

Comox Valley Horticultural Society

January 2018

Welcome to the Comox Valley Horticultural Society update for members.

Board News

The Board of the Comox Valley Horticultural Society welcomed two new members to its ranks at the January meeting:

Nancy Milliken as Director at Large; and
Christi York as Director at Large

The Board is seeking one more Director at Large. We are also looking for help with our Newsletter. Specifically, anyone interested in researching and writing horticultural related articles. If you are interested please contact me at president@comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca.

The Board has decided to bring the CVHS into the 21st century. For 2018, our 40th year, we are embracing new technology, well maybe not so new, but new to us. For the first time you will have the option of purchasing your membership online with your credit card through our website. We also have a CVHS Facebook page, so check us out (see Webmaster below for further details.)

As with all new ventures and technology, there is a learning curve. We recognize the solution we have for this year is not perfect and is only a starting point.

We have been working on this since the fall of 2016 and have selected a payment provider, Square, who will process the orders from our website. Square has a solid reputation (I even checked them with our bank, RBC), their fees are on the low end, and they have card readers. This will even allow us to process credit and debit cards payments at our plant sale!

We have learned that selecting Square is the first step, as their online store and process is not too flexible. Square has many partners that can help here, with different features and processes. We will select the one that best suites our needs, and along with feedback that we receive from our users, we will have a more streamlined and functional system by next year.

We very much appreciate your patience and understanding, and feedback, as we build this new system. Here is a link to our [Membership Signup](#) page.

2018 CVHS Budget.

The 2018 CVHS budget was approved last week by the Board. Please click on this link for the information.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vmwuaMDq88eqA2vQNCMLMinQJR46AegM/view?usp=sharing>

We will be reviewing the budget at the January 15th General Meeting, and we will be able to answer any questions you may have about it at that time.

Committee News

Membership

We look forward to welcoming returning members and new members to our inaugural registration on Monday January 15th!! Did you know that we are celebrating our 40th year as a club, thanks to those who came forward to fill some key roles in December. It is exciting to look forward to reacquainting ourselves with our CVHS family to share and learn as we care for our beautiful gardens in 2018.

Membership fees for 2018 have not changed!! They are still, \$20/individual, \$30/family (max 2 people at the same address), and \$5 for guests/visitors to any meeting.

There are now more options to pay for your membership than before!

Download the Membership form here

<http://comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca/membership-info/membership-form/> and either...

1. Mail the completed form with payment (cheque only please) to, Comox Valley Horticultural Society PO Box 3443, Station Main, Courtenay, BC V9N 5N5 and your card will be ready for pick up at the next meeting you attend. If you include a self-addressed and stamped envelope with your application and payment, we are happy to mail it out to you.
2. Bring the completed form with payment (cheque or envelope with **correct change**, stapled to your form) to the January meeting or fill one out upon arrival.
 1. Or you can now go on-line with a credit card to obtain your 2018 membership (membership@comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca). Your card will be ready for pick up at the next meeting you attend.

If we have received your renewal/membership form prior to this January meeting, your 2018 membership card will be available for pick up at the meeting or if you have provided us with a stamped self-addressed envelope it will be mailed out to you. For all renewals dropped off at the January meeting, your membership card will be available for pick up at the February meeting.

The January meeting will be a busy one for us, and the doors will open at 6:30pm. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces and propagating some new ones too in 2018. Bring a friend!!!

Opportunity Table

New Year's greetings from the Opportunity Table! This month check us out for some tempting gardening books, perfect for browsing in our rainy weather. We will also have magazines, and with the help of our members, some seeds to start the season off.

If you have gardening items to donate, please drop them off if possible before the doors open, to give us time to organize our tables. You can use the large exit doors facing the upper parking lot, which will be open.

We hope you are getting outside now that the snow's gone, even though it is a bit damp. The cold weather will likely return, but with it comes the sun, which adds cheer to the days. Even a short time outside helps invigorate the body and gets rid of stale inside air from the lungs. If you are not going somewhere warm for a holiday, "bloom where you're planted" and enjoy the winter pleasures around us here.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at the January meeting.

Judith, Connie, Gaynor and Elizabeth

Plant Sales

Vesey's Spring 2018 Fundraiser

The Vesey's Spring catalogue will be available at the January 15 meeting. Feel free to pick up as many catalogues, order forms and envelopes as you would like. The Spring 2018 catalogue includes many more items than the Fall 2017 catalogue did, like white strawberries (Pineberry) and Agapanthus.

This is a win-win-win for all of us. You win by making your garden that much more colorful with new products; your neighborhood wins by becoming just that much more beautiful and the CVHS wins because we get to keep 50% of every dollar raised. So go out and make your street beautiful and encourage your friends and neighbors to take a look at the catalogue and place an order.

All orders MUST be into Sylvia Stone no later than March 31 as Vesey's will ship mid to late April. Look for Joanne Gesell (who is taking Sylvia's place in January) at the table with the Vesey's display. Last year, the CVHS earned \$839 from this fundraiser - can we beat that this Spring?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sylvia at slystone@telus.net or call 250.339.1020.

