

# Salal

Newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society



♦ READ ♦ GROW ♦ BE INSPIRED ♦ GET INVOLVED ♦

## Upcoming Events

- ♦ Pruning Workshop
- ♦ Ciscoe Morris
- ♦ Elke Knechtel

For details on these and other upcoming events, see Leaf 10.

# SEEDS, BEGINNINGS AND STARTING UP THE GARDEN AGAIN



Sow a seed, plant a shrub, plan a garden for the birds. While you're at it, make yours a garden for butterflies, damselflies, beetles and bees. Make 2012 the year you welcome more of our native insects, birds, amphibians and reptiles into your at-home Eden by a bit of learning and planning now, before the gardening season overtakes us. Visit the library, go to our [website](#) for some learning links and come to our Valentine's Day lecture, "Hummingbird Madness" with Ciscoe Morris. Swear off chemicals, go organic and your garden critters will also reap the benefits.

Here are some wildlife-welcoming tips: Hummingbirds prefer tubular flowers like hardy fuchsia or delphinium and they count on flowering currant and salmonberry flowers in Spring. Butterflies need different plants for the larval and adult stages. Check our links for a comprehensive list. Seed-eaters want you to leave spent flowers on the stalk to produce seedheads, Nature's birdfeeder. All need a source of clean water, and many want open or dense shrubs in which to watch and hide. Ensure you have some unkempt areas, even a bit of rubble or rock for the insects and the insect-eaters. If you make a variety of living conditions, they will come.

Your reward will be a habitat that hums with life, entertains you all season and makes our Sunshine Coast a better home for us all.



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## president's message



On a warm afternoon, I can convince myself that Spring is here. On a sub-zero night, Winter is clearly in charge. The cycle of our botanical year has begun: the early hellebores are in bloom, the red alder buds are fat and turning a rusty haze, and the Vegetable Team has ordered their seeds. *Salal's* theme this issue is Seeds and Beginnings.

Each seed contains the miraculous genetic program for what it can become, plus the plans for carrying out the program to grow. No wonder seeds are a potent metaphor for human potential too.

Your Botanical Garden Board of Directors has set strategic goals of what we intend to accomplish in the next years and we've included them in this edition of *Salal* for our members to see and take part in. We are working now to flesh out the Who, When, and most difficult, the How? We grounded our goals firmly in our Vision and Mission statement, so the Why was surprisingly easy. Each Director brings skills to the job, but not one of us has ever built a botanical garden before. Unlike the perfect seed with its perfect program for becoming, we learn by researching how other botanical gardens work, conferring with experts and making informed guesses. We've accomplished so much in a short few years, but there is so much more to do!

We are receiving valuable help from the Lagoon Society with biodiversity work parties for school groups and also for family drop-in on weekends. (See Leaf 10 for times.) This is direct assistance in preparing the land for our Native Plant Garden - Thanks!

You've probably already filled in and returned your Volunteer Questionnaire by now, as Mary Blockberger begins to renovate our Volunteer Program. At such an exciting time of the Botanical Garden's creation, you will be very glad in a few years' time to look back at what you have helped create.

As always, we need Seed Money, donations to pay for plants, machine time, materials and the paid help we require. You may get tired of hearing us ask for donations, especially if you are already doing what you can. As a charitable organization, there is no way around us having to ask, and ask again. If you are inspired, as many of our members are, to make financial contributions, please do. Lynne Bogardus can assist you with planning a major gift, becoming a regular contributor, or buying an inscribed brick. As with volunteering, your inspiration and pride in the Garden will grow and grow with your seed money.

One of my New Year's resolutions was to begin a nature journal, inspired by a book from the Volunteer's Library Shelf, *Keeping a Nature Journal* by Leslie & Roth. The premise is to observe outdoors every day, for a brief or longer time. As I make little sketches it is clear why I prefer the camera to the pencil. But perhaps such a journal is the seed of becoming a better naturalist.

