

# Sechelt Garden Club



Dear Garden Club Members,

Well, where did that month go with self isolation? To quote Gerri, “Mother Nature has been awesome” and has lulled us perhaps into a peaceful state of mind, with the “I’ll get around to it - tomorrow” On the other hand many avid gardeners will be thoroughly enjoying the opportunities of getting early planting going.

We are all waiting to see now what May will bring, and there are many interesting websites, some mentioned, that will inspire us along the way.

If and when the time comes that the flattening of the curve of the virus will allow us to have small gatherings, I am hoping our members will have splendid gardens they will want to show off. We are monitoring the situation to see when that will happen.

**The Strawberry Tea** is rebooked for **June 13, 2021**.

Don’t forget to keep in touch with us, and if anyone needs a bit of help with their garden, maybe a helping hand could be offered.

We hope you are all well and staying healthy.

Ann



Photo by Ann Booth

## ***ONE STRAW SOCIETY***

[www.onestraw.ca](http://www.onestraw.ca)

Have a look at this website where you will find the **Green Banner**, an easy guide to local and organic food on the Sunshine Coast.

## ***PLANTS FOR SHARING***

In conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Food Bank, this project is encouraging gardeners to grow an extra seedling to donate.

Contact Linda Ryan 604-652-6627

**Board Members 2020**

**President**

Ann Booth 604-720-0277

**Vice-President**

Noel Shepperd 604-989-7843

**Secretary**

Dianne Tarris 604-865-0726

**Treasurer**

Muguette Macdonald 604-780-1696

**Communications**

Lee Tidmarsh 604-374-4255

**Membership**

Lee Tidmarsh 604-374-4255

**Webmaster**

to be determined

**Guest Speakers**

Pat Kolterman 604-399-8654

**Community Projects**

Penny Lyle 604-740-9819

**Director-at-large**

Gerri Randall 604-813-4171

**The Flower Show  
(light entertainment from Verna Kelso)**

Two little old ladies, Connie and Mildred, were sitting on a park bench outside the local townhall where a flower show was in progress.

Connie leaned over and said, "Life is so boring. We never have any fun anymore. For \$10 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid, boring flower show!"

"You're on!" said Mildred, holding up a \$10 bill.

So, Connie slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes. She grabbed a dried flower from a nearby display and held it between her teeth. Then, completely naked, she streaked through the front door of the flower show, as fast as an old lady could.

Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling.

Finally, the smiling Connie came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering, clapping crowd.

"What happened"? Asked Mildred.

"I just won \$1,000 as 1st prize for 'Best Dried Arrangement'

Vase Floral Arrangement: A Gift from your garden  
by Verna Kelso

Tips and ideas for selecting and caring for flowers and greenery (from my garden to yours)

**1) Picking flowers and greenery**

Choose a pail with a handle and wash with soap and water, then dry, before using  
 Fill partially with warm water  
 Select your products early in the day or later in the evening  
 Recut all stems at a slant once inside and place materials into separate containers of appropriate sizes. Each container should be filled with warm water and a package of Floralife flower food. (This can be obtained from Verna at a cost [vbkelso@telus.net](mailto:vbkelso@telus.net) or 604-747-9048)  
 Let the selected stems hydrate for about 4 hours in a cool place such as your garage.

**2) Vase Arrangement**

Wash your vase with soap and water before using.  
 Remove leaves from the lower portion of the stems so that they are not below the waterline.  
 Glass beads available from the Dollar Store can act as anchors at the bottom of your vase. Remember to wash and dry them between uses.  
 Do not 'crowd' stems in the container as they need room to breathe.  
 To keep your arrangement looking fresh, change the water a couple of times, especially if it becomes cloudy. While changing the water, you can add a few new stems to replace old or spent ones.

**3) Vase Placement**

Place your arrangement in a special place in your home.  
 Keep the arrangement out of direct sunlight.  
 Spritzing with water occasionally will help prolong the life of the arrangement.  
 Place your vase in a cool place at night.

**Enjoy your arrangements.** During the CoVid crisis, our garden and flower arrangements can give us so much pleasure and spiritual guidance.



Verna's arrangement

Photo by Lee Tidmarsh

Verna's arrangement above includes tulips, snowballs, laurel stems with flowers, and New Zealand flax.

## More websites

I received an email from Hannah Simpson a DIY crafter in the US who found the newsletter on our website. She recommended some interesting gardening sites.

### **40 Genius Space-Savvy Small Garden Ideas and Solutions**

<https://www.diyncrafts.com/5350/home/40-genius-space-savvy-small-garden-ideas-solutions>

Design a Beautiful Urban Garden with These 26 Ideas

<https://www.extraspace.com/blog/home-organization/diy-projects/how-to-create-an-urban-garden/>

How to Effectively Declutter a Messy Yard

<https://www.homeadvisor.com/r/how-to-declutter-a-messy-yard/>

A Guide To Kids Gardening

<https://www.personalcreations.com/blog/kids-gardening>

Drought-proofing your garden during the big dry

<https://www.abc.net.au/life/how-to-drought-proof-your-garden-during-australias-big-dry/11697636>

Create an Indoor Herb Garden for Good Health

<https://gilmour.com/indoor-herb-garden>

Vegetable Starting Times and High Altitude Strategies

<https://www.bbbseed.com/vegetable-herb-tips/growing-table-by-region/>

How to Grow Orchids Indoors

<https://www.houzz.com/magazine/orchids-101-get-started-growing-orchids-at-home-stsetivw-vs~39939252>

How to Grow Easy Roses

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/flowers/roses/ultimate-rose-care-guide/>

This one is from Carol Corbet. Good ideas as our annuals start appearing in the nurseries.

Container Gardening

<https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/container-garden-design-color>

### SAFE GARDENING

A member recently contacted me about alerting members to health concerns with handling topsoil. Here is the link to an article titled "Does Potting Mix Cause Legionnaires' Disease in Gardeners?" from a website <https://www.gardenmyths.com/potting-mix-legionnaires-disease-gardeners/>

The bottom line is that the risk of disease is low and is a rare occurrence but that washing hands and not touching your face with dirty hands is always a good precaution (sound familiar?)

Further safe gardening tips can be found at <https://www.canada.ca> under Lifestyles. Also look at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) Health Equity site for Gardening Health and Safety Tips where they make the point of getting vaccinated for tetanus every 10 years.



Photos by Lee Tidmarsh

**“How Does Your Garden Grow?”**

Do you remember the familiar nursery rhyme about Mary being questioned on the state of her garden? And she replied’ “With silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row!”

Each day as I stroll around our garden, I observe how plants are flourishing. The ones that are becoming invasive relate to what is in Mary’s garden... Indeed, there are so many ladies in need of maids to place their mantle around their shoulders! This perennial, Ladies Mantle, is everywhere and crowding out so many other species that I treasure.

Passing by a display of shells collected from various beaches, there, amongst the cockle shells, is the wiry creeping sweet woodruff. It spreads insidiously with a tangle of roots that disappear into the darkness of the earth.

And the silver bells? Actually, there are the pink bells that adorn the Bleeding Hearts of the Formosa species and while their leaves form feathery mounds in Spring, they have propagated profusely intruding into the Hosta bed. Silver bells? Why of course, Mary must be referring to the arching stems of the delicate Lily-of-the-Valley that shine with a silvery glow in sunshine...

So how does your garden grow?

June Meyer

