



A place to grow

# CVIBGS News

Issued by the Central Vancouver Island Botanical Garden Society

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www.cvibgs.org

Summer 2006



## Annual Report

Phillip Field, CVIBGS  
President

*From remarks to the April 8, 2006  
AGM.*

The best way to start my report is to express my appreciation to each of the current Board of Directors for their active contribution and excellent approach to the discharge of their duties over the past year.

I was delighted to Chair a Board that was comprised of individuals who contributed a wide range of skills and talents, who were so accepting to various points of view and who were so helpful in their suggestions towards the issues confronting the Board. As a result, we were able to carry on discussions on all of the topics that reached the Board table in a most amicable and productive manner.

I want to let the members of our Society know that those talents and that approach certainly was useful in dealing with the challenges that arose from the Society taking on the coordination of the Annual Garden Show. It was a year of transition with steep learning curves, but the challenges were handled successfully in my opinion because of the amenable approach displayed by each of the Directors.

We were sorry to accept the resignation of Lorraine Coumont from the Board last year and receive Helmut Neumann's decision not to stand for election for the coming year. We were most happy to appoint Marie Strothotte and Katjia Reinhardt to the Board. Marie was given the task of bringing our on-line /web site /computer profile more in line with today's needs while Katjia is taking on fundraising initiatives.

The Board is structured along Committee lines whereby individual directors are appointed as Committee Chairs with responsibility for specific areas of concern. This spreads the

workload and involves all of the directors in a significant way.

### KEY ACTIVITIES

We made considerable progress in many areas:

- ◇ The Habitat Garden was officially opened on 28 April 2005. I participated on behalf of the Board and Society in cutting the ribbon along with Rich Johnston, President of Mal U College. Some 30 or so persons attended the opening and a plaque has been placed at the Garden acknowledging our contribution.
- ◇ Improved web-site and computer capabilities have been developed.
- ◇ Regular newsletters are published and distributed.
- ◇ Administrative controls continue to be in excellent shape.
- ◇ Meetings of the Board take place on a regular basis, with committee meetings held on an as-needed basis
- ◇ Excellent working relationships exist between the CVIBGS and the Mal U Horticulture Centre.
- ◇ The 11th Annual Garden Show "Celebration of Island Gardening" was coordinated directly from the Board (see report, pg 2)
- ◇ Committee Reports are on pg 4.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- 1) ongoing review and planning with Mal U Department of Horticulture
- 2) ongoing review and planning re: the Annual Garden Show
- 3) development of financial resources in relation to items 1) and 2)
- 4) development of membership and strategic planning sessions re CVIBGS as a focal organization for local/mid-Island botanical/horticultural concerns.

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 \***Plant Sale—Sunday, May 28**\*  
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 \***-details page 4**\*  
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# Report on the 11th Annual GARDEN & FLOWER SHOW—by Phillip Field



For the first time, the March 2006 Show was organized under the direct control of the CVIBGS Board. Previously, David and Joyce Mitchell looked after most of the arrangements on the CVIBGS's behalf. After David asked to step down as coordinator following the 2005 Show, the CVIBGS Board of Directors, with David's help, undertook the organization and coordination of the 2006 Show. It was a worthwhile experience - we learnt first-hand about the work, time and efforts involved. It is not an easy task for the uninitiated! Anyway, by dint of a lot of work, and with an extraordinary amount of forbearance on everyone's part, we managed to be fairly successful. Some 1400 people attended the show and all the figures are still being worked on, we made a net profit similar to the previous year of close to \$3,000.

We took a fresh look at the logistics, methodology and impact of the show. Comments were invited from the atten-



dees and the exhibitors as to their experience. We also held a post-show critique meeting of the Board/Show Committee to ascertain where, how, what we could do to improve the experience for all involved.

We are analyzing the input that we received (from approx 30% of attendees and 70% of exhibitors) along with comments from committee chairs comprised of members of the Board of Directors. Generally, the exhibitors are satisfied, however, when one asks for an opinion, one is sure to receive one. We received many ideas as well as some conflicting suggestions. The most significant response was from the CVIBGS Director/Chairs. **Without exception, it is apparent that we need to look to the future and "grow" the show.** Accordingly, the show committee has recommended to the Board that it embark upon a strategic review of the annual garden show in all its facets. While the 2006 show was successful, we see room for innovation to keep it fresh and exciting.