So whatever sort of seeds you are planting, may they germinate, grow and flourish. Happy 2012!

Paddy Wales, President



## salal

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The Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden is located at 5941 Mason Road, Sechelt.

## board of directors

**President Paddy Wales**  
**Treasurer Heather Gordon**  
**Secretary Lynne Bogardus**  
**Past President Mary Blockberger**  
**Directors-at-Large Pat McDowell, Lance Sparling, David Watkins, Marianne Webb**

Contact any of the above at:

[info@coastbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:info@coastbotanicalgarden.org)



Please like us on Facebook. We are just beginning to see the huge potential of social media and are posting more and more photos, updates and notices. Share our Facebook site with your friends and help us build opportunities for new members, new volunteers, new donors and new visitors.

## volunteer happenings



By now, you have probably received a volunteer questionnaire in the mail. If you haven't, please let me know and I will see you get a copy. One of the goals set by the Board this year is to increase not only our volunteer participation, but

also to improve tracking the hours contributed. If you haven't completed and returned the questionnaire yet, please take a few moments to do so. As well as the mailed-out copy, there is a link for you to fill it in at our [website](#). There is a job for anyone wanting to get involved and I look forward to contacting all respondents. Our ability to increase volunteer participation - number of hours contributed and number of members involved - is vital for many funding requests, as well as for the continued growth of the Garden.

Our Work Parties have started up again after a brief Christmas break. These are a really fun way to get outside and enjoy the Garden. They've become quite the social gathering, and as with most outdoor activities, the more the merrier! As we look ahead to better weather and regular opening hours, we'll need Docents and Greeters. We have a packed schedule of events planned for the next few months and will be looking for Event Helpers for all of them. The Clean Team keeps the Sparling Pavilion looking its best and it's surprising how much fun these volunteers have sweeping, dusting and tidying. If you saw the gardens around the Pavilion last Summer, you probably wondered who tends them. Our Weed Team of course! Both of these Teams are looking for new recruits. (Maybe the Weed Team could carpool with the Clean Team for a field trip to my house!). As the ground warms and the buds swell, planning for the Vegetable Garden is well underway. This group does it all: weed, plant, tend, tidy and harvest. The produce is donated to the local Food Bank and the expert leaders are always willing to share their tips and tricks for growing the finest food.

As you can see, there is no shortage of tasks. I look forward to helping you find the one (or more) that is right for you.

**Mary Blockberger, Volunteer Coordinator**  
[volunteer@coastbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:volunteer@coastbotanicalgarden.org)

## vision, mission and goals

In December, the Board of Directors reviewed the Society's Vision and Mission statements, and ratified the Society's Values for the first time. We also ratified our Strategic Goals for the next three years, with one Director championing each goal, assisted by others (Directors and volunteers).

We welcome feedback from our volunteers, supporters and members: please [e-mail](#) or leave a message at 604-740-3969 for a Director to return your call.

**Our Vision for the Garden:** a botanical garden that is a community treasure, a source of beauty and learning, raising awareness of the importance of plants in supporting all life.

**Our Mission for the Society:** to create a Botanical Garden that engages the community in horticulture, art and culture, and acts as a catalyst for learning about plant conservation and land stewardship.

### Values of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society

- ◆ We respect and protect the Environment.
- ◆ We are inclusive and build our Garden in accessible ways.
- ◆ We recognize that volunteers are key to our success.
- ◆ We strive for financial sustainability.
- ◆ We demonstrate excellence in our programs, garden development and procedures.
- ◆ We are accountable for our actions and act with integrity.
- ◆ We are focused in our plans and actions.
- ◆ We encourage learning in our members, our volunteers and the wider community.
- ◆ We value strategic alliances that support our Vision.

### Strategic Goals for 2012 – 2014

This is the first time we have emphasized the measurement of goals, whether monetary or non-monetary, and over the coming months you'll probably notice how often we make counts and keep records of everything we do.

