



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF
GARDEN CLUBS

MAY 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

We included an article about the [Homegrown National Park](#) initiative in our March issue of the newsletter.

Richmond Garden Club has thrown down the "gardening glove" to challenge all BC Council of Garden Club members to match or beat us in pinning the map for the Homegrown National Park initiative by this fall.

There will be a prize for the club who gets the greatest percentage of its members to pin the map.

And that inter-club prize is on top of the greatest prize of all – an improved ecosystem for all of us, thanks to delivering improved biodiversity across an area the size of a new national park in BC this year.

The number of people in BC who have pinned the map (82) to date is pretty small. The map went live last year. Our goal is to help this go viral and make that number skyrocket this summer.

We will kick off this event with a presentation from Brandon Hough, Executive Director, Homegrown National Park, USA sometime in May.

We are asking BC Council of Garden Club members to take up Richmond Garden Club's "gardening glove" challenge to do one or more of the five steps listed in the website, and then (honour system) pin the map [here](#) and click on Canada then zoom into your area to indicate that you improved biodiversity on your property whether it be a yard, patio, or balcony.

Some steps to add biodiversity to your garden:

1. Shrink the lawn – even just a little bit. Convert some of it to something lower maintenance and more ecologically productive.
2. Remove invasive species – those plants labeled invasive by BC Invasive Species Council really do need to be pulled out. They outcompete native plants, don't feed or shelter as many beneficial insects, and can escape your property to cause invasive damage in other areas of your community.
3. Reduce light pollution in your garden/yard. Light pollution at night is becoming a major cause of insect biodiversity loss.

For more information:

www.homegrownnationalpark.org.

DO YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?



SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

ANITA IRANI, SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIRPERSON (INCOMING)

Those of you who attended our AGM on April 6 would have heard from our outgoing chair Patty Molnar, when she delivered the BCCGC Scholarship Fund report. Patty attended her last meeting of the Scholarship Committee this past week. We are so sorry to say farewell to Patty, but wish to acknowledge and thank her for her invaluable contributions to the committee. Under her leadership, almost \$14,000 was raised for the Scholarship Fund in 2023. Her insight, experience, and knowledge were most appreciated.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Debbie Mellenger to our committee. By way of introduction, Debbie writes:

“I was born and raised in the idyllic setting of Ocean Park and cannot imagine a better place to grow up. I am a member of the South Surrey Garden Club and have belonged to a number of committees. In September I will take on the role of vice president. Gardeners are simply the best people, and by volunteering and joining committees, I have met so many members, who through the years have taught me, supported me, and become great friends. Before retiring I worked for Kwantlen Polytechnic University Foundation in the awards and scholarships program. Joining the scholarship committee for the BCCGC seemed like a natural fit and I look forward to the role.”

Our committee comprises of Debbie Mellenger, Betty Girard, and myself. We are excited to continue our work on the Scholarship Committee. It is our hope that we will have another successful year in raising funds to support our scholars at the various postsecondary institutions in BC. If you have not had a chance to make a donation for our 80th anniversary, we invite you to do so this year. We thank all our donors and hope that you will continue to support the Scholarship Fund in the future.



THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR DONATIONS AT THE BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS SPRING EVENT! NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CLUB OR VENDOR	DONATION
Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley	Book - Browne Creek Wetlands & Trails
BC Horticultural & Floral Arts Society	Watering Can & Flowers
North Surrey Horticultural Society	Basket & Mason Bee Houses
Vancouver Shade Gardens Society	Black Mondo Grass
BC Floral Arts Society	Table Top Tarp & Trug
Lorna Herchenson	Begonia
New Westminster Horticultural Society	Sunshine Coast Olive Oils & Vinegers - Chef's Choice set
Friends of the Garden - UBC Botanical Gardens	Book - Chasing Eden
Vancouver Dahlia Society	\$30 Gift Certificate - VDS - Tuber Sale
South Burnaby Garden Club	Framed Print & Bag
South Burnaby Garden Club	Sunjoe Hedger/Trencher
Comox Valley Horticultural Society	Ergonomic Trowel
BRAGS	Korean Feather Reed Grass
Dogwood Garden Club	Bird House
Richmond Garden Club	Oyster Mushroom Kit & Napkins
Squamish Garden Club	GAIA 4-4-4
Squamish Garden Club	GAIA 2-0-0 (Worm Castings)
Squamish Garden Club	Pansies in Fancy Moss Basket
South Delta Garden Club	Sweet Amethyst Daphne
BC Fuchsia and Begonia Society	PH Meter & African Violet
South Surrey Garden Club	\$40 Gift Certificate to SSGC Plant Sale May 4
David Douglas Botanical Garden	Gift bag - Teas, Dish Cloth, Heat/Cold Wraps
Pitt Meadows Garden Club	Metal Sign "Welcome to my Garden"
Seed To Sky Garden Club	Mondo Grass & Primrose planter
Seed To Sky Garden Club	Maiden Hair Fern
White Rock & District Garden Club	Puzzle
PoCo Garden Club	Spring Planter
Mission Garden Club	LED Lights

