Comox Valley Horticultural Society

PO Box 3443, Station Main, Courtenay, BC V9N 5N5

President: Isabel Petch – 250-338-4047 November 2010

Newsletter: Leslie Cox – 250-337-8051; growingconcern@telus.net

Website: http://www.comoxvalleyhorticulturalsociety.com

Tonight's Meeting: Last year was 'The Year of the Flood' and our Winter Celebration and all the preparation that goes into it came to naught. It may be hard to think "winter" with the mild temperatures we've been experiencing but we CAN think Celebration! Here's a brief outline of what to expect when you come on Nov. 15th.

As has been done in the past, Members are encouraged to bring an item that is related in some way to their garden or a garden they love. A late blooming rose, a collection of leaves, a jar of strawberry jam, a photo from the summer past, you get the picture. These items will be on display and those contributing will receive a ticket for a draw prize separate from our usual draw.

The format of round tables with seating for eight to ten will be in place again. This gives everyone a chance to socialize and work together on our craft project. Maybe you can get to know some of our newer Club Members and share some tips on gardening in the Valley.

We ask that each of you bring either a sweet or a savoury item to share. In addition to the usual coffee and tea, a punch will be provided by the Club. There is no charge for refreshments although if you wish to make a cash donation to the food bank, the tin will be out. Please note that food items WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE until after the short general meeting. We have several presentations to make and after that, it will be time to enjoy the treats.

The highlight of the evening will have Nancy Bissonnette, our talented lady of the baskets, take us through assembling a seasonal project. Here is what Nancy has to say about what we will be doing: "We all have special holiday traditions we do each year, some that are from our childhood and some we started with our own families. One I have done every year since I was a child,

one that my mother always did with us, was to give handmade ornaments. She was an artist and a gardener and would often use things from our garden to create these one-of-a-kind gifts. To this day, I give my sister a handmade ornament. It is both a treasured memory from our past and a treasured gift to pass on to our children. Come and make a special holiday ornament to hang on the tree or to give as a gift. We will be using a variety of materials, including many that can be found in your own garden. These ornaments are fun and easy to make and just right to share with your family and friends. They will bring joy for years to come."

Please bring along a pair of scissors and an old tea towel to the meeting and be ready to get creative!

At this time of the year especially, everyone is aware that the food bank needs our support. Mr. John Barrett will be with us on that night to receive a cheque from the Club – proceeds from the Social Table. If each Member could donate an item for the food bank, we could send him off with some nicely filled boxes and the knowledge that we are happy to share the wealth.

Lastly, I would ask that everyone pitch in to make this event a success. There is quite a bit of set-up to do and we must help the custodian by leaving a tidy room. If we all pitch in, the sense of camaraderie that is so important in any group, makes for a good end to our Club Year.

CVHS Dates to Remember:

December: No meetings –

Merry Christmas to One & All!

Jan. 5th (Wed): Executive Mtg

Jan. 17th (Monday): General Mtg; 7 PM; guest speaker is **Dr. Roy Taylor** on "The Development of a Mediterranean Style Garden on the West Coast" (see pg 3)

Cuttings: I don't recall what grade I was in when our teacher introduced us to Keats and the poem that begins: "Much have I travelled in realms of gold". She told us the poem had to do with reading and how it was possible to knit our imagination to that of another to experience the world. Armchair travel. Vicarious living. Nowadays, true "low maintenance gardening".

I read only for pleasure. I have no guilt about not finishing a book I've started, or abandoning one. If I just want to dabble, I do. Many of my books still remain packed away in the boxes in which they were stored when we moved to the Comox Valley. I seem to be always in the process of moving them from the dank of the basement. As I open the boxes, some books are complete strangers, aliens almost and I wonder why I purchased them. Others are a reunion. I pause and rifle through the pages reacquainting myself with old friends. Still others are waiting for an introduction, even though they live on my shelves.

Reading, for me, is a bit like wandering a garden. I intend to do something. I don the right garb. Collect the correct tools. I head out with a purpose. Then distraction. Something catches my eye, demands my attention. One thing leads to another. It's just so easy to put off, to be captivated by the siren call. How many times have you headed out to the garden to perform a set task only to realize several hours later that you have had a wonderful day just drifting, doing this and that, are bone-tired yet refreshed. What you set out to do remains undone. For that — there's tomorrow.