1. **Visits to the Garden (Marianne Webb)**  
We will accomplish 3000 visits in year 2012 with a 10% growth rate in subsequent years
2. **Revenue/Financial (Lynne Bogardus)**  
We will generate or raise \$200,000 in Fiscal 2012, and grow by 10% in subsequent years.
3. **Land Development (Paddy Wales)**  
We will develop 3 acres of the Garden in 3 years.
4. **Volunteerism (Mary Blockberger)**  
We will achieve 12,000 volunteer hours in 2012, with 200 volunteers, increasing by 5% per year.
5. **Education (Heather Gordon)**  
We will have 200 adults and 200 children/youths attending sessions in 2012 and increase the participant rate by 10% per year.
6. **Brand Awareness (Lance Sparling)**  
We will increase our brand awareness to 20% of the Sunshine Coast residents over the next 3 years.
7. **Membership (Pat McDowell)**  
We will increase our membership (now 710) by 5% per year.
8. **Records & Measurement (David Watkins)**  
We will develop ways to measure and record statistics.



## event updates



### Woodland Christmas at the Sparling Pavilion

A capacity crowd came to enjoy a cup of cheer, some carols, children's crafts and a story, followed by a bonfire. Special thanks to the Arbutus Sounds Chorus, our many fine volunteers, and especially our Woodland Christmas Chief Elf, Étienne Champagne and storyteller June Meyer. Étienne shared a portion of his Santa collection (about three dozen) and organized all the other elves, er, volunteers.



### New Year's Day Walk

Many canines (especially terriers!) and over one hundred *homo sapiens* enjoyed a fresh start for 2012 by taking a New Year's Day stroll in the Garden on January 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Armchair Travel** this year featured the nonagenarian adventurer/gardener Glen Patterson and his travels to the Arctic Archipelago. What a treat, from breaching belugas to saxifrages and even a tiny Arctic rhododendron. And the sale of pre-owned garden books was a bargain-hunter's dream!



If you missed Linda Gilkeson last Spring, she will be speaking on "Year Round Organic Gardening" at the Gibsons Heritage Playhouse on February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. Gibsons Garden Club is sponsoring this event. Tickets are \$15, available by reservation at 604-886-0960.



Ayuko Inoue instructed nine keen gardeners in her **Garden Design 101** course. If you missed it but wish to know more about garden design, the course may be repeated. Let us know by [e-mailing](#).



The Iris Griffiths Centre has kindly “loaned” us two part-time staff members to help with biodiversity projects. Biodiversity refers to the number, variety and genetic variations of life forms found within a specific geographic region. By improving our habitat to suit more native plants and animals, we improve our biodiversity. Lee Ann and Rosalind will be bringing school groups and family volunteers for work parties in the Garden at a time when we really need help preparing for the Native Plant Garden! Both women are really fun to work with and we greatly appreciate their assistance. If you also want to help, please contact [volunteer@coastbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:volunteer@coastbotanicalgarden.org).



**Late breaking news from the Grow the Garden Gala...**

On Saturday January 28th, we held our fourth Grow the Gala Dinner and Auction at the Sechelt Seniors Centre, with the theme “Flights of Fancy”. 150 elegant guests were treated to live jazz from the Steve Giltrow Trio during cocktails and hors d’oeuvres. Dinner by Chasters featured roasted Mushroom Chicken Breast with all the trimmings followed by a chocolate torte. Michael Grice was the MC this year, and Ed Hill, in his inimitable way, presided over an exciting Live Auction. Top-selling item this year was the Rocky Mountaineer Trip at \$2250. One item was purchased by an off-site phone-in bid. Birdhouses painted by such artists as Kim LaFave, Cindy Riach and Ysabelle Delisle Milton were a hit with bidders vying for their favourite avian homes. In an unexpected speed-auction, Ed sold eight giant birds for a total of \$530. While the final accounting is not completed, we expect to do well.

