



SALAL

Newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society

Volume 4, No. 4

December 2006

VISION:

A unique world-class Botanical Garden that celebrates the experience of nature, creating a lasting legacy for the town of Gibsons and the Sunshine Coast.



Montreal Botanical Garden - Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden?

Salal is the official publication of Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society, a registered charity. *Salal* is published six times per year. Address: P.O. Box 235, Gibsons, B.C., V0N 1V0
Web site: www.coastbotanicalgarden.org

SCBGS Executive:**President:**

Harry Graat, 885-6476

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Vice-President:

Paul Schouw

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

2nd Vice-President

Lori Pickering, 883-0079,

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Secretary:

Celia Paris 886-2088

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Treasurer:

Amanda Offers, 885-7532,

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Committees:**Fundraising & Capital Campaign:**

Vel Anderson, 886-7488,

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Project Management:

Harry Graat, Celia Paris

Horticulture/Garden Design:

Lori Pickering

Publicity/Marketing/**Communications:**

Mary Blockberger, 885-9459,

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Membership/Volunteers

Vel Anderson, 886-7488,

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Program/Events

Cindy Buis, 886-1200

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Operations/Governance/**Finance:**

Mary Blockberger &

Amanda Offers

Education:

Peter Moonen

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Webmaster:

Harry Hill, 885-9769

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Newsletter Editor:

Lori Pickering, 883-0079,

info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

FROM THE EDITOR:

Another year draws to a close and it's time once more to renew your membership and commitment to our Botanical Garden. The Annual General meeting was held on September 28th and we have four new directors, one of whom has since assumed the role of President. For we have entered a new era -- Glenn Lewis, our president since the Botanical Garden Society was first conceived, will be stepping aside for the time being while he pursues his other passion, art, exhibiting in Montreal and Europe. Although he will still be an *ex parte* director, we now have a new president, Harry Graat.

Let me introduce your new directors and officers:

Harry Graat, of Sechelt. Harry has been in land development and construction for over 30 years in Ontario and is now involved in construction on the Sunshine Coast. He has also worked as a real estate broker, is a past director of the Optimist Club, and served on the Advisory Board of the Gibsons and Area Community Centre.

Mary Blockberger, of Halfmoon Bay. Mary is the owner of Double Dog Landscaping. She has accounting experience in a family printing business and for Secret Cove Resort Limited, as well as experience in horticulture, and has done volunteer work with United Way and Richmond Fruit Tree Sharing project.

Celia Paris, of Gibsons. Celia is a self-employed consultant for project management, planning and administration. Past work has included: project manager with Streamline Restoration, Vancouver, B.C., and as home improvements manager concerning 9000 homes, and project manager, City of York Council, York, UK. Graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Politics, University of York, UK. A volunteer with Gibsons Landing Fibre Arts Festival.

Lori Pickering, of Pender Harbour. Lori worked as a court reporter while living on an 8-acre subsistence farm for 12 years, growing all her own food. She was administrative secretary for the B.C. Association for Regenerative Agriculture (an association of organic farmers) and ran a small herb growing operation from her farm near Fort Langley. Lori moved to the Sunshine Coast 8 years ago and became involved with the SCBGS in its start-up stage. Now, after a brief hiatus, she has returned as the new editor of *Salal*, the Society's newsletter. She has recently launched *Jurassic Plants Nursery*, specializing in rare and endangered cycads.

Glenn Lewis's outgoing President's Report which he gave at the Annual General Meeting is a good synopsis of the status of the Botanical Garden to date, and is reprinted here for those that did not attend the AGM.

As this year draws to a close, don't forget that a perfect gift for the gardener in your life (whether for Christmas or an upcoming birthday) is a membership in the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society. This gift comes with the knowledge that you are contributing to the conservation of species, the promotion of nature, a lasting legacy for the Sunshine Coast, and a destination garden that will educate and inspire visitors from on and off the Coast. What more could you ask from a gift? (Remember to renew your own membership at the same time.)