We will pursue all avenues open to us to continue the "Celebration of Island Gardening" Spring Flower & Gardening Show. In closing, I wish to thank the various chairs of the show committee for the excellent job that they did. It wasn't easy, but we learned a lot and we are looking to the future. We will keep everyone in the loop as to our planning for the next **Garden Show on March 9-11, 2007.**

## We Thank Exhibitors and our Sponsors and Volunteers

Alex's Therapeutic Gardening Centre, Backyard Wildbird and Nature Store, Blue Diamond Gravel & Turf, BC Landscape Nursery Assoc., Cannor Nursery, Carey's Garden Design, Carpe Diem Garden Décor, Davey Tree Services, Diana's Garden Centre, Dig This, Dunn by Design Landscaping, Elaine's Orchids, Foenix Forest Technologies (Sea Soil), Gardenade, Gardenwise Magazine, Green Thumb Garden Centre, Hazelwood Herb Farm, Hip Services, Island Speciality Nursery, Malaspina Horticultural Program, Gabriola Island Master Gardeners, Milner Gardens & Woodland, Nanaimo Area Land Trust, Nanaimo Horticultural Society, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Nanaimo Rhododendrum Society, Naturescape Fencing, Old Rose Nursery, Roots & Shoots, Sunburst Gardens, Standing Stone Masonry, Farmers Against Terminator Seeds, Turley's Florist & Potting Shed, Vancouver Island Heather Chapter, Wildside Native Plant Nursery.

Special thanks also to Carrot on the Run for providing excellent catering services during the event and to the Nanaimo Bulletin for publishing the program. Our appreciation is extended also to Sharecost Rentals and Sales who provided financial support as a sponsor.

We also owe special gratitude to David and Joyce Mitchell, who provided advice throughout and organized the program of speakers and workshops, and to Lorraine Coumont for her willingness to share her past experience. Many members came forward to help us during the weekend and we have written to each to thank them for their willingness to help.

# CVIBGS Celebrates its 10th Anniversary 1996-2006

- by Mike Strothotte, shown right at the CVIBGS booth at the March Garden Show. Mike was the Society's first president and is currently CVIBGS Vice President.

It is hard to believe that it has already been ten years since the formation of the CVIBGS. A lot has happened since the first tentative meeting on January 13, 1996.

Often it has seemed like we weren't getting anywhere, but we have been like the proverbial duck swimming upstream. We are always paddling hard, just to stay even, and even harder to get ahead.

A lot of good people have served on the Board of Directors over the years. Each one made their own valuable contribution to our cause.

In particular, the Society owes a great deal to Lorraine Coumont and Phillip Field for their respective contributions as President. Each brought the group to a higher level.

It is so very gratifying to see that the Society is now working actively in a partnership with the Malaspina University Col-



lege Horticulture Program to develop gardens on the Paine Center site, which can eventually form the basis of a Botanical Garden.

Historically, it has taken groups anywhere from 15 to 25 years to really get moving on the development of a successful garden.

We are on track and well within that schedule! The next five years of the CVIBGS will be very exciting as we reach a critical point in our growth and maturation.

## Volunteer Gardening in Exchange for Lunch Anyone?

This message from Dale and Michele Keddy was forwarded to the CVIBGS and other garden clubs by Connie Kuramoto:

*"I have a very large project on my plate at the moment in resurrecting a 15 acre botanical garden at Pacific Shores in Nanoose. The garden is beautiful to work in but very neglected in my opinion. I have only 3 staff on full time and there just isn't enough time in the day to get to everything. I was wondering if you know any garden type clubs that would be interested in either volunteering some time each week or establishing some demonstration gardens such as dahlia and a rose garden. We have a rose garden established but I would like to see a club come in and help with the proper pruning and care.*

*"We could offer a lunch and refreshments to anyone wanting to volunteer. So anyways if you have any contacts or info maybe you could send them my way. Talked to Mike last week about practicum students as well, but I believe they have all found something. If you want a tour of the gardens let me know..."*

If you wish more information contact Michelle at email: [damish@shaw.ca](mailto:damish@shaw.ca).

