

Happy Summertime

Save the Date—Sunday June 23 for Garden Tours
More information to come separately with the
locations and map



Heartfelt thanks to two Special Members

Huge thanks to Sharon O'Brien for volunteering as our Membership Director for the past several years. She has unfailingly kept our membership records up to date, collected the membership fees, created our name tags and introduced new members to the club. Sharon could always be counted on to be early at our general meetings to set up and be ready to respond to folks coming in the door. Your work with the club is very much appreciated Sharon!

Terry Rolfe is also retiring from her position with the Club as our Secretary. We will miss her sunny disposition and excellent attention to detail in our minutes. Terry took minutes at both the Executive and General Meetings—did up draft minutes and asked for any changes to be made before a final draft was done. Terry has great patience....thanks for being open to lots of changes at times, Terry!

You too are appreciated and will be missed Terry!

You are both rock stars!



NEWSFLASH —Our Garden Club is fortunate in that we have two talented ladies who have stepped forward to take on these vacated positions for the Fall.

Lee Tidmarsh takes on the Membership Director position and Dianne Tarris becomes our Secretary. Thanks to both of them! Their bios will appear in the Web Site over the summer.

Next Meeting

Monday, September 30, 2019

at the Seaside Centre,

5790 Teredo Street

@ 7:00 pm

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



Speaker: Andrea Lord

Topic: Xeriscaping your yard

Andrea is a Landscaper who made the move to the Sunshine Coast a couple of years ago. With our water seeming to diminish each year, this will be a welcome topic.



REPORT OF NORTSHORE 'ART IN THE GARDEN' TOUR APRIL 25, 2019

Submitted by Ann Booth—Pictures by Noel Shepperd



Five intrepid members set out on the one and only rainy day in ages to tackle as many garden displays as possible participating in the annual "Art in the Garden" Tour in North Vancouver.

Starting at noon, our first stop was a very lush well established garden on a hillside off Marine Drive in West Vancouver. (1) Streams, bridges, hidden glass art around many corners, meandering trails in this relatively small space leading you to a striking California red bud. Garden evolved over 28 years.

Our next stop was just down the road to the garden of Rudi Pinkowski (the Palm man). (2) A stunning waterfront garden with exotic and unusual plants set artistically against the backdrop of the ocean. Some trees were sculpturally designed to enhance the tranquility and a guitarist played in the background and artistic glass was the feature. We even ended up being invited in the house for what would amount to a light lunch - drinks, appies and pleasant conversation.

Dragging ourselves away, we pressed on into North Vancouver to the suburb of Edgemont to a relatively small garden using many perennials rescued from building sites. (4) They displayed birdhouses by people with disabilities, and two acrylic artists.

Next stop was in Delbrook (6). This garden offered 5 'garden rooms' very cleverly done for it did not feel overcrowded, featuring a sculpture on the small back lawn which did not overwhelm, a 5 apple tree orchard between the houses (good utilization of space) and 2 ponds and backed onto a ravine which 'enlarged' the space visually.

The next garden (7) in the same area had eliminated the need of a lawnmower by surrounding all the flowerbeds by paving stones with spacious walkways, but still retaining a lush garden of interest. We were serenaded on arrival with the music of Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen, and then by Latin music from the deck.



Cont'd—REPORT OF NORTSHORE 'ART IN THE GARDEN' TOUR APRIL 25, 2019

Submitted by Ann Booth—Pictures by Noel Shepperd

Our next experience was a longtime participant in the garden tour - Gardener Lawrence Wick (9). A visually rich and extensive mix of exotic and tropical plants and large trees overwhelming a house somewhere in the depths! Years of collecting all sorts of objects, one of our members described it as "schizophrenic".

Managing to get one more garden in before 5pm we visited Garden #5. A well ordered garden with a snake shaped hedge and well defined borders, a big contrast to the previous garden.

We had a great day, damp, some laughs, and ended up at a Garden Centre in Park Royal and guess what - bought some plants! Came home on the 6.55 pm ferry - it was a lovely evening by then.



Pat Kolterman, Ann Booth and Lorraine Blakeman



Lovely pictures and excellent report –Thank you! My favourite photo is the one immediately above—stunning!

Community Development Crew working with The West Sechelt Elementary school—Pictures by Edwin Leung

Penny Lyle and her tireless Crew, after many months of preparation, are just about finished this project. They prepped the disposal bins last summer in the very hot sun. Penny had lots of liaising to do to line up the time for the students to paint nature themed pictures on the bins.



Penny & John at the bins behind the Sechelt Pool and below is Lyle Markham working the sander.



Sally Markham, Penny, Pat Kolterman with Lyle Markham extreme right. Missing is John Lyle and Edwin Leung. Pat visited the Elementary class prior to the event to help prepare the students for this project. What dedicated garden club members!

And here are some of the students' creations!



With 20 spaces left to paint on the disposal bins, Ecole Pacifique Elementary students take their turn at noon to 1:30 PM on June 17th. Garden club members are invited to the event behind the municipal hall/library. Coast Reporter is sending a reporter and photographer. Look for more pictures in our September newsletter. Thanks so much to Penny and the Community Development Committee! Wonderful results!