We are a vibrant association, but as you can see on the masthead, we are doubling up on the committee work. We need new blood to carry forward with the next phases of development of the garden. If you have any inkling to become involved, please give any of the directors a call. This is a purely community-driven initiative, and we need your input. So, please don't be shy. It will be a profoundly rewarding experience, I promise you.

President's Report, Annual General Meeting, September 28, 2006-- Glenn Lewis

I first of all want to thank all the volunteers and members who have lent their time and energy to all or various events and meetings. It is truly gratifying to have this support.

I want to tell you about the progress we have made this year towards our goal of building a botanical garden.

The Feasibility and Planning Project to build a botanical garden in Gibsons has been completed. Last year I told you about 11 community focus group meetings and three expert and strategic planning meetings. Four more public and planning meetings were held into 2006. Comparative research on a number of botanical gardens was conducted. Financial and building information was collected. All this information was funneled to two consultants who then wrote a Fundraising and Board Development Plan, and a Business Plan.



This Business Plan was presented to Gibsons Council and our application to the Town of Gibsons to lease the Charman lands for a Botanical Garden was approved in principle to proceed to the next phase by Council on May 2, 2006. At the request of the Town of Gibsons we will now have our Business Plan reviewed by a competent third party to see if our plans are feasible and/or should be improved. This should be completed by the end of this year at which time we will renew our application to the Town of Gibsons.

The Fundraising Plan has evolved and the Fundraising Committee has applied for several grants, one of which has produced \$2,500 towards the cost of the Business Plan review. We will be notified about a BC Gaming operating grant in the new year. We'll keep our fingers crossed. The Committee is also proposing a number of special events to raise funds for our Capital Campaign. We need a lot of volunteers to collaborate and share in order to make these events and fundraising projects possible and a success.

Agreements for partnership intention with community organizations and individuals have been signed with:

1. **Capilano College**
2. **Sunshine Coast Conservation Association**
3. **Sunshine Coast Natural History Society**
4. **School District #46**
5. **Squamish Band member, Fran Nahanee**
6. **Sunshine Coast Spinners and Weavers Guild**
7. **Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society**

Paul Schouw, one of our Directors and an architect has provided us with a concept for a building and Patricia Campbell, landscape architect, has come up with a master plan concept based on the focus group discussions, experts' meetings and Board input.

--Glenn Lewis

On behalf of the directors and members I would like to thank Glenn for all his years of hard work and dedication to this wonderful vision. A thank-you party for Glenn and for the volunteers was held last month at the residence of Paddy Wales. -- Editor

SUNSHINE COAST BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2006
GIBSONS PUBLIC LIBRARY
CHAIR: VERITY GOODIER

1 Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7 PM. There were 26 members in attendance.

2 Approval of agenda

Additions to previously circulated agenda were approved; the Chair to read 2005 minutes, a Program/Events report, a Membership report, and a proposed change to bylaw 25(2). Moved by Paulean McHale and seconded by Vel Anderson.

3 Approval of 2005 AGM minutes

The Chair read the 2005 minutes. The motion to approve was moved by Cindy Buis and seconded by Mary Blockberger.

4 President's Report

Glenn Lewis presented his report of the Society's planning and fundraising activities in the past year.

5 **Review and Approval of Financial statements**

Alice Coleman presented the Statement of Income and Expenses. The motion to approve the Treasurer's report was moved by J Arthurs and seconded by K Tigges. Amanda Offers, Treasurer, was unable to be at the meeting due to illness.

6 **Membership report**

Karin Tigges presented the report. Membership stands at 352. Vel Anderson thanked Karin for all her work. A request for members to keep the Society up to date with changes in contact details should go in to the next Salal newsletter.

7 **Program Report**

Verity Goodier presented the report.

8 **Nomination and Election of Directors**

Mary Blockberger read short biographies of four new nominations (Lori Pickering, Celia Paris, Mary Blockberger and Harry Graat). Nominations from the floor were called for and none were received. The new board members were appointed unanimously.

