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Newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society



Photo by Paddy Wales

A Donor Appreciation event was held at the Garden on May 25 to thank those who generously contributed to making the Accessible Paths project a reality.

Push, Roll, Walk, Strut!

The first phase of our Accessible Paths project is now complete and officially opened May 25. The route runs from the foot of the Plaza, through the Cook Rhododendron Walk and Aspen Grove, and into the Mountainside Habitat. From there you can choose the Rainforest Grove, the Emily Lasuta Learning Centre, the Butterfly Pond and Wetland, or the Welch Family Platform. It connects with the Perimeter Path as well. We look forward to hearing feedback from all visitors, from walking clubs, parents with strollers, folks with walkers, wheelchair users, and more.

In late March, a crew and machines created the path. Thanks to the Tapestry Garden team for their careful work, and to RentalEquip for providing the necessary



Photo by Heather Vince

Guests tour the new Accessible Paths on May 25.

equipment at a lowered cost.

Huge thanks to all who gave generously. This includes sponsors Hear on the Coast, Brynelsen O'Reilly Real Estate, and Crowe MacKay, who supported last summer's Jim Byrnes fundraising concert, Blues in the Garden.

We'd also like to thank guests who attended last year's Tea at the Garden, plus Suzy Grant of The Farm and Mara Parnell of Davis Bay Tea Co. for their delicious fare. Their collaboration and your support resulted in another \$500 raised for the Accessible Path campaign.

Come and walk, roll, or stroll the new path to test it out for yourself.

— Heather Vince,
Development Officer

President's Report

What a difference a year makes! In the June 2022 issue of *Salal*, I was ever hopeful for warmth and some dry weather. One needs to be careful what one wishes for, as we ended up in drought – again. I think we might as well accept that summer drought might be our new norm. This has certainly been a drier winter and I, for one, never expected a heat wave in May. Our Garden Development Team is very aware of the impact drought has on the Garden. Our dedicated team has put a great amount of thought into developing future areas of the Garden and nurturing what has been established. The Garden is a perfect spot to visit in every season to see what native plants look like as the year goes by.



Have you visited our new website? Kudos to Heather Vince, the Garden's Development Officer, who took on this project in order for it to have the essence of our venue reflected accurately. As it develops, we hope it will become a go-to link to much information and enjoyment. Many thanks to John Hodges, Tony Greenfield, and our member Shaun Wilde for the bird information, and to a bevy of hobby photographers for providing so much history and many beautiful photographs. Please let us know if you see any areas for improvement in the website.

Spring is always a glorious time to visit the Botanical Garden. Growth explodes from day to day – plants, birds, amphibians and many more creatures busily prepare for summer. School groups, garden clubs, seniors groups and birders have all enjoyed the spring weather. We continue to be the preferred venue for weddings and Celebrations of Life, some postponed because of the pandemic and now being rebooked. It is easy for us to assume everyone knows about this amazing place, and yet I run into people who have either not heard of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden or have still not been for a visit. I encourage you to share your experiences with others; make this spot a lovely stop for your guests and family this summer. The picnic area is close to the Pavilion and offers space for children to explore and cool shade.

Our staff complement is back to normal with the addition of Nola Honeywell, although we could have used extra hands during the spring. There is a challenge with asking volunteers to help weed the garden as, like me, some of us don't know weeds from other garden plants, and much supervision is required. There is a lot to do here, so if you are so inclined, please look into volunteering with us.

As we proudly reflect on how established the Garden is becoming, we cannot help but be full of gratitude to the volunteers. This blessed place could not be what it is without the caring people of our community. And you, dear donor, what more can be said about how important you are to our existence? Without the generosity of our donors, it would be impossible to maintain and develop the Garden. Please consider us in your Legacy Planning, and don't forget to bring your friends for a visit. We want to be here for a long time.

See you at the Gala in August, I hope!

– Sandra Cunningham, Botanical Garden President

Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden

Salal Newsletter

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The Botanical Garden is honoured to work on the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh (Sechelt) People.