Program & Publicity

January 15 CVHS welcomes Carolyn Herriot, who explores the role of soil, insects and wildlife in maintaining a healthy garden. Balancing your garden with nature means you spend more time enjoying it and less time fighting problems.

Carolyn ran The Garden Path Centre in Victoria for 25 years. She is a passionate gardener and cook, a well-known lecturer, and author of "A Year on the Garden Path-A 52 Week Organic Gardening Guide" and "The Zero-Mile Diet".

Join us at the Courtenay Florence Filberg Centre. Doors open early at 630 pm for our Membership Renewal Drive. You can print off your Membership Form and bring it along with a cheque or cash for \$20 Single or \$30 Family Membership, and guests are welcome to attend for only \$5.

Make it your New Year's Resolution to become an active Hort Society member in this our 40th year! Further details at www.comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca

Raffle Table

Here is one of the items for the January meeting we will be selling raffle tickets for. Enjoy the uniqueness of the Tillandsia set in a beautiful shell. Low maintenance and certainly a conversation starter. Tickets are one for \$1.00, three for \$2.00, and ten for \$5.00.

Tillandsia is a genus of around 650 species of evergreen, perennial flowering plants in the family Bromeliaceae, native to the forests, mountains and deserts of Central and South America, the southern United States and the West Indies. ([Wikipedia](#))

Scientific name: Tillandsia

Kingdom: Plantae□

Higher classification: [Tillandsioideae](#)

Family: Bromeliaceae□

Order: [Poales](#)□

Rank: Genus

Webmaster

The website has been updated, cleaned up and reorganized to make finding information easier. A new Facebook Page has been created with our logo and is the official sanctioned Facebook profile for our Society. Please look us up, and give us a 'LIKE' and 'FOLLOW' our blog posts! Posts will include information about upcoming events, and any noteworthy news about the activities of the Society. The website committee will be looking at ways to improve our online presence with the goal of drawing in more members.

Upcoming CVHS Events – Mark Your Calendars!

Please note for all CVHS General Meetings: doors open at 6:45 p.m. **unless noted**, and the meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

January 15, 2018 General Meeting, Florence Filberg Centre, **6:30 p.m.** Guest Speaker:

Carolyn Herriot – Natural Pest & Disease Control in the garden

February 19, 2018 General Meeting, Florence Filberg Centre, 6:45 p.m. Guest Speaker: **Chanchal Cabrera – Ethnobotany of Tribal People in Southern India.**

March 19, 2018 General Meeting, Florence Filberg Centre, 6:45 p.m. Guest Speaker: **Zac Kregosky - Xeriscaping**

April 16, 2018 General Meeting & Member Plant Sale, Florence Filberg Centre, **6:30 p.m.**
Guest Speaker: TBA

April 28, 2018 Annual Spring Plant Sale, Florence Filberg Centre, doors open at 8:00 a.m. to drop plants off. Doors open 9:30 – 11:30 am for the public.

May 28, 2018 General Meeting, Florence Filberg Centre, 6:45 p.m. Guest Speaker: TBA

June 18, 2018 General Meeting, Florence Filberg Centre, 6:45 p.m. Guest Speaker: TBA

August 20, 2018 General Meeting, Florence Filberg Centre, 6:45 p.m. Guest Speaker: TBA

September 17, 2018 General Meeting, Florence Filberg Centre, 6:45 p.m. Guest Speaker: TBA

October 15, 2018 Annual General Meeting, Florence Filberg Centre, 6:45 p.m. Guest Speaker: TBA

Please Note: we are no longer providing a Social Table at CVHS General Meetings. Please bring your own tea or coffee.

Presidents Message

January seems like such a dreary month in the Comox Valley, with single digit temperatures, the persistent fog and, according to Farm Zone (<http://www.farmzone.com/statistics/CL1021989/sb049>), the second wettest month of the year - just behind November.

On the bright side, I look out the window and see a dozen or more species of birds at our feeders, picking seeds or bugs off the bushes and ground and generally enjoying themselves. I look to the mountains (when I can see them) and see a good snow pack, which will mean an abundance of water throughout the summer and autumn. With all this precipitation, wells, lakes and aquifers will be recharging. I also know that under the snow that is covering our garden there are a multitude of bulbs poking their leaves up and

out of the soil, seeking that elusive sunshine! While we wait for spring we are enjoying leeks, carrots, kale, beets and lettuce from our winter garden. And wait, what is that? An abundance of blossoms, some already open, on our 'Pink Dawn' *Viburnum* and Witchhazel!

Being a wet month, it seems to me that garden planning is one of the more satisfying activities to do. Just last week we cracked the cover on our 2018 seed catalogue and started choosing the seeds we will need for our vegetable garden this year. Once that is decided, we will figure out what goes where and in which garden box – remembering to rotate the plantings over a three to four year cycle.

Creating the “garden to do list” is another task for January, or so says my wife – considering most of the bigger tasks on the list have my name beside them! Admittedly, some of those tasks are my own creation, a strategy to get out of weeding the garden [but don't tell my wife].

All of these things tell me January is not so bad after all!

Gordon Stewart

President

Comox Valley Horticultural Society

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