At our September meeting, I happened to sit to the side next to the Library Table. I was waiting for the Guest Speaker to begin. The lights were still on. I spotted a book by Jamaica Kincaid. Recently, I had heard her interviewed on CBC. I thought she was a novelist and I had put her on my 'Special List'. So, Jamaica's book *My Garden* (Book) went home with me that night and I met a wonderfully eccentric woman from the West Indies who now gardens in Vermont and teaches at

Harvard. In a blurb on the cover, the author, Michael Pollan (*Second Nature*) describes her writing as "an irresistible stream of horticulture consciousness".

One book by an extraordinary writer is never enough, so I went to Laughing Oyster Books to see what else was available by Jamaica Kincaid. Now I have *Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalaya* and I look forward to hours of trekking in the "realms of gold" as Jamaica goes off with Dan Hinkley and others to search for plants in the mountains of Nepal. On the surface, the group is searching for plants Jamaica can grow in her Vermont garden. One reviewer comments, "Kincaid goes through hell before reaching paradise".

Among the books I re-discovered on my shelves is The Inward Garden: Creating a Place of Beauty and Meaning by Julie Moir Messervy. I intend to re-read this book as it explores the outward landscape of our world but the inward landscape of our spirit. The writing, as I recall, is exquisite and the photography is both stimulating and soothing. A few years ago when I was in Toronto for Canada Blooms, I persuaded my daughter to take me down to the waterfront to view a garden created by Messervy with Yo-Yo Ma, the cellist. My daughter informed me we had fifteen minutes. Two hours later, we were still admiring the gardens which were created to explore and harmonize with various pieces of music. It was March and the first time I had seen and grasses used as accompaniment. If you go to Toronto, make sure you visit these gardens. The gardens had been installed just a short time prior to our visit. Now they have had time to mature and settle into the landscape. And I had this wonderful experience because of a book. I've forgotten what prompted me to purchase the book in the first place but it is among my favourites. When I next visit Toronto, these gardens are on my Bucket List.

Every now and then, a writer will tell the story of his own regeneration through the building of a garden. If that writer is also a poet, then the book will help

heal us as well. It will offer insight into the plight of others and allow us to marvel at the human struggle and the inherent beauty of humanity, even with, or perhaps because of, flows. This is to travel from the outside the self to the inside of self, to the outside again. Patrick Lane does this in his book There is a Season – A Memoir for which he received the BC Award for non-fiction from the Lt-Governor, Iona Campagnolo. Reading this book is to take a life journey with a man of great talents who makes no excuses for his weaknesses and acknowledges the pain and agony and the joys and beauty of his life without asking for either pity or admiration. Some parts of this book are funny, delicate, delightful, absurd. The writing is superb. This is "garden writing" at its poetic best. Alice Munro says, "To read this book is to enter a state of enchantment."

Whenever I get a magazine such as BBC Gardeners World, Gardens Illustrated or the RHS The Garden, the first item I check out is the Book Review. It's like visiting a library where the new books are on display. Each Saturday we buy the Globe and Mail and check out the reviews. Last week I came across a book which might make it to my Christmas List. It's not a gardening-garden book. The Paper Garden: Mrs. Delany (Begins her Life Work) at 72 by Molly Peacock tells the story of a woman who uses flowers as a new art form and creates a career for herself. I'm not a fan of biography. But perhaps because it's Mrs. Delany's age, or it's the 18th century, or it's the splendid full page reproductions of sumptuous floral creations, or perhaps it's because the reviewer, Victoria Glendinning, remarked "The Paper Garden will be everyone's favourite Christmas present this year" that I just have to have this book.

~ Isabel

"The way you spend Christmas is way more important than how much."

~ Henry David Thoreau

Calendar Update: Our 2010 CVHS Calendar has proved to be quite a success. We have just over one third sold and there are several events, including our November meeting, at which we hope to see additional sales. For those who are unable to attend our meeting and wish to buy a calendar, they are available at the following locations: Classic Printers at 823 McPhee, The Cottage Gardener at 204-1797 Comox Ave (while you're there, check out the great clothes and gift ideas), The Extended Care Unit at St. Joseph's Hospital, Glacier View Lodge, Black Creek Farm & Feed or Linda Page at 250-338-5684 (I would be happy to deliver). Both the ECU and Glacier View Lodge will be holding pre-holiday events, so if you are planning on attending, our Calendars will be a feature.

