

COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com

GARDEN DELIGHTS

We recently had the pleasure of visiting a world famous garden delight—Claude Monet's water lily garden in Giverny, France. As well as this water lily garden with the bridge which you see in so many of his paintings, he developed a large flower garden which was bursting with blossoms and scents..



COMING EVENTS

- **Saturday June 11--** 9am to 2pm, **the 64th Community Flower and Garden Show and Sale.** A Flower Show for everyone, including plant sales, garden vendors, silent auction, strawberry tea and the Rotary Club's Pancake Breakfast. Cobble Hill Hall, 2550 Watson Rd, Cobble Hill.
- **Sunday, June 12—**10 am to 4 pm, **Mount Brenton Garden Club tour.** Cost: \$10. Pass available at many local nurseries and Shar-Kare

ISLAND DAYLILY FARM

Island Day Lily Farm at 1291 Shawnigan Lake Road, Shawnigan Lake now has nearly 500 distinct cultivars ranging in height from 12 inches to over 6 feet, and in bloom period from extra early to very late. Last year they had blooms in the display beds right into October.

During June they will be open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 10am to 5:30pm and in July, during peak bloom period, they will be open 7 days a week. They have weekly specials as well as discounts for garden club members.

Admission is free and they are inviting us to visit them even as tourists on a sight seeing venture. For more information, go to their website at www.islanddaylily.ca .

KEEPING YOUR ANNUAL CONTAINERS LOOKING GOOD ALL SUMMER

Here are a few tips to help you:

1. Aim to maintain even moisture levels. Plants that are drought stressed are more likely to be weaker, produce fewer flowers and start dying back sooner. Try to use the largest container for the location because larger containers dry out slower than smaller ones. Line the inside of containers and hanging baskets with plastic. Punch a few holes on the

sides of the plastic near the bottom so excess water can drain but a little reservoir remains in the base.

2. Don't let your soil dry out. Once that has happened it is hard to re-hydrate the soil properly, further stressing your plants. Once mid-summer hits, most planters will need to be watered every day and hanging baskets in full sun may need to be watered twice a day.

3. Try to keep from getting water on the plants when watering. This helps to reduce the risk of disease.

4. Feed regularly. Flowering annuals need a lot of nutrients to grow and produce flowers. It is recommended to feed with an organic liquid concentrate fertilizer weekly once your plants have become established. You could also mix in an organic slow release fertilizer at the time of planting.

5. Deadhead, deadhead, deadhead. By removing spent flowers you prevent your plants from wasting energy trying to produce seed. Instead they will just keep on flowering.

6. Pick off yellowing leaves. These and damaged foliage are more prone to attack by fungal diseases like botrytis.

7. Check regularly for pests like aphids. Usually you can deal with them by squishing them. It's strangely satisfying.

8. Remember that not every plant needs to flower to look great in an annual container. Strobilanthes and Coleus are two great foliage plants for your planter or hanging basket. This may seem like a lot to do but really it should only take a few minutes of your day (unless you have a lot of containers) and your planters and hanging baskets will still be looking great right into the fall.

NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14

Speaker: To be Advised

Parlour Show for September

1. Home Grown – A design using flowers and edible plant materials (e.g. fruits, vegetables, herbs, greens) from the Cowichan Valley.
2. Driftwood and Dahlias – A design, other plant materials allowed.
3. Sunflower – one cut, any variety.
4. Rudbeckia – 3 cuts, 1 or more varieties, 1 container.
5. Hydrangea – 1 cut, any variety.
6. Any other flower – 1 cut.
7. Grapes – 1 bunch, any variety
8. Flower Seed Growing Competition – 'Novella Rose' Lavatera, 5 cuts.
9. Anything Goes – Open, non-competitive category. Enter anything you want!

Set up: Cheryl Nielsen team

Tea: Elsie Olson team

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last edition of the newsletter that I will be producing. Thanks to everyone for their contributions and words of encouragement. Louise Ketilson