How to Improve your Soil—Donna Balzer

Donna Balzer, our May speaker from Vancouver Island, presented our club with excellent information on improving our garden soil. She shared with us this recipe for mixing our own organic fertilizer. Contact Donna if you have any questions.

DONNA BALZER'S 2019 Complete Organic Fertilizer— West Coast Soils—Enough COF to cover 100 Square feet (10 square metres)

3 Litres high protein seed meal (percentage of protein will be on bag)
 1 litre fishbone meal (I now use Rock Phosphate in same amount but soft rock Phosphorus or bone meal works too)
 1 Litre kelp meal
 500 ml Azomite (optional)
 500 ml Ag limestone (#100 screen)
 500 ml Ag gypsum
 75 - 100 ml Potassium sulphate (optional but I was low on K so am adding now)

MIX WELL by pouring between buckets (Outdoors please! Don't inhale dust!) Use right away or store in rodent-proof container.

Other Ingredients- mixed with water and sprayed on separately or mixed with COF recipe above:

5 ml (1 tsp) laundry Borax (Mule Team Laundry Borax) - spray on soil not on plants

7.5 ml (1 ½ tsp) zinc sulphate mixed with 2 litres water and sprayed on leaves (Donna Balzer bought at pharmacy)

7.5 ml (1 ½ tsp) magnesium sulfate - sold as Epsom salts, Could also be mixed with 2 litres water and sprayed on plants and soil.

5 ml (1 tsp) copper sulphate (various sources including Borden's, Victoria). Alternately mixed with 2 litres water and sprayed on plants.

If plant growth slows down, side-dress rows with another 2 litres of the above COF mix mid-season. Note: this mix does not replace soil testing.

Optional: Add up to 1 litre of the COF finished mixture to compost pile and then water in well.

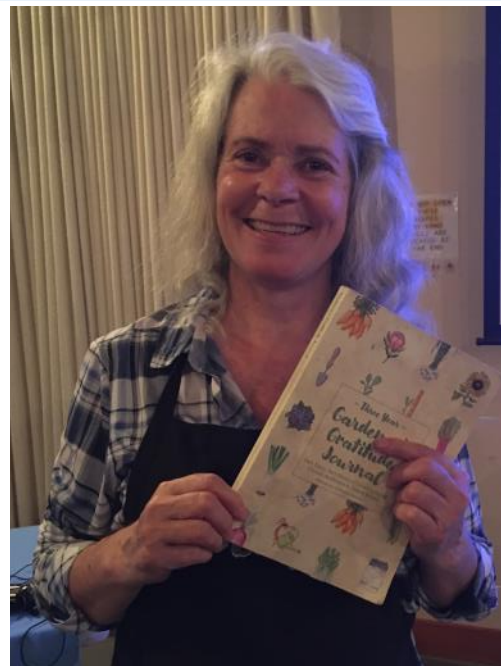
Contact Donna for additional information.

DO NOT SUBSTITUTE DOLOMITE FOR OTHER LIMES – Dolomite is lime (Ca) with Magnesium and it can cause tight soils where there is clay and will mess with the Calcium/Magnesium balance required to mineralize soils. The ideal balance to create nutrient dense food is: Calcium 68%, Magnesium 12%, Potassium 4%, Sodium 2%

Sources for materials listed above: **Station Farm & Feed** on Port Alberni Highway; **BuckerFields** in Parksville, **Borden's** in Victoria

Based on Steve Solomon's "The Intelligent Gardener" Book page 84-85. Converted for Canadians by Donna Balzer based on materials available for gardeners.

For More No Guff Info see: www.donnabalzer.com This recipe updated September 4, 2017



June Gardening Tips

Annuals, Perennials and Bulbs in the Garden

Haven't had enough time to get the garden looking quite right yet? 'Color Spots' may be your quickest and easiest way of catching up with the neighbors.

Color Spots are easy care, blooming size annuals that the nurseries have grown in 4" pots. They have taken care of the feeding, pinching and early care for you. The result is a nicely branched plant, blooming and ready to set in the garden. You will be able to see what your flower will look like before you even pick it out, and have some early summer colors before the sun sets.

Prepare the soil, water the new plants before you remove them from the pot; plant the color spots at the recommended spacing on the label; water them again.

Pinch back any annuals, Fuchsias, Geraniums, Cosmos, or any other plants that might be getting a little leggy.



Pinch your Chrysanthemums to encourage them to be bushier and have more blossoms. Pinch them again, every 6 inches or so, as they grow.

This is an excellent month to pick out a few new perennials, and plant them in the garden. Divide spring flowering perennials like, Primroses, Arabis, and Aubrietia.

Continue reading at: <http://www.thegardenhelper.com/calendar/june.html>

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Please check out our website for helpful gardening tips.

[Gardening Tips and Information](#)



More information about the club can be found at:
www.secheltgardenclub.com

For more information on volunteering call Carol Corbet @ 778 458-2287