



# SALAL

*Newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society*

Volume 4, No. 3

August 2006

## **OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006**

**Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society**

**Meeting of General Membership**

**Thursday, SEPTEMBER 28th at 7:00 P.M.  
At Gibsons Public Library, 470 South Fletcher Gibsons, B.C.**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Call to order, introductions**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. President's Report**
- 4. Review and approval of financial statements**
- 5. Election of Directors for ensuing year**
- 6. Consideration of any other business as may properly come before the meeting**
- 7. Adjournment**

**Following the AGM Lori Pickering, incoming Editor of the SCBGS newsletter, will give a slide presentation on "Cycads -- Living Fossils".**

**Refreshments will be available after the presentation.**

***Please mark your calendar to attend***

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Web site: [www.coastbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.coastbotanicalgarden.org)

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**SALAL TURNS A NEW LEAF**

This issue sees us with a new editor for your SALAL newsletter. After editing (and, for the most part, writing!) the newsletter since its inception in June 2003, I'm passing this job on to Lori Pickering.

Lori lives in Halfmoon Bay, and is an avid collector of Cycads. Her nursery, Jurassic Plants, has a fascinating website for you to check out, [www.jurassicplantsnursery.com](http://www.jurassicplantsnursery.com).

Welcome, Lori, and best wishes. I look forward to seeing the fresh approaches you'll take to keeping our members informed.

Paddy Wales

**FROM THE (NEW) EDITOR** -- Lori Pickering

It is time for a changing of the guard: our Annual General Meeting and election of directors will be held September 28th -- and with this issue you are also acquiring a new editor for the newsletter. I hope to be able to fill Paddy's shoes in a way that will inspire and inform.

I view the newsletter as a way to keep the vision of our botanical garden alive among the membership, because it is a long haul and we can easily lose touch. The newsletter will be the link between the directors and you.

We now have over 300 members -- quite a groundswell of support for a small community such as ours. I would like to draw on you to submit articles for the newsletter, so that we can keep it interesting. There must be a wealth of knowledge and ideas out there, specific to our coastal area, that we can share through this network, and perhaps incorporate into the garden when it is established.

Another innovation I would like to introduce is the idea of publishing the newsletter on-line. You can receive it via e-mail or view it on our Web site. There are many benefits:

1) save paper (and therefore trees) by reducing printing costs;



- 2) save costs to the Society by eliminating printing and postage;
- 3) you can see the pictures in colour;
- 4) you can save it to your hard drive for archiving;
- 5) you can copy and paste articles or photos for your own use.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail me at [lori@jurassicplantsnursery.com](mailto:lori@jurassicplantsnursery.com). Of course, you can still receive it by "snail mail," as well; whatever is your preference.

I hope to see you at our Annual General Meeting September 28th. I will be giving a presentation on "Cycads -- Living Fossils." Mark your calendars!

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT** - Pauleen MacHale

Our phased development and Business Plan was successfully completed this spring. A presentation to Gibsons Council resulted in Council approving a motion to proceed to the next phase. A motion came forward requesting that an outside business analyst review the plan. We are currently searching for a candidate to review the plan. Our next stages will include finalizing the design concept for the buildings in preparation for a rezoning application.

The project management committee is seeking new members who have experience in land development, design, construction, project management, cost analysis, engineering etc., etc. Anyone interested please contact Pauleen MacHale [pmachale@dccnet.com](mailto:pmachale@dccnet.com) or 604-886-8346

#### **Fall bulbs to arrive in October**

Thanks to the many members who took advantage of our Fall Bulb Offer in the last newsletter. The bulbs are expected to arrive around Thanksgiving, so you'll be notified by email or phone when they're in, with instructions of where and when you can pick them up. If any bulbs are not delivered with our order, you'll have that portion refunded.

### **MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORT** - Vel Anderson

The Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society (SCBGS) membership list is growing closer to 320, and that's wonderful. Now lets see if we can reach and pass the 500 mark by January 1st 2007. That's an easy goal to reach with each of us signing up only one new member before the first of the new year. Hey, lets get busy and do it now! New members also provide additional volunteers, and volunteers are the backbone of any well functioning organization.