9 **New Business**

(a) Cindy Buis outlined the proposed change to Bylaw 25(2) from "Directors may serve no more than two consecutive terms except the president and vice-president who may serve their office for no more than one term consecutively." to "*Directors may serve no more than five consecutive terms except the president and vice-president who may serve their office for no more than one term consecutively.*"

The motion to accept the Bylaw amendment was moved by Cindy Buis and seconded by Mary Blockberger. The vote of the members present on the motion was unanimous. The requirement for 75% of the membership present at the meeting to approve the change was achieved.

(b) Both Paulean McHale and Glenn Lewis were thanked for all their hard work for the Society.

10 **Adjournment**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned for refreshments and an interesting slide presentation by Lori Pickering titled "Cycads-Living Fossils."

Changed your address since becoming a member of the Society? Please advise our Secretary, Celia Paris, 886-2088, info@coastbotanicalgarden.org, or send us a note.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FUNDRAISING AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT by Vel Anderson



You can show your support for the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society through a one-time donation. Please see the chart below for some of the tremendous tax-benefits of donations to the SCBGS. To qualify for a 2006 tax receipt, donations mailed in must be received by noon on December 29, 2006.

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Tax Credit</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>
\$50.00	\$37.50	\$12.50
\$100.00	\$75.00	\$25.00
\$250.00	\$150.00	\$100.00
\$300.00	\$175.00	\$125.00
\$500.00	\$275.00	\$225.00

Thank you again for your continued support.

MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORT by Vel Anderson

Folks, we are saying good bye to 2006 and realizing how much we have progressed this past year, and it's all because of you, our Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society members and wonderful volunteers. The executive, planners, researchers, the committees, etc., we are all a strong and committed group of volunteers. A huge "thank you" to all who have participated in any way to help further the vision of a botanical garden for the Sunshine Coast.

We will miss Glenn Lewis, our dedicated president, who is off to France. We wish Glenn every success in his new endeavours. Now we welcome a new year, and welcome to our new president, Harry Graat, who is eager to bring his expertise to the Society.

As you will see in this edition, the Events Committee has been very busy setting up for this coming season. We would be delighted to see some new faces volunteering to help in some way. You will meet new friends, and have an opportunity to learn new skills, or share your expertise and skills with us. You will be helping in a project that will benefit the whole Coast.

Remember, it's membership renewal time. You could help build the membership by encouraging another person (\$15), or family (\$20) to take advantage of membership in the SCBGS. And what a wonderful Christmas or New Year's or birthday day gift this would make!

Wishing you all the best for the holidays and in the coming new year!

PROGRAM/EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Fruit Tree Pruning workshop

Saturday, February 24, 1 – 3 p.m.

Mike Nassichuck will demonstrate how to prune fruit trees. This is a hands-on workshop in a Roberts Creek orchard, with an opportunity to try out what you've learned. Dress for the weather and bring clean secateurs (hand pruners). Mike has been growing his own fruits and veggies all his life. There will be plenty of chance to ask questions. \$15 members/ \$20 non-members.

Cameras in the Garden workshop

Wednesday May 30 & Saturday June 2, 6 - 8 p.m.

Paddy Wales offers a two-session garden photography workshop. Wednesday evening (6-8 pm) Paddy will give a slide lecture about the challenges and opportunities of photographing gardens. Early Saturday morning, there will be a photo shoot in a private garden, using your own equipment. \$30 (members), \$40 (non-members). *Please register by May 20.*

(Please note: advance registration is required for workshops. Call Elaine Clayden at 604-885-0890 or Verity Goodier at 604-886-4895)

HELLEBORES & CHOCOLATE!

Saturday March 17, 11 am

A very special event as winter turns into spring, and celebrating St. Patrick's Day, March 17 in Sechelt. Includes an illustrated talk by Bill Terry, "A Cure for Madde & Furiouse Men" at 11 am; also a plant & chocolate sale, optional lunch of home-made Irish fare (the leprechauns offer a limited number of lunch tickets), and tours of late winter gardens featuring cool plants and hot chocolate. Lecture & tours \$15 members/\$20 non-members, plus \$10 for lunch. Early tickets & lunch reservations are available to members on the enclosed membership form or by calling Verity Goodier at 604-886-4895.