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Thank You!

- **Top Quality Top Soil for the veggie mix**
- **RentalEquip for the discounts on equipment**
- **Canadian Tire for the broken bags of soil**
- **Richard Hoath for the Vermicomposting workshop**
- **Tony Greenfield for leading our Bird Walk**
- **Elveseater Farm & Mill for the lumber donation**

Garden Goings On

After a few false starts, including a short-lived April snow shower, it feels as if spring has finally arrived. We were delighted to be one of the host venues for One Straw's Seeds of March program. This was followed closely by Richard Hoath's Worm Composting workshop. Who knew worms were so fascinating? Tony Greenfield led an engaging and informative Bird Walk in late May, and many feathered friends were spotted and/or heard and identified (see page 5).

Our ponds have been positively hopping with life, and we've welcomed class visits from Gibsons Elementary, West Sechelt Elementary, and École du Pacifique. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteer leaders who share their knowledge with the kids.

We have also had a busy spring of garden tours. It was wonderful to welcome the Gibsons Garden Club, the Sechelt Garden Club, the Pender Harbour Seniors' Initiative, and the Memory Café Program participants from the Sechelt Seniors

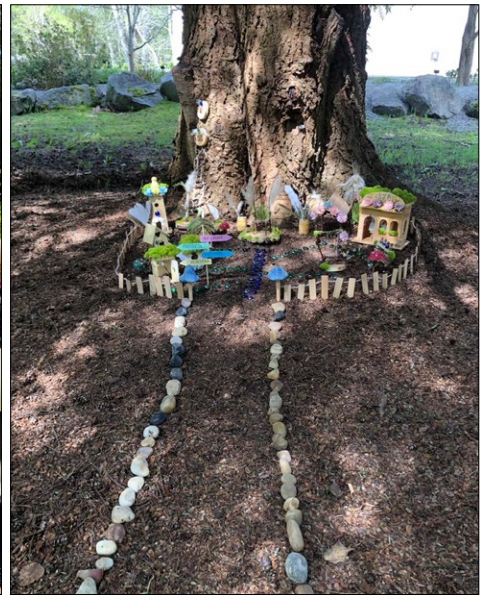


Activity Centre. Please contact the Garden office if you belong to a group that may want to schedule a tour.

Our Plant Sale was once again a rousing success, and weekly sales will continue on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 pm until the end of June. If you're visiting with small children, be sure to check out the new Fairy Garden tucked under the big hemlock between the picnic area and the Pavilion. Thanks to Sarah Dhillon for adding this great feature for all to enjoy! Our new accessible path is now complete and getting rave reviews. It loops through the Rhododendron Walk and down through the four Native Plant Gardens.

Last but certainly not least, we are thrilled to welcome Nola Honeywell to our staff. Nola joins outside staff members Sean and Rob and is a great addition to our Garden family. Be sure to give her a big welcome when you see her!

— *Mary Blockberger, Garden Manager*



Photos by Heather Vince & Mary Blockberger

Members of the Gibsons Garden Club (left), the Pender Harbour Seniors Initiative (centre) and several other groups enjoyed tours of the Garden this spring. At right is a charming Fairy Garden feature (crafted by Sarah, Lauren, and young Rory). Look for it under the large hemlock between the Picnic area and the Pavilion.

Volunteers Needed for Schools Program

The Garden has become a valued resource for local schools, and each year we welcome dozens of elementary school pupils to learn about our natural world. We're hoping to add to our volunteer roster to lead these classes. We offer training for the lessons (Pond Life, Pollinators, Seed Dispersal) and would be pleased to add you to our class leader group. If this sounds of interest to you, please contact Mary at 604-740-3969 or email info@coastbotanicalgarden.org



No Mowing in These Meadows



These natural meadow spaces provide a low-maintenance and attractive alternative to lawn grass.