A vote of appreciation to our auction donors, volunteers (especially the Gala and Décor Committees), and to our cherished guests. For more photos, visit the [Gala page](#) if you can.



## conversation with kathy

### Saving Seeds - Sheila Watkins' Story as told to Kathy Archibald

Although my family owned a five-acre lot of woodland, flowers and vegetable gardens in Sussex, England, my only contribution was cutting the grass and eating the raspberries. During the War, as the farm help had been called up to serve, land girls came to help with the vegetable garden. They were supervised by a Mr. Braden who had formerly managed the garden of a huge estate. Dad was impressed that we, his daughters, knew the Latin names of many of the plants so maybe that is why I have never been intimidated by these names.

I was a teacher and a computer programmer but once my children were in school I decided to learn more about gardening and landscaping.

After completing a one-year Horticulture Diploma Course at Capilano College, I took the VanDusen Master Gardener's ten-week course. This involved many hours of volunteer work at garden centres and clinics and I was soon ready to start my own landscape design and garden consultant business.

For years I was involved with VanDusen's seed-saving program. We were a big group of five or six teams that met every Tuesday. Experts would identify when seeds were ripening and we would then pick the full stem, shaking the seeds into a brown paper bag labeled with the date, as well as the Latin and common names.

I loved the social aspect of this because a group of women would sit around a table, clean the dry seeds and put them in film canisters or prescription bottles to store in the fridge. The camaraderie was a bit like the quilting groups of days gone by. Those seeds were sold by mail order, at Seedy Saturday and eventually on the Internet.

Many years ago I was given pole bean seeds from Yugoslavia and every year saved the seeds to plant the following Spring. I save Poppy and Foxglove seeds and don't deadhead the short-lived perennials such as Columbines and Forget-me-nots but simply let them go to seed. I guess I am creating a British cottage garden in Canada.



In 2009, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall visited VanDusen Gardens to plant a tree and she brought a gift of seed from Kew Gardens. In return, she was given some seeds of B.C. native plants for the Millennium Seed Bank in England, an organization that connects botanical gardens worldwide. Evidently one third of the world's total number of plants is threatened with extinction. Fortunately Canada, like many countries, has

seed and plant sanctuaries which are trying to ensure the continuity of our many threatened and diverse species.

Why are we doing this?

What with climate change, genetic engineering, pollution, the growth of massive agricultural conglomerates and a movement towards creating a square tomato that is picked while green and easy to ship, we are losing many delicious and interesting plants and seeds. We are sacrificing flavour and native hardiness for shipping convenience.

### Recipe

#### NUTTY, SEEDY ROSEMARY BERRY CRISPS

Karin Tigges makes these amazingly nutritious crackers.

Pre-heat oven to 350° F.

In a large bowl, place first 3 ingredients, then add the liquids and stir a few strokes.

Sift together: 2 cups flour, 2 tsp baking soda, 1 tsp salt

Blend and add: 2 cups buttermilk, ¼ cup honey, and ¼ cup brown sugar

Add remaining ingredients, stirring just enough to combine:

1 cup raisins or dried cranberries  
½ cup chopped pecans  
½ cup toasted pumpkin seeds  
¼ cup sesame seeds  
¼ cup ground flax seeds  
1 Tbsp chopped fresh rosemary

Pour batter into 2 – 4" x 8" loaf pans that have been greased or sprayed.

Bake about 45 minutes or until springy to the touch. Start monitoring after 30 minutes.

Remove from pans - cool thoroughly on rack. Leave overnight in fridge or freeze them. This makes them easier to cut.

Next day, using a serrated knife, slice very thinly when thawing, if frozen.

Lay a single layer on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Place in 300° F oven. Bake about 20 minutes.

Turn them and bake another 10 minutes until crisp and golden.

Depending on your oven, adjust the temperature and the time as they burn very quickly.



## starting seeds indoors

First, research any special preparations your seeds may need noting when each seed should be started. Write labels to identify the seeds.

