



Sechelt Garden Club



Newsletter March 2019

Happy St. Patrick's Day

2019 Executive Board



Left to Right:

Penny Lyle— Director of Community Development, Noel Sheppard—Vice President, Carol Corbet—Director of Communications, Muguette Macdonald—Treasurer, Sharon O'Brien—Director of Membership, Verna Kelso—Director In front is Ann Booth, our President. Missing are Cindy Kisser—Webmaster, Pat Kolterman—Director of Speakers, Terry Rolfe—Secretary.

Photo Credit to John Lyle—Thanks John

Next Meeting

Monday, March 25, 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: Marilyn Holt

Topic: Good Bugs and Bad Bugs

Marilyn Holt is a gardening enthusiast, international speaker and once owned and operated a Pelargonium nursery, exporting plants internationally. She was Editor of the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs, "The Bulletin", for seven years. Marilyn currently looks after the Garden Center for the Abbotsford Buckerfield's store and is also a Horticultural Judge. She shares her knowledge by putting on workshops and seminars for Buckerfield's throughout the year as well as speaking to garden clubs and groups on numerous subjects.



Preparing for our Mini Plant Sale

April 29

Pot up a plant or two from your garden or a favourite house plant, label it with the **name of the plant** and **your name** and it will be sold in our Mini Plant Sale. All plants are welcome. Last year we had everything from trees, to ground covers to raspberry canes. But do remember that if the plant does not sell that evening, it has to go home with its owner, as we do not have storage space.

This is a great way to pick up some fabulous plants for your garden, deck, or house. Weather is improving, so we will be, or already are, out in our gardens so take a look for what you can pot up!

Thanks Everyone!



Paddy Wales -Plan Your Resilient Garden in Changing Times

We have been dealing with difficult drought conditions in our gardens every summer and Paddy Wales had excellent suggestions for us. We seem to be dealing with more invasive plants, more pests and diseases than before.

An approach she suggests is to “**Learn-plan-alter and repeat**”. So **assess** areas in your garden, **observe** what works and **change** what is not working. Reconsider plants that are no longer suitable, and continue to repeat this process.

Water less, but deeply and when we are in drought conditions make holes in hard ground with a pitch fork or bamboo skewer so water can reach roots. Remember that plants that set buds after blooming need deep water in summer—eg rhododendrons. She shared that grey leaved plants are more drought tolerant, such as Rose Campion or Sage.

Improve soil in fall or early spring; add anything organic like leaves. Remember that after February 1, seaweed cannot be harvested. Seaweed is good for use on roses and raspberries. Use mulch to protect soil and hold water.

Thanks to Paddy for her excellent presentation.



One take away from the question period and discussion: carrots which are more resistant to Fly away pests — **Fly away carrots** (West Coast Seeds sells this variety). Also, check out:

<https://www.growveg.com/guides/how-to-prevent-carrot-fly-from-destroying-your-crop/>

Nara Brenchley, who is on the board of Directors of the Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society wanted to share this information with our members to remind us about the existing pesticide Bylaws.

Cosmetic Pesticide Bylaws— Article from the Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society

Did you know that both the Town of Gibsons and District of Sechelt have had bylaws restricting the cosmetic application of pesticides for over a decade?

While they do still allow permitted exemptions within set back limits for licensed applicators, this means non-essential, aesthetic uses require notification signage and adherence to regulations including wind, temperature and precipitation conditions.

Even though you *can* use something, doesn't mean you *should*. There are plenty of organic and less harmful alternatives available if you really desire a pristine lawn and garden.

World-wide, bees and other pollinator populations are under threat due to the use of pesticides and reduced forage habitat through urbanization. This in turn affects *our* food production.

Don't be so quick to destroy those dandelions! They're a valuable early food source for bees. Later in the season, pull them by hand before they go to seed and when the soil is moist so you can get the full tap root. Strong vinegar or boiling water can be poured on plants that have sprung up in inaccessible cracks.



Mow less frequently and raise the blade to about 3 inches when you do. Many bee species live underground and are more likely to be resting there on hot afternoons.

Please, be a considerate neighbour to all living creatures.

[Pesticide Free BC](#)

[Gibsons Pesticide Bylaw 996,2005](#)

[Sechelt Pesticide Bylaw 441, 2007](#)

March To Do List from The New Twelve Month Gardener

Annuals, perennials and bulbs:

- Lift and divide perennials and plant new ones, cut down ornamental grasses
- Weed flower beds, and mulch with compost
- Deadhead and feed spring bulbs when they are finished flowering. Move and plant snowdrops
- Pot up rooted cuttings and overwintered tuberous begonias in soil.



Fruits, vegetables and herbs

- Finish your pruning of trees and bush fruits by the end of March
- March 1 to 15— begin to sow radish, garlic and broad beans
- March 16 to 31—begin successive sowings of peas, spinach, leaf lettuce, Chinese vegetables, onion sets turnips and shallots
- Start tomato seeds indoors
- Plant new strawberry plants and feed established plants
- Feed rhubarb with rich organic material

Trees, shrubs and climbers:

- Prune early-blooming deciduous shrubs, like forsythia, after they finish blooming
- If shrubs or trees need to be moved, March is the month to do this. After the 15th, prune hybrid tea and floribunda roses. Apply a handful of organic rose food to the soil and work it in.
- Evergreens should be planted now and mulched with well-rotted compost or manure. Prune roses when forsythia is blooming

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

Board Members

President

Ann Booth 604.720.0277

Vice-President

Noel Shepperd 604.989.7843

Secretary

Terry Rolfe 604.885.5157

Treasurer

Muguette Macdonald 604.780.1696

Communications

Carol Corbet 778.458.2287

Membership

Sharon O'Brien

Webmaster

Cindy Kisser 604.970.5477

Guest Speakers

Pat Kolterman 604.399-8654

Community Development

Penny Lyle 604.740.9819

Director

Verna Kelso 604.747.9048

Please check out our website for helpful gardening tips.

[Gardening Tips and Information](#)



Sharing Table

Our Sharing Table welcomes plants, gardening tools, books, containers, and any useful garden item that you would like to share and sell at the meeting.

Do put your name on your items and label the plants you bring please. Anything remaining at the end of the meeting will go home with their owners as we do not have storage.

Thank you for your wonderful support; the Sharing Table does very well at helping to raise funds for our Club.



More information about the club can be found at:

www.secheltgardenclub.com

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