Photos by Sheila Watkins

It is five years since I first wrote about turning our small lawn into a meadow, and ten years since we last used a lawn mower on anything but the narrow path around the edge and a blanket-sized patch in the shade.

Now there is a stretch of rough grass, only about 30 square metres, changing through the seasons, cut two or three times a year with a weed-eater. In early spring the left half is full of purple and yellow crocuses, followed by daffodils then bluebells, then we cut it back to 15 cm. Meanwhile, on the other side, a tall meadow buttercup holds its gold heads above the grass in May, and lupines, goldenrod and perennial sunflower leaves vie for space.

Ox-eye daisies, yarrow and camassia are scattered throughout. Four plants, a young evergreen magnolia, a giant stipa with dancing seed heads in fall, a dwarf fir, and a scabious, which booms for several months, provide height and winter interest.

It sounds crowded, but each of these plants has its season, and we only have to do some judicious editing, such as

removing extra lupine seedlings and sunflower rhizomes and cutting off ugly lupine seedheads. A few other perennials have put in an appearance, but no blackberries, horsetail or morning glory, all of which are rife in this neighbourhood.

Every November we cut the meadow back. When mowing a lawn, it is a good idea to leave the clippings where they lie, to feed the grass and shade the roots, but meadow plants prefer a lean soil, so we add the debris to the compost.

There are a few drawbacks to growing a meadow. There is nowhere for dogs and small children to run, or play ball, or pitch a tent. Grass inevitably sows itself in the surrounding paths, but mulch and dense planting in the borders keeps them relatively weed-free. For us it has been a very successful experiment, staying green and attracting insects while saving the chore of regular mowing.

– *Sheila Watkins, Master Gardener*

vancouver master
gardeners

Upcoming Events

ONGOING PLANT SALES

Tuesdays until the end of June

1 - 3 pm at the Potting Shed in the Works Yard

Cash, credit card and cheques accepted (sorry, no debit or e-transfer).



www.coastbotanicalgarden.org

Bird Walk with Tony Greenfield



The morning of May 21, a large group of curious bird-seekers met with expert birder Tony Greenfield and experienced birders John Hodge and Jack Pope and walked almost the entire Garden.

The Garden's varied habitats allowed us to experience the songs and call notes of 25 bird species – quite thrilling, considering Tony said it was a “quiet day” for bird activity! John and Jack both brought along their powerful scopes, allowing all of us an up-close peek at birds such as Swainson's thrush, warbling vireo, and violet-green swallow.

For more birding opportunities, check in with Sunshine Coast Natural History Society.

Whenever you walk through the Garden, keep your eyes and especially your ears open for birds. Or consider downloading a good bird app for your phone, such as Peterson's Birds of North America or iBird Pro.

We may not always see them, but the birds certainly see us!

– Heather Vince, *Development Officer*

Photo of Tony by Heather Vince, bird photos from ebird.org
Expert birder Tony Greenfield led an informative walk through the Garden in early May. Three of the 25 species spotted that day include (from top): Swainson's thrush, violet-green swallow, and warbling vireo.

Garden Party Tickets on Sale in June!



Join us for the return of the Sunshine Coast's popular white-themed gala garden fundraiser among the lovely greens of summer.

Celebrate summer with us in the warm glow of the late-setting sun. Enjoy a feast for the senses prepared by the fabulous Katija and Sonja of Nomadic Kitchen. Sway to jazz standards played by Nancy Pincombe and Kenneth Johnson of Soleil Duo. Enjoy the entertaining antics of our emcee Vicki Gabereau. And bid on exceptional auction prizes with auctioneer Ed Hill.

Your support helps us fund the development of a Plant Propagation Program and hoop house. This will make it possible to grow many native plants, including species at risk, for the Garden, as well as other garden plants for the Plant Sale. Protecting biodiversity is a key aspect of botanical gardens, and we want to be leaders.