It is our hope that we will cover our costs, something that has not happened to this point but we are still optimistic. It would be great if we could realize a profit and contribute to the care and maintenance of our seniors' garden projects. Since this seems to be The Year of the Calendar - there are so many for sale out there and all for good causes - I would really appreciate if Club Members would rally around and get these puppies sold!

~ Linda

Program Chair: I am happy to report that the CVHS Program for 2011 is off to a good start. Would you believe I have already booked in our June presenter?! I think it will be one great evening.

I am working on a panel discussion for May but I'm not going to "let the cat out of the bag" until everything is finalized. February is coming together nicely. Lynette Callan will introduce us to the glories of David Austin roses. This will lead in to a bare root sale featuring many of the roses that Lynette will cover in her presentation.

For January, I am extremely pleased to report that Dr. Roy Taylor, former director of the UBC Botanical Garden, has agreed to speak to us about his wonderful garden in Lantzville. Dr. Taylor and his

wife, Dr. Janet Taylor are featured in the fall issue of Garden Wise magazine. The title of Dr. Taylor's talk will be "The Development of a Mediterranean Style Garden on the West Coast". This particular style of garden connects our west coast gardens to the gardens of southern California. Given our hot summers with limited rainfall, I'm sure that we will all profit from hearing Dr. Taylor's planting recommendations.

In my quest for a January speaker, I was in touch with Carmen Varcoe, a lady that many of you have enjoyed hearing speak in the past. Carmen told me that The Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society is holding a very special event on the weekend of February 25-27. The event, which takes place in Sidney, B.C., is called the 2011 Western Winter Study Weekend. It takes place once every six years and the line-up of presenters is amazing. The experts range from John Massey, owner of Ashwood Nurseries in Kingwinford, West Midlands, UK to Bobby Ward of Raleigh, North Carolina, author of The Plant Hunters Garden. Check out www.virags.ca if you are at all interested.

~ Linda

Grow 'n' Show Table: Bring something from your garden to show off at our Winter Celebration. Can't find any flowers or fruits to pick? Bring a jar of jam or a photo or a needlepoint masterpiece. As long as it is horticultural in nature, we get excited!

~ Marlene & Louise

Information Table: There will not be an Information Table this month. Look for lots of great info on display at the January meeting.

~ Marjan & Jo-Anne

Opportunity Table: The Opportunity Table is taking a break this month. We'll be open for business at the January meeting.

~ Connie, Adrian, Dianne, Susan, Diane & Judith The Membership Team: Members are reminded that 2011 Memberships are due in January - \$15.00 for a single and \$20.00 for a family Membership. Members who have not renewed by January 31, 2011 will NOT retain Membership privileges such as being on the phone list, receiving the monthly newsletter, accessing discounts at participating nurseries and the possibility of becoming a "Life Member". (See below.)

There is a Membership Renewal form attached to this newsletter. To make things easy there will be a drop-off box at the November meeting and Members can drop off their completed form and payment (cheques only please). Receipts and cards will be available at the January meeting.

Members are encouraged to drop off their form and payment, or mail the completed form to the address printed on the form, along with payment and a selfaddressed envelope - we will provide the return stamp. We will mail a receipt and 2011 Membership card back to you.

We have over 500 members in the Society so early renewal is very helpful.

At the January meeting renewals will be taken between 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm only. Please have your form filled out and cheque, payable to the Comox Valley Horticultural Society, or cash ready. Receipts and 2011 Membership Cards will be issued at this time.

Don't forget that you will need your new 2011 Membership Card to receive discounts at participating nurseries.