The SCBGS is blessed to have a great group of industrious volunteers. It's refreshing and inspiring to our volunteer crew to see new faces come on board to assist with the different projects within our society. Already this year a crew of our volunteers have raised \$12,823. Others have been busy searching out grant money, others are designing programs, developing partnerships, some are dealing with the massive amount of paperwork to finalize legalities, plus certain aspects of the gardens, and that's just skimming the surface. Then comes the hours and hours of meetings.

Yes, this is truly a labour of love but, hey, it's worth it! For we are creating a legacy for generations to come. This is exciting stuff.....hey, don't just watch us grow, come join this awesome team and help make the vision a reality!

**CALL FOR NEW DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR INDIVIDUALS TO COMPLEMENT OUR CAPABLE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITH EXPERIENCE IN ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Land Development  
Engineering  
Construction and Design (including Landscape)  
Project Management  
Financial Management  
Government Liaison and Negotiations  
Strong knowledge of local goods and services providers  
Legal and/or Accounting  
Marketing and Tourism Development  
Event Management  
Not-for-Profit Management

We are seeking several persons to serve minimum two-year terms on the society's board of directors on a volunteer basis. Persons interested may stand for election at the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") to be held on September 28, 2006 at the Gibsons Public Library at 7:00pm. The terms of those elected will expire at the AGM in September 2008.

The Board meets once per month. Additional committee meetings may be necessary. Volunteers must make a time commitment of 2 to 10 hours a month, depending on positions assumed. Making this dream a reality should provide enormous satisfaction to all involved and be a great source of pride for the community.

Interested person of 19 years of age or over, living on the Sunshine Coast are invited to apply to Sunshine Coast Botanical Society Board Membership at PO Box 235, Gibsons, B.C., V0N 1V0. Please include a short letter summarizing your background, reasons for interest and how we may contact you. We would like to meet with you on the evening of Monday, September 18, 2006. You will be contacted for time and location.

If you have any questions, please contact James Graham at 604 886 8416.

**PROGRAMS AND EVENTS REPORT -- Verity Goodier, Chair**

September 28, 2006:  
AGM at Gibson's Public  
Library 7 p.m.

December 4, 2006: Wreath-  
making at B&K Soils  
7 - 9 p.m.

March 17th, 2007:  
Hellebores and Chocolate  
with winter garden tours

October 28, 2006:  
Treemendous Tree Event  
with Douglas Justice in  
conversation with Mike Mills  
(Sunshine Coast Nursery)

May 6th, 2007: Plant Sale -  
start dividing and  
propagating your plants to  
donate to the sale this  
upcoming fall.

## **TREES ARE TERRIFIC - A Treasury of Trees for Coastal Gardens**

Join UBC Botanical Garden's Associate Director (and ardent tree lover) Douglas Justice for a lively slide show and talk on choosing a marvelous tree for your home garden - whether small space or large. TREES ARE TERRIFIC is the Botanical Society's big fall event, at the Gibsons Legion (747 Gibsons Way), Saturday, October 28 at 2 p.m.

Our TREES event includes a display of glorious autumn foliage, a mini plant sale, and a spirited show-and-tell dialogue between Douglas Justice and arborist Mike Mills (owner of Sunshine Coast Nursery) as they show us some great trees available in local garden centres. You'll also get a How-to-Plant tip-sheet to ensure your trees get the best possible start in your landscape.



Choosing the right tree is one of the most important garden decisions you can make, a bit like finding the right puppy. In addition to the way a tree looks in its pot, you need to consider whether it prefers a sunnier or shadier location, moist or dry soil, and its eventual size and how it will relate to your site in the long run. There are sure to be some trees you've not met before, and at least one you'll want to plant, giving you all the pleasure of watching it grow into maturity. All the trees will be selected to suit our specific climate.

Tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members -- yet another reason to be a member. They will be available in mid-October at B&K Soils, Coast Books, Gibsons Florist, Quality Farm, and Sunshine Coast Nursery in Gibsons; Casey's and Talewind Books in Sechelt.

Paddy Wales

## **AGM SLIDE PRESENTATION: "CYCADS - LIVING FOSSILS"**

Before the evolution of flowering plants, 200 million years ago, the entire Earth was forested with the first conifers -- cycads. This was the food of the herbivorous dinosaurs. As seedlings some these ancient plants resembled ferns and, as they matured, looked like palms, but they bore seed cones and were the precursors of all conifers today. In the cloud forests of the day developed smaller, bamboo-like cycads, but they also bore cones.



The dinosaurs became extinct but some of the cycads survived, virtually unchanged, and can still be found in small populations in disparate regions of the world. They are often referred to as living fossils. However, they are disappearing quickly as their habitat is destroyed and as they are poached -- for cycads have become very valuable as their rarity increases. Most of the 250 species in 11 genera are now in danger of extinction, and trade in these plants is governed by CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Private nurseries and botanical gardens around the world are collecting and propagating cycads in an effort to preserve them before they disappear altogether. Jurassic Plants Nursery is actively engaged in this endeavour, and will donate representatives of all 11 genera (CITES permitting) to the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden, which will then house the only complete cycad collection in Canada.

Come to the Annual General Meeting and learn about these fascinating conifers that we will one day have in our collection as Lori Pickering from Jurassic Plants Nursery ([www.jurassicplantsnursery.com](http://www.jurassicplantsnursery.com)) gives a slide presentation on these prehistoric plants.

## **BOTANICAL GARDENS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Our botanical garden is still in the planning stages, so in the meantime we have to make do by visiting other botanical gardens in our area -- or around the world. If you have visited an interesting garden

in a far-away place, why not do a little write-up about it and submit it to us to share with other like-minded souls?

Of course we all know about the UBC Botanical Garden and Van Dusen, but here is a list of not so well known botanical and other gardens you can visit right here at home in British Columbia:

Millennium Botanical Garden and Arboretum  
McLennan North Community Park  
Granville and Garden City, Richmond

Hatley Gardens, Royal Road University  
2005 Sooke Road, Victoria

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden  
578 Carrall Street, Vancouver

Horticulture Centre of the Pacific  
505 Quayle Road, Victoria

Crystal Gardens,  
713 Douglas Street, Victoria

Park and Tilford Gardens  
440-333 Brooksbank Ave., N. Vancouver

### **Plants Please**

You've no doubt been on the lookout all summer for plants you'll be moving, dividing, or even removing from your garden this fall. Please consider donating some for the Plant Sale, one of our fundraisers. Although most of our potting-up is done in March and early April, we can accept donations in October, as well. We will either pot the plants up then, or heel them into Paddy's vegetable garden until spring. Especially good for splitting this time of year are the early-blooming perennials such as Solomon's Seal, hellebores, hostas and peonies. It really helps if you label the plant as accurately as possible, including bloom colour and height. Call Karin at 886-0494 to donate clumps.

### **THE WARDIAN CASE**



The Wardian case, or terrarium, as we know it today, revolutionized the world of botany when it was invented by Dr. Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward around 1829. The tightly-sealed cases permitted, for the first time, plants to be transported very long distances by sea (or land, for that matter), and survive the journey. During Victorian times tea, rubber, breadfruit, cocoa, banana, coffee plants were brought by the thousands from their native lands to plantations around the world where they established economies that thrive to this day.

The Wardian case brought about the age of the plant hunters, who scoured the ends of the earth for new and exotic plants to bring back to the botanical gardens and high society parlours of England. The secret to the success of the cases was the fact that they were sealed from the elements, creating a micro-climate in which the plants, rooted in native soil in the bottom of the case, could survive arduous journeys across deserts and oceans. A simple but truly wonderful invention.

--Lori Pickering



See the plan life-size at the Annual General Meeting, September 28th, 7:00 p.m., at Gibsons Public Library, 470 South Fletcher, Gibsons, B.C. Come out and get involved!