We are so grateful to Hear on the Coast and O'Reilly Real Estate, who have come on board as sponsors, and we look forward to enjoying in-kind support from Coastal Weddings and Events and The Coast Photography, and to sipping award-winning wines sponsored by Hester Creek Estate Winery.

Early Bird tickets go on sale in early June! Check our website as more details are confirmed: <https://coastbotanicalgarden.org/gala/>



Have you taken some beautiful photos or witnessed something spectacular while visiting our Garden?

We want to inspire new visitors and our community with your photos and stories.

Please email a digital copy, along with your permission to use, to: development@coastbotanicalgarden.org

Or share your photos from the Garden on social media, and tag us!



Our Lady of the Plant Sale



Photo by Paddy Wales
Karin Tigges and visitors at the Garden's first Plant Sale, in October 2003.

Karin Tigges was an original member of the group that formed the SC Botanical Garden Society more than 20 years ago. Early on she took on coordinating a yearly Plant Sale to help raise money for a garden.

The first Plant Sale was in 2003 at Heritage Hall, following a talk by David Tarrant, who helped sell the plants spilling from our volunteers' car trunks. Karin and Verity Goodier organized both the talk and the sale.

For a while, the Potting Up Team, aka the Potters, met in my back yard in Roberts Creek, and the sale itself was in Davis Bay, in the parking lot of the Beach Buoy Restaurant. The first sale held at the Garden-to-be on Mason Road was in 2009. Karin's husband Heinz built the potting tables, and



Photo by Heather Till
Karin Tigges with her successor Ali Forbes at this year's giant Plant Sale.

managed the watering system each spring and fall

Karin knows plants extremely well! Her standards are high. Her own garden is a treasure trove of plants beautifully grown. From the start, she brought plants divided from her own, and from all her friends' gardens too. Gradually the potting team grew, and so did the plant donations. Others would add their (usually) welcome items, and Karin kept quality control high.

The Plant Sale itself grew and grew, eventually becoming a very popular event in the gardening calendar. A second smaller sale was added, as part of our Harvest Festival on the Labour Day weekend, and now weekly Tuesday afternoon sales are also held mid-May through June.



Volunteers at this year's very successful Plant Sale.

Photo by Heather Till

2023's May sale was again a huge success for the public as well as very profitable for the Garden. Although she will definitely keep her hand in volunteering with the Potters, Karin has passed the reins to Allison (Ali) Forbes. Expect a few changes, a few innovations, and an ever-increasing selection of garden-worthy plants.

Thank you very much, Karin! You have contributed so much to the Garden and to the community.

— Paddy Wales

Patricia Bekke

I first met Patricia many years ago at a party in North Vancouver. She was keenly interested in hearing about the Botanical Garden and our plans for the future. She soon became both a treasured volunteer and a valued friend. In her volunteer work with the Garden, she acted as our first Rental Coordinator, as well as a dedicated horsetail weeder. While her health still allowed, she was up for any and all volunteer tasks we asked of her. If you've attended one of our Gala events, you would have no doubt seen her magical floral arrangements or marvelled at her skill with event décor.

Patricia was instrumental in introducing many of her friends and neighbours to the Garden, and never shied away from her role as a botanical booster. She rarely missed a Dog Day, always in the company of one of her furry friends. Most recently, Patricia lent her support by sponsoring the wonderful curved bench at our Entrance Plaza (and dedicated it to her beloved Cairn terrier, Goldie).

Patricia passed away April 12, 2023, and is dearly missed.

