

Sechelt Garden Club



Season opening meeting and plant sale

Monday September 25

Seaside Centre

Plant sale: 6:00 - 7:15

Meeting: 7:15

Speaker: Rand Rudland

presenting a slide show about
his Borneo adventure

Guests welcome for \$10



Join us on September 25th, 2023 7pm, Seaside Centre, Sechelt for an evening of photo delights as Rand Rudland, nature photographer and butterfly enthusiast, brings us on a virtual adventure of the Borneo jungles and its wild inhabitants

Borneo - Biodiversity Beyond Belief

June of 2023 was a very hot month for Rand Rudland and his five globe trotting companions as they traversed the Sabah and Sarawak provinces of Malaysian Borneo to explore the immense diversity of flora and fauna found in this equatorial rainforest. Ranging from sea-level on the Kinabatangan River to the mid-elevations of Mt. Kinabalu, Malaysia's highest peak, he photographed such rare species as the Bornean Peacock pheasant & Dulit's Frogmouth, huge flowering Rafflesia plants & aerial pitcher plants, and the improbable-looking Common Imperial butterflies.

The list goes on, with over 300 bird species, 47 butterfly & moth species, 9 squirrel species, including flying squirrels amongst the 29 mammal species, snakes (poisonous and not), dragonflies, spiders, and even a few blood-sucking leeches that feasted on unwary hikers.

The diversity of plants, in particular the ferns, was confounding to say the least. It soon became an impossible task to document all the plants seen while birding at the same time, so representative samples of various plant families were taken, including 12 of the 127 fern species posted on iNaturalist for the island of Borneo, some with close relatives right here on the Sunshine Coast.

The food was great (heavy on the seafood), the roads varied from good to terrible (4-wheel drive only), the insects were tolerable (more bee stings than mosquito bites), the muddy trails were trying, the sun was hot (up to 36 deg C.) and the humidity (to 90%) was drenching. A perfect formula for a trip of a lifetime, at least for this group of avid naturalists.



Photos by Rand Rudland
Orangutang and Fringed Pitcher
plant

Go Native!

Douglas Aster

Symphyotrichum subspicatum

Douglas Aster is a gorgeous, hardy BC native perennial wildflower. It blooms with a lovely show of blue daisies from late summer all the way into fall. They are ray flowers (like daisies) with bright purple-blue papery petals and a yellow central disk. It is a valuable food source for pollinators in the fall when other nectar sources are fading.

A cluster of erect leafy stems that grow from creeping rhizomes and can reach up to 1.2m (4 ft) in height.

It thrives in moist, well drained soil and prefers full sun but grows equally well in part shade.

Requiring little care once established the Douglas Asters are a tough, drought tolerant and deer resistant plant.



More plants from the Cascade Park Butterfly Garden



Shooting Star Photo by Connie McConchie



Swallowtail Butterfly on Giant Allium Photo by Corinne McConchie

Summer 2023 events

Suzuki Foundation Visit

Winnie Hwo, Senior Public Engagement Specialist from the David Suzuki Foundation and Siobhan Smith, Manager of Community Services, District of Sechelt, visited the Cascade Green Park Butterfly Garden on August 2, 2023

Another visit is planned for the near future and there are some funds from an arts and culture program that could be applied to the creation of the indigenous butterfly sign. We are grateful for their contribution to the garden.



SPCA Butterfly Garden

Making a Difference!

Kudos to member Linda Reha-Krantz, who has been donating time, effort and expertise in establishing a pollinator garden near the entrance of the SPCA on Field Road. It's looking great!

Sechelt Garden Club's 2023 donation to three of SD 46 Elementary Schools:

Davis Bay, West Sechelt and Kinnickinnick schools all had established a garden in order to introduce young students to growing practices, and the fun (and hard work) of growing their own produce. But in order to continue these efforts, some challenges had to be addressed! We're pleased that our membership has helped with irrigation issues for two of these gardens, and the finishing of a garden shed on the other.

*FYI...thanks to longtime member Jon Bell, who donates a portion of his acreage in West Sechelt for the elementary kids' use.



Susan Essiembre, Winnie Hwo, Siobhan Smith at the Cascade Green Park Butterfly Garden

Garden Party July 15 Chez Ann

Our Past President, Ann Booth, hosted another great get-together in July, with 30+ members contributing to a very social afternoon in her garden. We made use of the Club's tent canopy ...it was a warm afternoon! Many goodies were enjoyed, and due to the heat, the punch bowl was way more popular than the teapot! Thanks, Ann, for your hospitality.

Summer Garden Tours

Many thanks to our members who hosted tours of their gardens this summer...Claire Rudd and Enid Ericksson, with perimeter gardens in the Big Maple, Darcy Long in Davis Bay, and Suzan Essiembre who guided everyone through the Cascade Park Butterflyway. We experienced four very different and quite inspiring gardens!



Caption



Cascade Green Park Butterfly garden photo by Edwin Leung



Helpful Hints for Potted Plants - Stage 4 Water Restrictions

by Pat Kolterman and Suzan Essiambre

- Wash dishes in a plastic basin and then use the cooled water to water the garden
- Use cooled cooking water
- Collect water in buckets while showering or waiting for water to heat up.
- Use your dehumidifier water every couple of days.
- Save water: Install cisterns and collect rainwater.
- Collect non-potable water available for free at the sewage treatment plant on Surf Circle in Sechelt.
- Move potted plants to a shady area (shelter from direct sun and wind).
- Use parasols, umbrellas and wind breaks.
- Group pots together to create a microclimate but leave enough space between pots to allow air flow around the plants.
- Mulch or top dress around the base of the plants. Use gravel, stones, pebbles, straw, shredded paper, compost, or well-rotted wood chips.
- Water less frequently but when you do water, water deeply.
- Water early in the morning or in the evening
- Set plants in a plastic tub so you can reuse the water that runs through the soil
- Reduce or stop fertilizing plants.
- Cut back flowers and foliage as a last resort.

Links....

www.muddytrowel.com

www.the spruce.com

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Sechelt Garden Club Fall Meetings

Sept 25 Seaside Centre Plant Sale and Speaker Rand Rudland

Oct 30 *Seniors Activity Centre* speaker Gary Lewis (note change of venue)

Nov 27 Seaside Centre Speaker TBA

The Executive wants to introduce shorter business meetings, and offer our members the opportunity to share both successes and challenges you're experiencing in your gardens. "What's happening in YOUR garden was suggested by Pat Kolterman, which just about covers any scenario! We'll introduce this section to replace several business reports each month.

NB Executive increased quest fees to \$10