Distribute the seeds evenly on moist, sterile starter mix, putting each variety in a separate, clean container. Do not bury tiny seeds. Water in gently. For best results, set the pots on a heat mat



and cover them to prevent them from drying out. Open the covers daily to check progress.



As soon as there is any growth, uncover the pots and move them to a cooler location with good light and air circulation. Windowsills will do, but overhead grow lights encourage

sturdier growth. Keep the top of the plants only a few inches from the light. If you are using an overhead grow light, set a timer to give 14 to 16 hours of daylight. Allow the soil surface to dry, watering from below by standing the pots in trays of water for a short time. Or water automatically with a capillary mat.



Once the seedlings are large enough to handle, transplant them carefully to individual pots. From now on they will need to be fertilized – weakly, weekly is one way, or very weakly with each watering.

### Coming soon...

We have begun to plan an exciting pilot project for school-aged children, beginning with our neighbourhood schools. Ah, the Garden grows!

**Library Shelf for Volunteers:** We now have a modest collection of reference books located in the Volunteer Room office. There's a sign-out book with an important Comments section. Next time you're at that end of the Garden, drop in for a browse. There are books about gardening with children, about native plants and ethnobotany, conservation, and more.

Thanks to volunteer Mhairi Black for setting it up.

## attracting birds, butterflies and other wee beasties to your garden

These websites are a great help to gardeners and naturalists. The first one is very comprehensive, and well worth keeping at hand.

### Habitat Acquisition Trust's Garden Brochure

Overview: Specific to Vancouver Island (close enough!) and encourages native plants.

Unique Feature: Plant table shows companion plants, plant requirements and features as well as beneficial elements to Nature's beasties.

HAT Garden brochure [website](#)

### Habitat Acquisition Trust's Butterfly page:

Overview: See above re local butterflies

Unique Feature: Details preferred nectar and nesting plants for local species. Butterfly [website](#)



**For identification of local Caterpillars:** Caterpillar [website](#)

**For identification of Butterflies and Moths:** Butterflies and moths [website](#)



### Attracting Birds to your Garden:

Overview: Very tough to find a decent site on this for our area.

Unique Feature: Seems clear enough and well organized.

Attracting birds [website](#)

Submitted by Alexis Harrington

### More Plants Please!

The Plant Sale Team works every week that the temperature is above freezing, getting plants ready for the huge Botanical Plant Sale being held this year on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you have perennials, small trees or shrubs to spare, please contact Karin by phone at 604-886-0494 or e-mail [Karin Tigges](#) soon. The earlier we get the plants, the happier they can be settled into pots for the Sale. And we all want to buy happy plants!

### No More Pots Please!

We already have enough pots for the year and yet well-meaning people continue to drop off more and more. Please note: clean plant pots can be recycled at the various Recycle Depots.

## news from the veggie patch

### When a seed is not a seed...

Although potatoes do produce seed after flowering (they look like little green tomatoes), we don't actually grow potatoes from this seed. As veggie gardeners know, we grow potatoes from the small tubers that have been carefully harvested and stored over from last year's crop.

Potatoes fall into roughly two main types, floury for baking and waxy for boiling. In our local grocery store we have a limited selection of potato varieties to choose from. Historically they have been the floury types which are good for baking, mashing and fries, like the russet from Idaho. It's easy to buy a bag of new potatoes which can be almost any variety that has been picked at a young age before the plants flower. But for the home gardener, in addition to the familiar grocery store varieties, there are many others available to use as seed potatoes. The waxy types have thin skins and a texture that holds up better than the floury in most preparations due to the higher moisture content. They also seem to be more popular in England and Europe than the floury types many of us West Coasters were raised on. These waxy varieties are sometimes called salad potatoes. They are often smaller and because of their thin skins, are rarely peeled before cooking. They contain more sugar and less starch but are still a rich source of Vitamin C, potassium and other minerals. The German and French fingerlings, as well as many of the heirloom yellow and red-skinned potatoes, fall into this category.



