a year for shipping. You can check them out at www.phoenixperennials.com.



Above are some of the interesting plants Gary brought from his nursery.

Sechelt Garden Club Needs You!!

Want to have some fun planning our next year? Positions are open on the

- Board:
- Vice President**
 - Secretary**
 - Guest Speaker Director**
(arranges the wonderful speakers for our meetings)
 - General Board Members**

Please ask us for more information about position descriptions and volunteer opportunities.

See our contact information on page 4.

We would love to hear from you.



Christmas Luncheon Tickets on Sale

Don’t miss out! Attend our festive lunch on Sunday December 11, 2016. Buy your tickets at one of our meetings or phone Nattanya Wardel @ 604.885.8043.

\$20.00 for members

\$30.00 for guests

Excellent food, good company, draw prizes and entertainment.

See you there!



Bulb Planting Tips

When to plant

- Small minor bulbs like snowdrops winter aconites, crocus and Siberian squills should be planted as soon as possible, and certainly before the end of October. Leaving them out of soil for an extended time causes premature sprouting and dissipates stored energy needed for spring bloom.
- Larger tulip and narcissus bulbs can be held in a cool, dark garage (not indoors) to plant in late autumn.
- Warm soil can stimulate bulbs to sprout in fall, something to avoid. If warm days persist through September and October, it may be necessary to hold off planting most large bulbs until the weather has chilled in November. The soil temperature should be cooled to below 15 degrees C; chilly nights indicate the soil is cooling. Eg wait until night temperatures are consistently in the range of 4 to 8 degrees C.

Bulb planting depth

- The traditional rule has been to plant bulbs at a depth three times their height, measured from the bottom of the bulbs.
- A tulip bulb standing 2" (5 cm) tall should be buried 6 inches (15 cm) deep, and a one-inch (2.5 cm) crocus would be buried 3 "(8 cm) deep.
- A layer of leaves and conifer boughs laid over the bulbs will also help to insulate the bulbs. Remember to pull the covering off in early spring to allow the sun to warm the soil.



Good Drainage

- Bulbs require good drainage to prevent them from rotting and developing fungal diseases. Sandy soil drains rapidly and favours good bulb health, but heavy clay soil holds water and promotes the growth of pathogens.
- To prevent the buildup of excessive moisture around bulbs, amend the immediate planting area with coarse builder's sand to a depth of 10 inches (25 cm). Plant the bulbs into the amended soil, gently firming the soil over them.

Squirrel Protection

- Avoid setting bulbs on the soil while you work; keep them in a paper bag or other container until they go into their planting holes.
- Don't allow any of the papery tunic covering them to flake off and remain on the soil. (no sense leaving delicious hints lying about to attract attention). Squirrels search the ground for signs of freshly disturbed soil and then dig for a reward.)

October Checklist from The New Twelve Month Gardener

Annuals, perennials and bulbs

- Plant spring flowering bulbs and perennials
- As perennials fade, lift and divide them
- Clear beds of annuals by the end of October and add to compost
- Dig up dahlias, gladioli and tuberous begonias, label and store
- Plant peonies and lift and divide clumps of nerines if necessary after they have finished flowering
- Cut stems of perennials, clean up borders and keep well weeded. Mulch with well-rotted compost or manure
- Plant out wallflowers and forget-me-nots that were sown earlier
- Plant lily bulbs from now until March

Fruits, vegetables and herbs

- Keep harvesting fruits and vegetables, and make final sowing of lettuce in beds or cold frame
- Continue taking cuttings of bush fruits, prune back fruited canes and stake the new ones
- Take final cuttings of herbs, such as lavender, rosemary and bay laurel. Keep the cuttings indoors for the winter. Bay laurel will not survive outside
- Divide clumps of chives and pot up young plants of mint, chives and parsley for indoor use.
- Plant garlic, shallots and overwintering onions

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



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

Board Members

President

Cathy Belfry 604.740.9877

Past Co –Presidents

Charmaine Harris & Christi Blackman

Vice-President

Vacant—looking for a volunteer

Secretary

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Verna Kelso 604.747.9048

Correspondence

Janet Crowe 604.885.3366

Please check out the our website to see helpful gardening websites recommended by our members.

Click on:

[Interesting gardening websites](#)

Please send me any feedback and suggestions as to the type of information you would like to see included in our monthly newsletters. I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Corbet

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