Life Membership is available to those who have been Members for 5 consecutive years prior to their 70th birthday. Please contact the Membership Chairperson if you think this applies to you

Please note: starting at the February meeting Members will be required to show their 2011 Membership Card at the door when you sign in or a \$5.00 fee will be charged. If you have any questions, please contact Fiona at 250-941-6111 or email fbclarke1@shaw.ca

~ Fiona & Barb

Glacier View Lodge: With the help of many volunteers, Glacier View Lodge Gardens have been put to bed for the winter. The bulbs left over from our Fall Bulb Sale were donated to Glacier View and were planted, as well as many shade-loving plants kindly donated by Lily Vander Horst primulas, hostas and heucheras. We weeded, cut back and mulched over the three work parties held this Fall.

Over the past few years we have transformed the garden into a visual delight for the residents. Thank you to Ann, Arnie, Astrid, Betty, Coleen, Gloria, Jan, Jean, Jill, Mary, Michael, Susan, Wolfgang and Isabel, who spearheaded all of this effort.

Glacier View Bazaar and Tea will be held on Friday, Nov. 19 from 2-4 pm.

~ Máire

Seeds Sown by Members: Recently I attended a Comox Valley Horticultural Society meeting and noticed someone I didn't know working at the Opportunity Table. I am always looking for someone to interview for this column and if the person is contributing to our Club all the better. Nancy Bissonnette actually lives in Campbell River; however she found our Society to be her cup of tea and has been hanging about the CVHS doing whatever needs doing for the last couple of years.

Nancy is an American who lived in Lake Stephens, Washington for 18 years. Her husband grew up in Winnipeg where they lived for about 5 years until recently. There she was involved with the Assiniboine Parks and teaching classes on gardening. Her mother was a passionate gardener so it has always been part of Nancy's life. She became an organic gardener 40 years ago when she started having children and a Master Gardener 27 years ago. She worked in several nurseries and once had her own business called Artful Weeding, which specialized in weeding for artists (of which there were 10). That was in Everett. Washington where she was also on the Arts Council.

When Nancy and her husband went to Winnipeg they missed the West Coast so returned 4 years ago, touring the Island to find their niche. They spent a little time in Nanaimo before moving to Campbell River where her first home turned out to be Sybil Andrews Cottage. (A well-known International Artist at the turn of the 20th century.) She initially volunteered for the gardening club in Campbell River before finding our Society.

While talking to Nancy comments such as sanctuary, peace, joy, love, a room of the house pepper her comments about her garden. She explains that a plant is given a year to do something and then it is moved or given to someone else. Nancy thinks people are too afraid to move plants. She is enamoured with the CVHS because we care about the elderly, and therapeutic gardens all of which are important to her. Her favourite plants are several—vines, native plants anything that can be woven. That is what I haven't told vou about. She teaches basket weaving. Nancy says you can weave baskets out of all kinds of plants that you might not think about. I'm intrigued and can hardly wait for her next class. But then she mentioned taking pictures of bugs and insects. That too got my interest. Her last comment "gardening is like a painting, it is never finished" has special meaning to me. Our Members sow seeds.

~ Astrid

May All Your Flowers Bloom:

- Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped out with the gardens at Glacier View Lodge. You brightened the days for many of our seniors!
- Many, many heartfelt thanks to our hard-working Executive Members!
 To those who have stepped down from their positions this year – you have earned the rest. To those who are staying on to help for yet one more term – bless you!

Garden Trugs For Sale. Multi-purpose, sturdy, rustic garden baskets individually handmade. A selection of sizes and shapes are available. \$20 each. Phone Summer at 250-337-5337: www.SummerWare.co.uk

Fresh Mixed Evergreen Wreaths for sale 12" & 16" sizes available. Orders will be taken up until Dec. 12th. For more details and prices call Kathi at 250-338-1888.

"Season's Greenings"!



This is the plant I bought at our most recent plant sale and I love it! I want to thank the donor for bringing it, as well as the instructions for how to take care of it. It said that the plant should not be moved while it is in bud. It had just started budding when I got it and it has not lost even one! I put it on my kitchen table as soon as I got it home and I enjoy looking at it so very much all the time. Thanks again to our most generous donor!!!!

~ Marjan de Jong

Anderton Therapeutic Gardens Society Christmas House Tour

Friday, Nov 26 12-4 & 5-9 PM Saturday, Nov 27 12-4 & 5-9 PM

Five beautiful homes in the Comox Valley decorated by local interior designers. Tickets are \$20 on sale at Blue Heron Books and Home & Garden Gate (Courtenay & Cumberland locations) FMI: Amie at 250-339-5846 or Shirley at 250-339-5350.