– *Mary Blockberger*



Lana Wightman

Lana stepped up to volunteer at the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden soon after she moved to Sechelt and got her own, new garden sorted out. She was an invaluable member of the Labelling Group whose job it was to map the whole 40-acre garden and correctly label every kind of plant there. At one of their sessions, the group was discussing their respective ages. Lana was proud to be the oldest one in the group. She was also the perkier and had her well-organized bag of absolutely anything the group might possibly need. The leader of the group would be known to say, "Oh, darn. I should have brought ..." extra tape, or scissors, or tweezers, or magnifying glass, or whatever was specifically needed for some unique task that morning. Before she could say, "I'll bring it next time," Lana would have whipped out whatever the object was that was needed for that special task. You name it, she had it in that bag: tissues, food, water, first-aid kit, little needle-nosed pliers, garden knife, mallet, a variety of other tools, and labelled little boxes. One of the other members recently shared that if someone had said, "Oh darn, if only we had an accordion here this morning..." I swear, Lana would have reached in and pulled one out of her bag before the sentence was finished.

Lana passed away December 5, 2022. She will be greatly missed for her kindness, her plant knowledge, her reliability, her steadfastness, and her sense of humour, not just her little bag that held everything.

– *Maureen Bodie*



Lupins (or lupines) put on a glorious show along the entranceway drive through spring and early summer.

Photos by Mary Blockberger



Dandelions are a lifeline for bees on the brink – we should learn to love them.

Photos by Cathy Hallam

This article is reprinted with permission from the online publication theconversation.com. Written by Philip Donkersley, Senior Research Associate in Entomology, Lancaster University. Although the author is based in the UK, dandelions know no international borders.

See original article at <https://theconversation.com/dandelions-are-a-lifeline-for-bees-on-the-brink-we-should-learn-to-love-them-204504>

Dandelions, love them or hate them, are blooming in abundance all over the UK this spring. As an ecologist who studies the insects that visit these flowers, so redolent of sunshine, I have never been able to understand why anyone might hate them.

Why do some people despair when they see a dandelion poking through the grass in their garden, or through the concrete on their drive? Most see dandelions as “weeds”: they don’t want them around their house and will reach for the lawnmower, or worse still, a can of weed killer, when one dares to rear its yellow head.

Perhaps I’m strange for rejoicing at the sight of a street, lawn or field blooming with dandelion heads. But as these flowers make fantastic food for a wide range of endangered bees, I’d like to convince you to love these flowers as I do, and to care for them as you would any other wildflower in a meadow.

The last 50 years have seen urban areas and farms expand across the UK. What few places were set aside to provide for wildlife have been eroded. We have pushed nature to the brink, but nature adapts, changes and overcomes these obstacles.

Many people think of plants as nice-looking greens. Essential for clean air, yes, but simple organisms. A step change in research is shaking up the way scientists think about plants: they are far more complex and more like us than you might imagine. This blossoming field of science is too delightful to do it justice in one or two stories.

This article is part of a series, Plant Curious, exploring scientific studies that challenges the way you view plant life.

Studies of bee feeding patterns in cities, where much of their original food sources have been covered with concrete and tarmac, show a shift in their wild, diverse diet to one dominated by dandelions, clover and brambles.

Dandelions are an abundant source of nectar and pollen for bees flying around an environment in which the diversity of food options continues to shrink. These plants grow in very little soil, flower from early spring to just before winter and offer sustenance for bees all

year round.

What makes dandelions so successful in feeding a wide variety of pollinators is the shape of their flowers.

The evolution of bees is a dance between the changing shapes of flowers and the corresponding length of bee tongues. Complicated flowers, like vanilla, evolved to make sure only a certain bee species could pollinate them, whereas others have evolved simple, open flowers that anyone can get pollen and nectar from.

Dandelions fall into this second camp. Take a look at a patch of dandelion flowers and you’ll be amazed at the diversity of visitors. Over just 10 minutes in my garden I spotted at least 10 different bee and fly species: the ever abundant buff-tailed bumblebee, as well as the common carder bee and a honeybee from one of my own hives working hard to collect pollen for the colony.

Among the many threats to pollinators (pesticides, the destruction of nest habitat, invasive species), lack of food is one of the most important. Highly abundant dandelions can go a long way to bridging this gap – at least in terms of nectar.