CLUB OR VENDOR	DONATION
Langley Garden Club	Plant - Mukdenia Rossi
Langley Garden Club	Hosta - Golden Tiara
Lynne Valley Garden Club	Azalea
Lynne Valley Garden Club	Metal Straw & Soap
Gibsons Garden Club	Assorted Bulbs
Pandora Park Community Garden	Assorted Seeds
Grandview Garden Club	Wood Anenomes
Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society	Pottery Vase
Dunbar Garden Club	\$25 Gift Certificate
Vancouver Rose Society	Rose - Dee-Lish
Canadian West Association of Floral Arts Clubs	Loin's Mane Mushroom Grow Kit
Fraser Valley Rose Farm (Vendor)	Rose Bush
Grower's Delight (Vendor)	Fertilizer & Water Bottle
Ana Apothecary (Vendor)	Herbal Hair Rinse
Total raised - donated to the Scholarship Fund	\$620.20



SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

BETTY GIRARD, SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the BC Council of Garden Clubs:

I am immensely grateful to the BC Council of Garden Clubs for awarding me this scholarship. Your generous support will support my studies and will further advance my interest in plants and insects.

I am currently a graduate student in the Master of Pest Management program at SFU under the guidance of Dr. Gerhard Gries. My academic focus is on plant-insect interactions. My passion for research stems from research opportunities that were presented to me during my undergraduate studies.

These research opportunities have strengthened my interests in insects and plants.

Initially, I had the privilege of volunteering in the Gries-lab, assisting with the maintenance of a black widow spider colony. Then, Dr. Danica Baines and Nora Chomistek made me part of their research team, working on honey bees, bumble bees, leafcutter bees, and parasitoids both in the lab and in alfalfa and canola fields. Through Dr. Rob Bouchier, I was introduced to the fascinating concept of biological control, combating invasive plants using insect biological control agents. Following that introduction to biological control, I took undergraduate courses related to insects and plants. As a summer student in the Gries-lab, I investigated the attraction of nectar-foraging mosquitoes to plant semiochemicals (message-bearing chemicals), aiming to develop trap lures for earth-friendly mosquito control.

Today, I am fortunate to be a part of the Gries-lab, where I study the chemical ecology of root aphids.

As root aphids typically feed below-ground, they are difficult to detect and to control, thus posing a major challenge in the cannabis industry. In my thesis project, I investigate tactics to lure and trap these aphids, and I study whether root aphids transmit disease-causing viroids between plants.