Botanical Plant Sale

Sunday May 6, 10 - noon

Garden fans and bargain hunters will find plants galore at the Botanical Garden's Spring Plant Sale Sunday, May 6, in Davis Bay from 10 am – noon at the Beach Buoy parking lot opposite the pier. Volunteers have been assembling and potting up choice plants from their private collections and from local nurseries to offer some special plants for experienced and beginning gardeners. Advice on selecting plants suited to your own garden's growing conditions will help novice gardeners bring home sure winners. Bring a friend and a box for your plants. Free admission; open to the public.

Coastal Home Tour & Tea

Sunday June 3

The Coastal Home Tour & Tea promises to be an elegant and inspiring afternoon featuring distinctive homes. Includes a summer tea served at Rose Pointe Ocean House in Hopkins Landing.

Garden Tour in Sechelt

Saturday July 7

This year it will be your pleasure to sample delectable refreshments in two of the private gardens. After much feedback from garden tourists last year we have reduced the number of gardens to six, so you can proceed at a more leisurely pace.

Visit www.coastbotanicalgarden.org for further information as it becomes available for all events.

Join the Billion Tree Campaign

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is launching a major worldwide tree planting campaign. Under the *Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign*, individuals, communities, business and industry, civil society organizations and governments will be encouraged to enter tree planting pledges on the website with the objective of planting at least one billion trees worldwide during 2007. All participants will receive a certificate of involvement in the campaign. Go to: <http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/> and learn how planting a tree can help to save the planet.

Gibsons' Communities in Bloom by Katherine Magor

Communities in Bloom is a volunteer organization that works towards the goal of beautifying the community, fostering civic pride, heritage preservation and environmental awareness.

The Gibsons' Communities in Bloom committee, which consists of volunteers and representatives from the staff and council of the Town of Gibsons, participated in the 2006 provincial wide competition held in Prince George this past summer and were very pleased to have been awarded Four Blooms out of a possible five. However the most exciting event was our acceptance of the 2006 Provincial Best Floral Display award and the knowledge that Gibsons is now officially the town with the most beautiful floral displays in all of British Columbia. We topped the list of 15 other villages, towns and cities in British Columbia that were participants in the 2006 Communities in Bloom initiative.

The committee's inaugural meeting was held in February 2005 and since then we have been extremely busy cleaning up various locations in Lower Gibson including Winegarden Park, removing copious amounts of blackberry bushes, planting a multitude of plants, arranging the adoption of the Tree Wells in the Landing and organizing the Bloomin Business Contest to name just a few of our projects.



The year 2007 brings with it new challenges and projects. We will be working on Upper Gibsons starting with the renovation and beautification of the entrance to the Curling Club and the Swimming Pool. We are also starting talks with the Town about initiating a Street Tree program in Upper Gibsons.

One of the projects that we have been working on for over a year and are quite excited about is the placing of the Persephone, from the Beachcombers television series, on the small plot of land owned by Shell Canada that is on the corners of Marine, Gower Point and School Roads right in the centre of the Landing. We will be readying this land over the winter by replacing the weed strewn ground with appropriate ground cover, putting in raised planters and planting trees and plant materials.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping out with these or other projects please send Katherine Magor an e-mail at kmagor@dccnet.com or phone her at 604-886-6754. We would appreciate any help you are able to give us.

You can receive this newsletter by e-mail and see it in full colour, all the while saving the Society printing and mailing costs. E-mail the Editor, lori@jurassicplantsnursery.com, to be added to the e-mail list. You can also view past issues on-line on our web site, www.coastbotanicalgarden.org (Many thanks to Verity Goodier for proofreading, stuffing and mailing 300 copies of the newsletter!)