Many home gardeners will save enough of their harvested crop over the Winter to plant again in the Spring. The danger in doing this, however, is of carrying dis-

ease over from one year to the next, and many experts advise buying new certified disease-free seed potatoes every year or risk suffering deteriorating yields and quality. I have found, as have many others, that with careful scrutiny and attention to storing only the healthiest tubers, those without scab or blemishes, your home garden crop can be kept disease free from one year to the next. Often this is the only way to perpetuate your hard-to-buy heirloom varieties.

If you are planning to grow a crop of potatoes in your home garden, the European and unusual varieties are getting easier to find for sale as seed. Here on the Coast, seed potatoes are sold in March from our local garden centres usually from suppliers in Pemberton or Richmond. For mail order, West Coast Seed catalogue has a really good selection of organic seed potatoes of both waxy and floury types along with good descriptions and advice on growing, harvesting and storage.

In the demonstration vegetable garden, we have been

given some really interesting potatoes to grow, with descriptive names such as Pink Fir Apple, Russian Blue and a lovely oblong tuber called French Fingerling, gifts from our members who save their own tubers from year to year. Last year at Seedy Saturday in Roberts Creek, we purchased three new types of organic seed potatoes for the veggie garden from a certified grower in Pemberton. Of these, my favorite by far, was 'Sieglinde' a waxy, German butter potato, which makes the absolute best garlic mashed potato, skins and all.

We had really good yields of our potato crop last year in the demo garden but unfortunately, because our plants were hit hard with late blight, we were unable to store our own tubers as seed potatoes for re-planting in 2012. Late blight was particularly bad in 2011 because of our wet, mild Spring and early Summer weather. This fungus disease, the same one responsible for the great potato famine in Ireland, will attack both potatoes and tomatoes with devastating effects.

To protect against late blight next year, we will remove and destroy any volunteer plants that may sprout up from last year's tubers left in the ground. As well, we will plant our new seed potatoes as far away from the diseased area as possible.

Currently we are watering from overhead sprinklers which, like the rain, splash infected soil from one plant to another. This quickly spreads the disease if it is present so we will need to put lots of bark mulch around the plants as they emerge to keep the soil in place. And, of course, hope for a warmer, drier Spring.

Gardening questions? You can send your queries to [gardenquestions@coastbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:gardenquestions@coastbotanicalgarden.org)

Submitted by Odessa Bromley

## where to find mail order seeds

Over the years I have had good success with seeds from these sources:

- ◆ Thompson & Morgan [www.thompsonmorgan.ca](http://www.thompsonmorgan.ca)
- ◆ Derry Watkins [www.specialplants.net](http://www.specialplants.net)
- ◆ Chiltern Seeds [www.chilternseeds.co.uk](http://www.chilternseeds.co.uk)
- ◆ Simpsons Seeds [www.simpsonseeds.co.uk](http://www.simpsonseeds.co.uk)
- ◆ West Coast Seeds [www.westcoastseeds.com](http://www.westcoastseeds.com)
- ◆ Saltspring Seeds [www.saltspringseeds.com](http://www.saltspringseeds.com)

Also, Seedy Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Roberts Creek Hall, is a great local source

[www.onestraw.ca/node/1548](http://www.onestraw.ca/node/1548)

There are many fabulous web-sites offering seeds. I encourage you to go to our SCBGS [website](http://www.scbgs.ca) for a list of companies that offer unusual (and usual) seeds. Checking out the list will give hours of enjoyment - perfect for a wet afternoon!