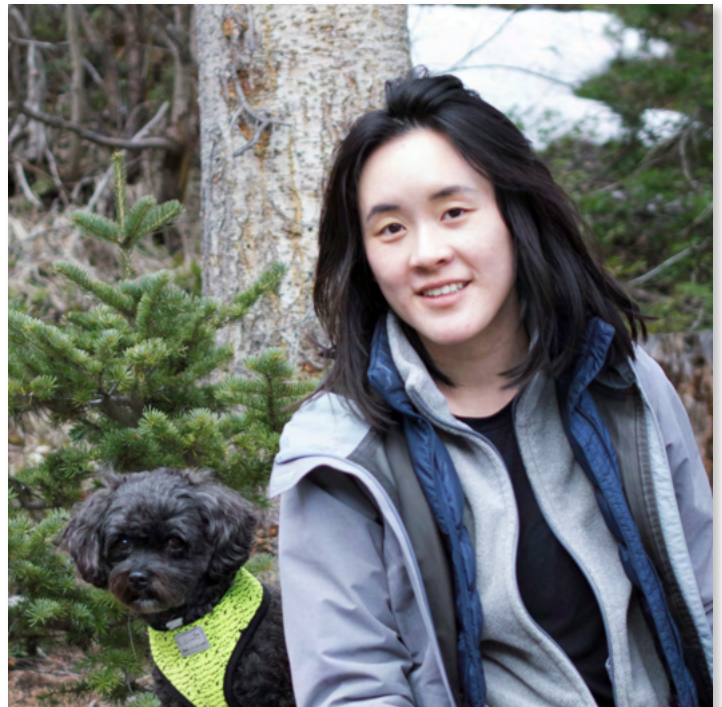
As a graduate student, I am committed to mentoring undergraduate students that are eager to learn about insects and plants. Together with my team of

undergraduates, I hope to contribute to the development of effective measures for controlling root aphid populations in greenhouse settings.

My future plan is to continue working in research, focusing on insect control in food related crops. The joy of learning, creating, and investigating fuels my interest in research. I hope to share acquired knowledge with fellow researchers as well as plant and insect enthusiasts.

Once again, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the BC Council of Garden Clubs for their invaluable support.

Your sincerely, Mikhaela Ong





HOW TO DONATE TO THE BCCGC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you wish to make a donation by cheque please send it to:

BC Council of Garden Clubs
Scholarship Fund, c/o: BC Council of
Garden Clubs

10952 McAdam Road

North Delta, BC, V4C 3E8

Please ensure that the cheques are made out to the "Vancity Community Foundation" and the memo field shows "BC Council of Garden Clubs." If the person or organization that the donation is from does not clearly show on the cheque, please include a brief note with the cheque indicating who the donation is from and a return address (so that an income tax receipt can be issued).

If you wish to donate online with a credit card:

Go to
www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca.

Click the "Funds" button on the top right side of the home page.

Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching "garden clubs" in the search bar.

Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

OR

Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com.

Go to the "Scholarship Fund" on the top bar and click on the "Donate" page below.

Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page.

Click on "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

Thank You!

Public Plant Sale



ONE WEEKEND ONLY

Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5 | 10 AM – 3 PM

20542 McNeil Road, Pitt Meadows BC

PLANT SECTIONS

- Trees • Hedging Plants • Shrubs
- Perennials • Grasses

Featuring

- Pacific Coastal Native Plants
- Plants for Pollinators
- Rhododendrons and Azaleas
- Uncommon Shrubs from Asia

PLUS Honey Sales & Pollinator Education by the **Honeybee Centre!**

Sales: Credit | Debit | Limited Cash

Information: plantsale@shaw.ca Instagram: [sekhon_nursery](https://www.instagram.com/sekhon_nursery)

*Partial proceeds in support of
VanDusen Botanical Garden &
Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association*



*The VBGA VanDusen Plant Sale will
be returning to the Floral Hall in 2025.*

Image credit: Nodding Onion - Allium cernuum © Jacob W. Frank, GlacierNPS

PHOTOS BY ANA DUSHNYA, HERBAL APOTHECARY, VENDOR, BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS
SPRING EVENT, APRIL 6, 2024



EXCELLENT GROUND COVER OR A WEED?

SLYVIA FIELD, SEED TO SKY GARDEN CLUB

I was minded to think about this recently when I read about the family of *Lamium*, or dead nettle, being considered an invasive species here in BC, especially since I had just bought three small plants. Of course a lot depends on location geographically, as well as within the garden. I am learning what does well here in my roof garden in Vancouver and that brings into consideration things like depth of soil, aspect (north facing), etc., as well as keeping in mind the old adage of **Right Plant Right Place**.