"Special Treat"

Blend equal parts of Faith & Hope mixed well with Charity; Stir in Good Will & Sweet Content & Precious Memory. Add Kindness, Helpfulness & Joy; of Gratitude don't spare Then drop by drop Love's Essence sweet & Praises freely share. And don't forget such spices rare as Laughter, Smiles & Fun, Taste often for the best results, (T'is sweet to mince upon). Now add a Thankful Heart & then the recipe's complete.

~ Esther Llyod Dauber *******************

Fund-raiser for Stepping Stones Recovery House for Women

Dear Friends and Supporters: Elvis was famous for his Gospel and Christmas ballads and songs. Award-winning Steve Elliott will recreate those wonderful songs in person on Nov 26th at 7:30 pm at Northgate Church Auditorium, 1640 Burgess Rd in Courtenay.

Tickets are \$20 and available at Laughing Oyster Books and Mud Sharks Coffee Bar. Please join us and help make the evening a special and enjoyable fundraising event to assist Stepping Stones Recovery House for Women. See you there.

Murray Coulter

********** Haida Gold Open Garden

A Local Garden delightfully decorated and lit up for the Christmas Season! The public is warmly welcomed to tour the Garden on the evenings it is open.

> Dec 20, 22, 24 7 PM to 9 PM 769 Chaster Rd, Courtenay (below Back Rd – off of 10 St E.) PLEASE - NO PETS

Tour is free but donations are gratefully accepted in support of the Sonshine Club Lunch Program

2010 Executive

President: Isabel Petch	.250-338-4047
Vice-Pres: Lynnette Callan	
Sec: Mich Bourchier	
Sharon Rouleau	
Treasurer: Moreen Reed	
Membership: Fiona Clarke	250-941-6111
Barb Barker	250-334-3167
Program: Linda Page	
Coleen Melsness	250-703-2926
Newsletter/Pub: Leslie Cox	250-337-8051
Raffle: Hans Kroemer	.250-334-2618
Info Table: Marjan de Jong	
Jo-Anne Landine	
Grow/Show: Louise Casson	
Marlene Dey	
Social: Jean Stamm	.250-339-7617
Pat Doleman	
Julie Stamm	250-339-6195
Opport Table: Connie Prain.2	50-339-4947
Adrian Franck	
Dianne MacLean	250-334-9574
Nancy Bissonnette	250-926-0685
Susan Tutt	250-897-0282
Judith Lindo	.250-338-0965
Diane Cave	250-336-2067
Phoning: Máire McElwain	.250-339-0445
Herb Garden: Steve Myers	
Garden Tours: Ruth Fowler	250-890-9448
Bus Tours: Isabel Petch	
Wolgang Hoefgen	.250-339-2271
Library: Teresa Hart	250-331-0061
Kathy Sherwood	
Fall Fair: Helen Asselin	
Cards: Louise Casson	
Auditor: Keith McElwain	
Past Pres: Sandra Carruthers	.250-335-1683

CLASSIFIEDS: Members are allowed three (3) lines for free. Contact Leslie at growingconcern@telus.net or phone 250-337-8051 to get your submission into the newsletter.

Deadline for the CVHS newsletter is the

first Friday of every month, except Dec.

Deadline for January is: January 7th, 2011

English Garden Tour Anyone?

Join Us! May 21 - 28, 2011! London Tour, Leeds Castle, Kent, Sissinghurst Gardens, Wisley Gardens, Avebury Stone Circle, Bath, Abbey House, Malmesbury, Cheltenham/Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, & Chelsea Flower Show! Hotel, breakfasts, transfers, guides, entrance & porterage fees, from \$1899 CAD pp. Air Additional. Call: Aji Fliss, ACC at 250-898-3358 afliss@shaw.ca

Gardener's Discounts for Members:

(Be sure to show your 2010 CVHS Membership card before items are rung up.)