Some scientists have argued that dandelion pollen is not the best for bees. Research suggests that it may contain high levels of the essential amino acid proline (which bees can get only from food and cannot make themselves), but lack several others, like isoleucine and valine. A diet lacking in these elements can hamper a bee’s ability to grow, resist disease and raise its young.

But in a world where bees are stressed by a lack of any food at all, I would argue that any source that can proliferate under the toughest conditions, such as dandelions, is a worthwhile thing to preserve.

Manicured lawns are essentially green deserts: ostensibly full of plants but with nothing to nourish bees or other wildlife.

Dandelions are amazing plants that can survive anywhere, as long as we allow them. They are a lifeline for pollinators on the brink and need protecting as part of our environment in car parks, roads and lawns. The next time you see a dandelion, try to see it as a bee would.

The Dandelion Dilemma: The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author; there are differing views. Showy dandelions can prevent other (native) plants from receiving attention from pollinators. Listen to the CBC podcast from Laura Lynch for her views on backyard biodiversity: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-429-what-on-earth/clip/15987366-from-beaches-backyards-gardens-climate-solutions>

Garden Gala Party

AUGUST 9, 2023

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Nomadic Kitchen

Music by
Soleil Duo

Live & Silent Auctions
Auctioneer - Ed Hill

For further details, visit coastbotanicalgarden.org/gala

For tickets contact: c. 604-996-3376

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Views from the Veggie Garden



1. Dig trench. 2. Put in about 4" of weeds. 3. Cover. 4. Dig another trench next to it. 5. Repeat.

Photos by Vanessa Choo

Trench Composting

A lot of what we do at the Veggie Garden when we start up in spring is weeding. Taking advantage of all this green material, we do trench composting, burying the weeds deep below our veggie beds.

Trench composting is simple. You dig a trench – or any shape hole – 18 to 24 inches deep in an empty space of your garden, add roughly four to six inches of compostable materials, such as kitchen scraps, spent garden plants, small prunings, thinnings, and weeds, and bury them with the soil you dug out of the trench or hole.

The next step is ... that's it. No turning, no watering, no worrying about the ratio between green and brown materials. But you need to wait at least three weeks to use the bed and longer if growing plants with long roots.

Most trench composting articles say you can put meat and dairy scraps and even pet waste that you can't in traditional composting, but some gardeners prefer to avoid them, believing they will attract

pests. Flies are not a problem with trench composting because the items are deeply buried, but if you have dogs, raccoons or other digging critters, better skip these ingredients. Farm animal manures, like those from poultry, rabbits, cows, horses, and sheep, can certainly be trench composted, but be sure to not plant where they are buried for four or more months to avoid any potential pathogen exposure.

So as we start the Veggie Garden in the middle of March, we sort out the weeds (those that have gone to seed and horsetail are bad – do not bury), let them wilt in pots, then bury them as we turn over the beds.

In the pictures, Veggie Garden volunteers are trenching in the bean bed, which will be used about four weeks later. In this way, less material goes to green waste, and as the weeds decompose, they add humus and nutrients to the growing vegetables. Win-win.

– Vanessa Choo, Veggie Garden Coordinator

The Buzz About Bees

Greetings from the Sunshine Coast Bee Club. I regret to report that losses of honeybee colonies in BC this past winter are estimated at around 50 per cent, and worse here on the Coast. Causes are the parasitic mite *Varroa Destructor*, a new variant of *Nosema Apis* disease, and horrific wasp and hornet predation last summer and fall. The losses this year were a shock. The year before, I lost four colonies out of 90; this spring I had life in only three out of 90. The

losses in the cold provinces are in the 40 to 70 per cent range.

Coast beekeepers, for the most part, carried on and purchased replacement colonies from New Zealand and Tasmania, and BC sources from the Okanagan Valley. But the argument to reopen the US border to less-expensive packaged bees is intense (the border was closed in 1987 to keep out the mites and it failed immediately).