What has become increasingly important to me though is ground cover – weeding was never my strong point and even less so as I get older. I also know the value of the soil being covered, as it is in nature. In this garden there has been extensive use of *Pachysandra terminalis*, which does have the value of being evergreen but can be a bit unremitting. I find if you plant two or three thugs in drifts they can look good and are a check for each other. So the *Pachysandra* fights for space with *Sarcococca* which also has the value of scent. Throw in some *Acorus* for a bit of variegation and any bulbs that can fight their way through. That seems to work for areas near the apartment where I want it to remain green in the winter.

We have plenty of shady areas under trees and shrubs so I have experimented here with plants like *Cornus canadensis* (taking off now after a sluggish start), *Vinca*, *Heuchera*, geraniums and *Epimedium* or barrenwort, all of which are doing well but not too well. What is becoming more of a nuisance though is *Lysimachia nummularis*, or creeping Jenny. It is creeping nicely around some stepping stones but by the end of summer will have completely covered them. I see it is also popping up in cracks alongside the paving. So far it is forgiven for being a lovely golden colour, likewise the grass *Hakonechloa aureola* which romps along the border in drifts.

One herbaceous plant that was a thug in my old garden but is doing fine here is *Persicaria microcephala* Red Dragon. It's in poor soil, and deep shade here so the colour isn't quite so

vivid but it's doing a great job without sprawling over the entire border. It is however in the knotweed family so that could change! As it did with another seemingly attractive ground cover that I once planted for its variegation in a shady and dull area – variegated ground elder? Say no more.

This is really the heart of the matter because for some gardeners ground cover will mean many different things and it will behave differently in different locations. So we come to my dilemma. A couple of years ago I spotted a very pretty, ferny type plant, with vividly coloured spring foliage, pink to red, and promising pleasing white flowers in summer and good autumn colour. What's not to like? It is called *Sorbaria sorbifolia* Sem or false spirea, and even got an Award of Garden Merit from the British Royal Horticultural Society. Well, it is all those things and in addition comes up very early in March so its still with me. But then so are all those long rampant runners, which push their way through several feet of garden soil every year.

Invasive weed or good ground cover? I'll let you know when I've finished hacking it out.



Persicaria microcephala Red Dragon. Photo by Sylvia Field



Special Invite to Garden Clubs - Showcase a Place or Project

Get provincial recognition for community enhancing projects. Acknowledge volunteers and service groups.

How to Get Involved:

- Submit a Showcase Entry with 3 photos and a 250-word description per the info below.

Details:

- All entries will be featured in the BC CiB Growing Together Newsletter as they are received.
- Entries will receive special recognition and a frameable certificate if submitted before end of August.
- **Prizes will be awarded for three outstanding submissions.**
- Photos must be from the 2024 season.
- Submit 3 of your best photos with full rights in high resolution (a minimum of 300dpi at print size or a minimum weight of 800kb).
These photos will be used by BC Communities in Bloom for the promotion of your project and the BC CiB Program.
- \$50 fee waived for 2024 Program year.



PROJECT NAME:	
Name of Club or Group	Contact Person
City and Postal Code	
Phone	Email (required)
Social Media/Facebook	Website
Please supply a Description (250 words Maximum) and three JPEG or TIFF photos (Ideally 1MB each)	
Cost: \$50 waived for any Garden Club or BC Council of Garden Club Member. 2024 Fee \$0.	
Email form: c.kennedy@telus.net or Mail: Attn: Catherine, BC Communities in Bloom, 19951 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC V3A 4E2	
To be recognized in this year's BC CiB Provincial Awards, please enter before August 31	

CITY OF COQUITLAM – TREE SPREE EVENT as featured in the BC CiB Growing Together Newsletter Oct. 2022 issue.

LAKE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB Xeriscape, Pollinator Garden with bug hotel project as featured in the BC CiB Newsletter Aug 2023 issue.