Arrowsmith Greenhouses (Coombs)

Art Knapp Plantland

Bees & Blooms

Black Creek Farm & Feed

Buckerfield's (Parksville)

Campbell River Garden Centre (plants)

Copper Turtle (10% on select items)

Garden Works (ask at checkout)

Heart & Home Gifts (Black Creek)

Home & Garden Gate (both locations)

Island Daylily

Island View Lavender (Union Bay)

Just 'n' Tyme Greenhouse & Hydroponic Supply (not soil mix)

Old Rose Nursery (no discount; free del.)

Paradise Plants

River Meadow Farms

Streamside Native Plants

The Cottage Gardener - Comox Ave

The Plant Collector Nursery & Garden

out-of-town Note: **Special** Many nurseries & public gardens will honour our CVHS Membership Card by extending a discount to our Members. Just ask before sales are rung up.

Christmas is not in tinsel & lights & outward show.

The secret lies in an inner glow. It's lighting a fire inside the heart. Good will & joy a vital part. It's higher thought & a greater plan. It's glorious dream in the soul of man.

~ Wilfred A. Peterson (The Art of Living)

Gardeners Grapevine

This month's Latin lesson:

Hidden Clues to the Colour of a Plant – Some General Colour Terms

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ater-, atro-: dark, blackish*
bicolor: bicoloured
                        (Eucomis bicolour = bicoloured pineapple lily)
concolor: of the same colour; the same colour all over
                                                                 (Abies\ concolor = white\ fir)
discolor: of different colours
                                (Aquilegia discolor = different-coloured columbine...on 1 plant)
floridus: bright
                        (Calycanthus floridus = bright sweetshrub)
fucatus: painted; coloured
fulgens, fulgidus: shining; brightly coloured
                                                (Rudbeckia fulgida = shining black-eyed Susan)
fuscopictus: dark-coloured
                                (Disporopsis fuscopicta)
fuscotinctus: dark-tinged
                                (Crocus chrysanthus var. fuscotinctus)
fuscus: dark
impolitus: matt
iridescens: iridescent (Phyllostachys iridescens = iridescent bamboo)
laetus: bright
                        (Pseudopanax laetus)
lucidus : clear; transparent; shining
                                        (Ligustrum lucidum)
margaritaceus : pearly (Anaphalis margaritacea = pearl everlasting)
mutabilis: changing, changeable (ie. in colour) (Rosa x odorata 'Mutabilis')
nitens, nitidus : shining
                                (Eucalyptus nitens)
                                        (Digitalis obscura = indistinct foxglove)
obscurus: obscure; indistinct; dark
opacus : shady; opaque; dark
                                (Ilex \ opaca = American \ holly)
pallescens: rather pale; becoming pale
pallidus : pale
                        (Iris pallida)
phaeus : dusky
                        (Geranium phaeum)
pictus: vividly coloured; (literally) painted
                                                (Acer pictum)
polychromus: many-coloured (Euphorbia polychroma)
pullus : dark in colour
                                (Campanula pulla)
purus : pure
refulgens : shining
splendens : brilliant
                        (Salvia splendens)
squalidus: dirty
                        (Leptinella squalida)
tricolor: three-coloured
                                (Viola tricolor = three-coloured pansy)
vernicosus : varnished
                                (Eucalyptus vernicosa)
versicolor: in various colours
                                (Brugmansia versicolor)
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*Note: ater- and atro- are prefixes that are combined with other Latin colour words to describe a darker colour than normal. Eg. purpureus = purple (*Digitalis purpurea* – purple foxglove); atropurpureus = very dark purple (*Lysimachia atropurpurea*)

atrocyaneus : very dark blue (Salvia atrocyanea)
atrorubens : dark red (Helleborus atrorubens)
atrosanguineus : dark blood-red (Cosmos atrosanguineus)
atroviolaceus : dark violet (Gladiolus atroviolaceus)

Remember: The descriptive adjective has to follow the gender of the noun so the ending will change accordingly. Also...all trees are feminine even if their Latin name signifies a masculine gender so the descriptive adjective will be in the feminine form.

COMOX VALLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL AREAS IN FULL, AND PRINT CLEARLY

Membership renewals can also be sent to:
Comox Valley Horticultural Society,
Box 3443 Station Main, Courtenay, B.C. V9N 5N5.
Please include a self-addressed envelope. We'll supply the stamp.

Thank you, and happy gardening!