We refer to spring and early summer

as the "build up" period, when we do our best to have the bees build their numbers so they are able to produce plenty of honey for themselves and some surplus for us. We walk a fine line here, because if they reach a certain strength too early (before the main honey flow), they decide to swarm, to divide themselves roughly in half, and the old queen and half the worker bees leave the hive and establish a new colony.

Continued on page 11



From page 10

We discourage this by equalizing – by taking strength away from stronger colonies and giving it to weaker ones. We also divide the stronger colonies, making splits, thereby reducing their urge to swarm.

The photo shows grafted queen cells mounted on a frame. The blue plastic cups are imitations of the cups the bees use to rear queens for themselves. We select breeder queens, colonies that have qualities that we desire, and we graft their larvae into these cups. In the cups is the white Royal Jelly, the feed that all bees get a tiny dose of, but those reared to be queens feed on it for their entire development.

Our club holds regular meetings at our apiary in the Botanical Garden, which we are so grateful to be able to use. For information on the Sunshine Coast Bee Club or upcoming beekeeping courses at the Botanical Garden bee yard, email cliffordsteve5@gmail.com

– Steve Clifford, president, Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Association

Children's Corner

Let's Discover Stones

What do you think stones are? When you pick up a stone, it feels hard. Sometimes stones are smooth and sometimes they can be rough and jagged. As you walk on stones, they can have different sounds. Try walking on gravel – tiny bits of stones that make crunchy sounds. Can you run along a gravelly path? Or find some large stones that are on the beach and try strolling on them. Often your legs feel tired because you sink into the bigger stones, feeling like you are wobbling and tipping off balance.

Where do you find stones? My favourite place to search for stones is on the beach, and we are so fortunate living on the Sunshine Coast that there many beaches to explore. When the tide is in, the stony beach is more narrow; however, I look under big driftwood logs and see many stones that are well hidden from view. If you go down to the beach when the tide is way out, the stones glisten from the sea and often they have shells around them, too. If you pick up a large smooth stone and peer underneath it, look and see what you might find that will surprise you. Tiny crabs, maybe? A wiggly worm?

What can you do with stones? A woman named Susan goes down to the beach and finds stones so she can build a stone sculpture on a driftwood log. She told me it is very challenging to get them to balance, and you have to be very gentle when you place a stone one on top of another. Other people select round, smooth stones and paint designs on them. A woman named Patricia paints Santa Claus on stones to give as gifts at Christmas time. Perhaps you could make some special designs on stones.

In my garden I have created a stone garden. First I place landscape cloth down so weeds will not come through to spoil the effect of all the smooth stones of varying colours. Looking at each stone, I decide where to place it so it will look balanced and in a comfortable space with its neighbouring stones. When I look at my design, it reminds me of a stream running through my garden. Why did I make a stone garden? It is because we are



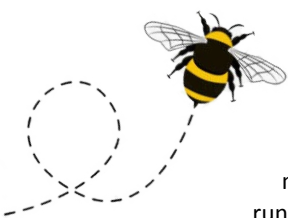
Photo by Heather Till

It's fun to collect pebbles at the beach and make designs, then leave your art work there for others to enjoy.

experiencing hot dry summers with drought conditions, and stone gardens do not need to be watered.

Now see if you can find your very own stones. What will you do with them?

– June Meyer





Photos by Harry Hill

Harry Hill, one of the Garden's founding members, caught these amazing photos while exploring Central Park in New York in early May. He writes, "While I was sitting near Turtle Pond and the theatre where they stage Shakespeare in the Park, I spotted a white egret and went over to get a closer look. Before too long it emerged from the shallows with a sunfish in its beak. Then it proceeded to manoeuvre the fish so that it was head side down, but the fish wasn't cooperating. Finally it was able to swallow the fish and I could see it slowly move down the egret's neck like a toad moving down a snake!"



 **Sunshine Coast
Botanical Garden**

Summer Hours (May to September)

Friday to Tuesday ~ 11am - 4pm

Closed Wednesday & Thursday

5941 Mason Road, Sechelt

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