FLORAL ARTS DISPLAY, BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS SPRING EVENT
PHOTOS BY BOB CUNNINGHAM, DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB







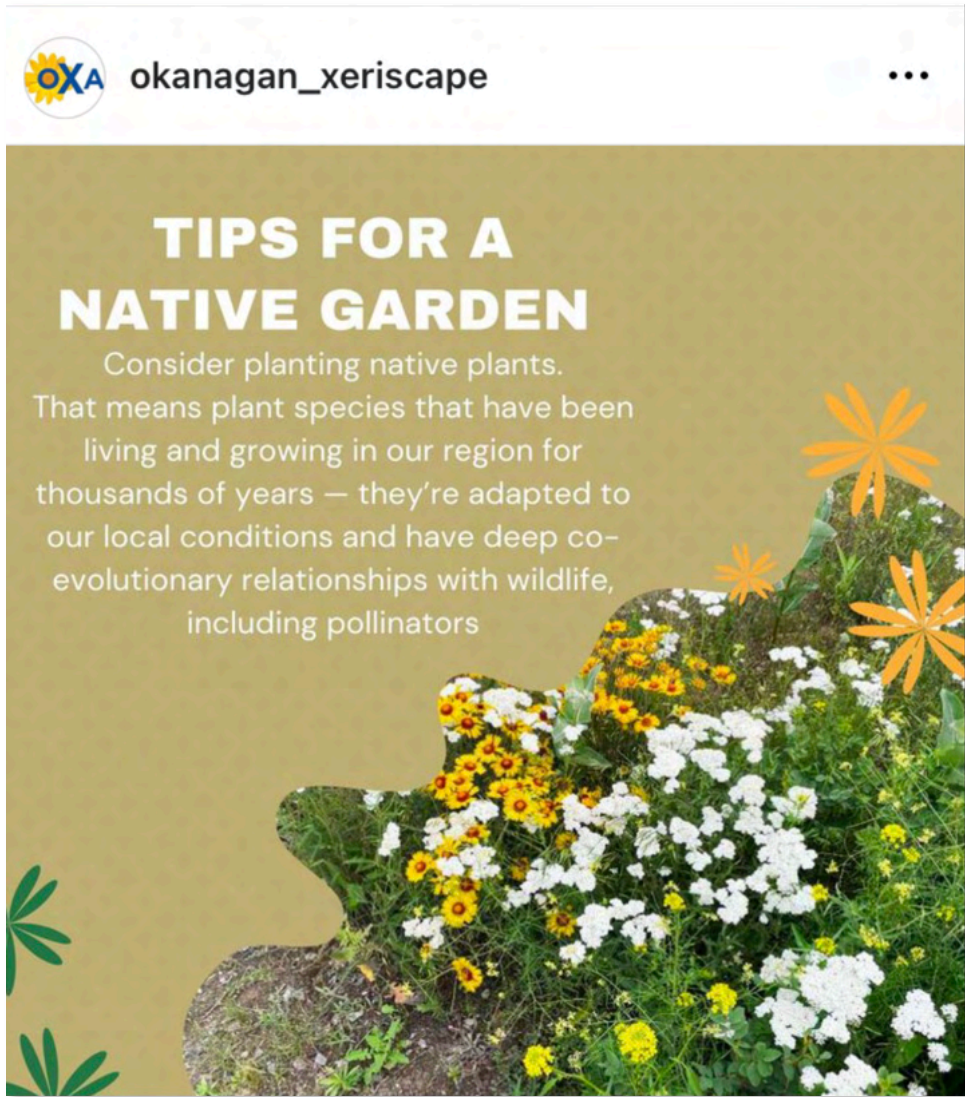
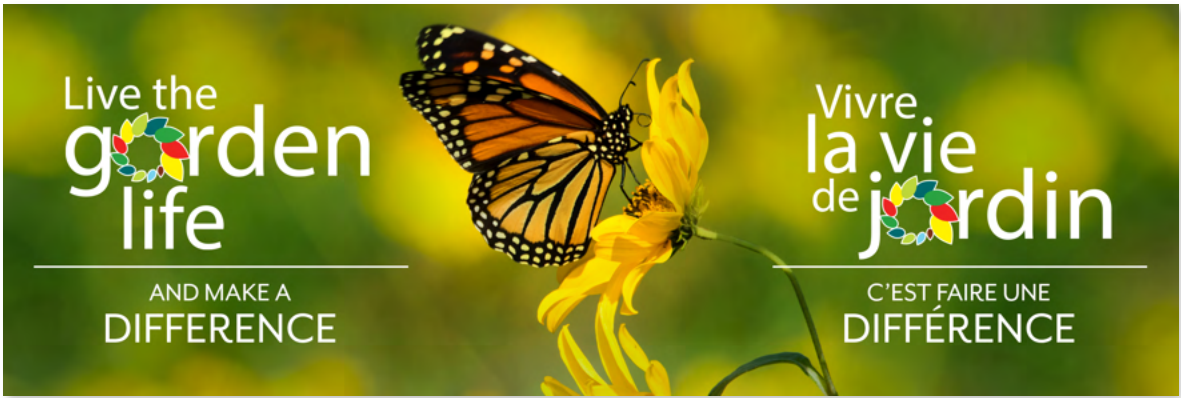
FLORAL ARTS DISPLAY, CONT'D