Submitted by Verity Goodier



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for details and registration

1826 Sunshine Coast Highway (at West Reed Road)  
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## upcoming events

### WORK, EAT, PLAY AT THE BIODIVERSITY WORK PARTIES

Saturdays & Sundays, February and March,  
The Botanical Garden, 5941 Mason Road, Sechelt

Families and adults are welcome at our Biodiversity Work Parties each Saturday and Sunday in February and March, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch if you like, we'll supply some snacks. Dress for the weather, and if possible, please bring your own work gloves and pruners or loppers. You'll have some fun (guaranteed!), learn about how to make your own garden a better habitat for native plants, birds and small animals, and help us get ready to create the Native Plant Garden. Questions? E-mail: [volunteering](mailto:volunteering@coastbotanicalgarden.org)

### TREE & SHRUB PRUNING WITH CHERYL TOPPING

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.  
The Classroom at the Botanical Garden (near the Vegetable Garden)  
Admission is by donation.

Cheryl Topping loves shrubs and trees, and she prunes them lovingly. Join her for 2 or 3 hours for a classroom session on the basics, followed by some hands-on pruning in the Botanical Garden. Bring secateurs (hand pruners) or other pruning tools (please leave them in your car for the classroom session). Dress for the weather! We will try to arrange on-site tool sharpening.



### CISCOE MORRIS, OUR VALENTINE'S DAY TREAT

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m.  
Raven's Cry Theatre, Sechelt



"Hummingbird Madness: Plants to attract and keep these avian acrobats in your garden year round." Every Seattle gardener knows Ciscoe Morris, radio and TV personality, columnist and author of the bestseller, *Ask Ciscoe: Oh La La! Your Gardening*

*Questions Answered.* For 24 years he directed the gardening and landscaping at Seattle University. His talk on the Coast in 2006 was so well received, that we've asked him back. We look forward to his extensive knowledge, his lively presentation and his "life-is-so-much-fun" attitude. For a sneak preview, watch [Hummingbirds](#).

Tickets are \$15 for Botanical Garden Society members and \$18 for non-members, available at Sechelt Visitors Centre, at garden centres and [online](#).

### VEGETABLES FOR OUR CLIMATE WITH ELKE KNECHTEL

Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m.  
The Classroom at the Botanical Garden

Admission is by donation.  
Seedlings available for sale.

Which tomatoes ripen before the blight comes? What are all these new salad greens about? How can I get the earliest and latest crops and which lettuces don't bolt the first warm Summer day? Bring your questions for Elke Knechtel who has many years growing experience.



She recently became a specialty vegetable grower, supplying wholesale plants to nurseries as well as selling veggies at her [Red Barn Plants](#) farm in Maple Ridge. The Red Barn has an astounding 50 varieties of tomatoes plus an amazing selection of lettuces. Choosing vegetables that are selected to thrive in our rainy, temperate climate gives us an advantage, so come and hear her suggestions.

### THE INFORMED GARDENER PLANT SURVIVAL WITH LINDA CHALKER-SCOTT

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 11:00 a.m.  
Sparling Pavilion at the Botanical Garden

Join us for two talks by one of our favourite no-nonsense speakers, [Dr. Chalker-Scott](#) from Washington. Her book, *The Informed Gardener*, is an excellent source of research-backed information about growing plants. In the morning, she'll speak about "How Plants Survive in Urban Environments". After a break for lunch (bring your own, we'll provide coffee, tea and cookies), she'll present "Myth Debunking", a topic sure to make us think about why we do what we do to plants.



Tickets for the day cost \$20 for Botanical Garden members and \$25 for non-members, available at the Sechelt Visitors Centre, garden centres and online. Memberships will be available as well as Linda's two books which will be for sale.

### Mark your Calendars for these dates in May and June:

Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – Botanical Plant Sale  
Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> – Tour of Private Gardens

Need answers to your Gardening questions?  
E-mail our knowledgeable Master Gardeners at  
[gardenquestions@coastbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:gardenquestions@coastbotanicalgarden.org)

### RENT THE SPARLING PAVILION

Full details on our website [www.coastbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.coastbotanicalgarden.org)  
or by contacting [rentals@coastbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:rentals@coastbotanicalgarden.org)  
or calling 604-740-3969