## CVIBGS Garden News ...

Developing gardens is exciting but maintenance is crucial. The Society's Board of Directors is looking at ways it can help the students and staff at the Paine Centre maintain the gardens. If you are interested in assisting in a volunteer maintenance program on behalf of the CVIBGS, please get in touch with us.

This Spring the CVIBGS donated a book award to a deserving horticultural student. Mike Strothotte was a member of the committee which selected the landscape design for the Therapeutic Garden, the construction of which will begin this September. Also in September will be the official opening of the Waterwise Garden.

**Letters to the editor**—are welcome along with short garden related stories or garden tours. Let us know about your favourite gardens or garden tips, or if you are a photographer, a picture is often worth a thousand words. If you have ideas on what the Society should be doing or an opinion on how we are doing, share it. The editor retains control over all content. Send to Darlene Booth at [www.secretary@cvibgs.org](mailto:www.secretary@cvibgs.org).

## Committee Reports to the AGM

Board secretary, Darlene Booth reported that paid up membership had reached 51 in 2005 and that more two thirds had renewed their membership for this year. Three newsletters were produced and efforts made to reduce mailing costs by using email and the CVIBGS web site as far as practical. Treasurer Ian Seal distributed the financial balance sheet for the year ending Dec 31, 2005. Net revenue for the period was \$4,030.78 bringing the Society's total equity to \$43,985.46. Mike Strothotte reported progress on the three demonstration gardens under development at GR Paine under the partnership agreement: Habitat Garden, Waterwise Garden, and the Therapeutic/Enabling garden.

## Plant Sale May 28 (10-4pm)

**We hope a good turnout of members and their relatives and friends comes to our first annual Plant Sale. Please help by spreading the word. Admission is free and light refreshments will be available by donation. We will be offering bedding plants, annual and perennial, hanging baskets and containers, vegetable starts, herbs, shrubs and small trees, and climbing vines plus a surprise table.**

**Here is an opportunity to see the demonstration gardens under development through our partnership agreement with Malaspina University-College. The sale takes place at the G.R. Paine Hort. Centre located at 2324 East Wellington Rd.**



## CVIBGS Board of Directors

Phillip Field, President  
Mike Strothotte, VP  
Ian Seal, Treasurer  
Darlene Booth, Secretary  
Edythe Field  
Michael Girard  
Connie Kuramoto  
Katja Reinhardt  
Marie Strothotte

**We welcome your letters and feedback. Please send by mail or email to: [cvibgs@cvibgs.org](mailto:cvibgs@cvibgs.org) or go to: [www.cvibgs.org](http://www.cvibgs.org)**

## OUR MISSION

- ◆ exhibit native and exotic plants in beautiful and informative settings;
- ◆ offer useful and interesting information about plants to the public;
- ◆ give advice on horticultural problems...;
- ◆ provide library reference and study facilities in horticultural, botany and related fields;
- ◆ engage in exchange, testing and evaluation of new and desirable plants to the ultimate benefit of the public;
- ◆ conserve plants that may be in danger ..

## Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Currently we are sending this newsletter to about 70 members whose fees are overdue. Our fund-raising efforts are tied to our level of support. Please consider rejoining today.

**CVIBGS is a Registered Non Profit Organization. Tax receipts will be issued for donations \$20 or more.**

Please use the form below, or sign up at our web site. [www.cvibgs.org](http://www.cvibgs.org) which provides a secure means for remitting dues, to join the CVIBGS or renew your membership to March 31, 2007. Your Membership Card will give you a 10% member's discount when shown at most Nanaimo garden centres. As well, we would be pleased to receive new memberships or renewals at the CVIBGS Plant Sale on May 28, 2006 at the G.R. Paine Horticulture Centre (details above).

**Mail to: CVIBGS, PO Box 2227, Station A, Nanaimo, BC V9R 6X9**

**I would like to:**

Renew my Annual membership, or  Begin a CVIBGS membership

Student: \$10.00  Individual: \$15.00  Family \$25.00  
 Lifetime: \$1000.00  Corporation \$200.00

Donate the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Be a Garden Show volunteer  Help with Fundraising

Serve on the Board of Directors or a committee

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_