BEST IN SHOW!

ANN PETERS, BC FLORAL ART SOCIETY





Thank you to Okanagan Xeriscape Association for their permission to use!

Growers Delight is now a member of COTA, the Canada Organic Trade Association.
 Check us out: <https://organicdirtsupplements.ca/>. Use code BCCG12 for special discounts.

Growers Delight
Granular Soil Activator

NEW ORGANIC HOUSE BLEND 4-2-2 with HUMIC

Growers Delight is a soil activator enriched with organically sourced materials. Along with NPK plus CA, also includes many other trace elements. Improves soil structure and activates the soil's fertility naturally.

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Enriched with Calcium, Humic Acid, Nitrogen, Soluble Potash

Made in Canada
 For more information: info@organicdirtsupplements.ca or visit our website

Perfect for:

- General row gardens
- Repotting plants
- Trees & shrubs
- Lawn maintenance & care

www.organicdirtsupplements.ca

Growers Delight NPK value is 4-2-2! High in nitrogen.



Your president, Superbee, and Claude LeDoux, guest speaker, showed us how to be different in planting your urban vegetables at our Spring Event. Photos by Pam Robertson



LIFE IS LIKE MAGIC
 YOU ARE WHAT YOU SEE
 BREAK OUT FROM YOUR PRISON
 ESCAPE AND BE FREE

CANADIAN WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FLORAL ARTS CLUBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FLOWER SHOW AND DEMONSTRATION

BY ANN PETERS

A very successful meeting – including the AGM, a judged floral art competition, honorary displays, and a demonstration – was held by CWFAC on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Northwood United Church in Fleetwood, Surrey.

Elections were held at the AGM and thanks given to the retiring members of the executive, including Cindy Tataryn who retired after four years in the president's role. During her time as president, Cindy was instrumental in getting full membership for CWFAC in WAFAC, the World Association of Floral Artists. This had been a long time coming, as the initial discussions were held in Canada ten years ago. These discussions led to the forming of WAFAC (later to become known as CWFAC) and thanks to the persistence of Cindy, the goal of full membership was finally approved earlier this year at a meeting held in Oman.

The new executive of CWFAC is as follows:

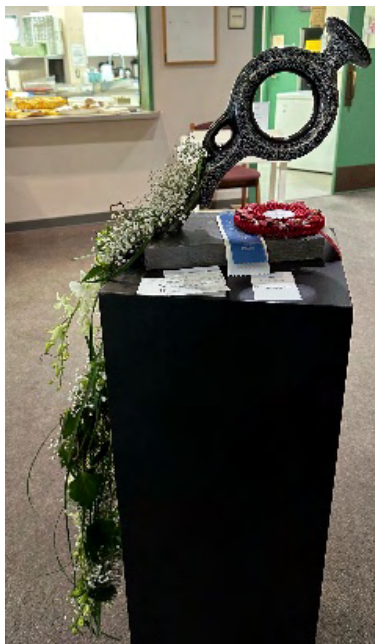
President - Ann Peters

Vice President - Mei Leng Harper

Treasurer - Cindy Tataryn

Secretary - Victoria Brookes

Whilst the meeting was being held, the judges were busy making decisions in the Floral Art Show named Fantasia. There were 33 entries in total over 9 different classes. The winner of Best in Show was Gerri Willms for her entry in the class entitled Crazy Over the Edge, which was first in class and also won the award for Artistic Excellence.



WESTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY

CINDY TATARYN, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS

Western tiger swallowtail, *Papilio rutulus*

Range: The western tiger swallowtail is widespread and common in the southwestern corner of BC to the Rocky Mountains. It has a wide range of habitats from parks and home gardens to desert mountain canyons, deciduous woodlands, and willow-lined streams in pine forests.

Larval Food Plants: The larvae are adaptable to many host plants such as poplars (*Populus*), willows (*Salix*), cottonwood (*Populus*), aspen (*Populus*), birch (*Betula*), cherry, ash, crabapples, apple (*Malus*), elm, maple (*Acer*), *Prunus* species, and sycamore. The larvae can be found in curled leaves on host trees.

Adult Food Source: The adult western tiger swallowtail also has a varied diet of nectar sources such as aster, butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), milkweed (*Asclepias* subspecies), California wild lilac (*Ceanothus* species), mint (*Mentha* species), thistle (*Cirsium* species), impatiens (especially red and orange), *Pentas* (especially red and white, pink or purple), rhododendron and lilac shrubs. They like to congregate at mud puddles where they can absorb minerals.

Time of Flight: The adults emerge in May and can be seen flying from May to August.

Description:

Larvae: Larvae food plants are grasses, but whether specific grasses are chosen is unknown. They are green with a yellow-green line down the side and a darker green line down the middle of their back. The eggs are green, hemispherical in shape, and smooth. They hatch in 7 – 10 days and pupate 6 – 8 weeks later. There are 5 larval instars, the immature larvae resemble bird droppings and are brown with a white saddle.

The fully grown larva can reach as much as two inches long and has black, orange, yellow, or pink stripes. The larvae are large and dark green, thin yellow stripes separate the thorax and abdomen. The swollen head region has two black, yellow and blue eyespots.

Mature larvae are smooth, hairless and green, with two sky blue dots on each side of each segment. The head is orange, with a yellow 'collar' behind it. The eyespots of mature larvae consist of a large main eyespot with a smaller satellite spot below. The larvae have orange osmeteria, extrusible 'Y-shaped' glands on the top of the thorax that produce defensive chemicals in response to attacks.

The prepupal larvae turn brown, the blue spots fade, and a prominent eyespot (orange with a black centre) replaces the eyespots on the third segment.

The pupae are brown and have two small horns on the head and a point at the top of the thorax. A silk girdle holds the head up against a stem, or on the side or underside of logs, branches, fences, or house siding.

Adult: There are several species of swallowtail butterflies in BC. The western tiger swallowtail butterfly is the largest of all swallowtail butterflies in BC. The wingspan can exceed 7 – 12 cm.

They are strong fliers and can be seen darting through gardens, parks, and woods. Adults are valuable pollinators and can often be seen feeding on nectar from flowers in the garden, or in sunny areas along woodland streams. They drink at puddles after a rain shower, or feeding on fresh scat or coyote dung.

They congregate on hilltops to mate. The females lay eggs on host plant leaves and may mate more than once.

The eggs hatch in a week or so and larvae spend the summer feeding. In late summer, mature larvae seek out a suitable pupation site, often in the leaf litter beneath the host tree, and can sometimes be found crawling through the garden.

WESTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY, CONT'D

They pupate and overwinter as chrysalids, emerging as adults the following spring.

The western tiger swallowtail is a large yellow butterfly with black stripes running from front to back across the wings. All the marginal spots on the dorsal hindwings are yellow. The ventral surface of the hindwings frequently has extensive blue and orange spots, especially in females. The hindwings have 'tails'.

Native Plant

Poplar, black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*)

Dreaded in the spring by anyone with allergies to the black cottonwood, its one redeeming quality is that it is home to the larvae of the western tiger swallowtail. Black cottonwood is found nearly everywhere west of the Rocky Mountains. It prefers deep moist soil in river bottoms and stream sides.

It is a deciduous tree that grows up to 50 m tall. The leaves are deciduous, thick, oval and up to 15 cm long with a round heart-shaped base and sharp pointed tip. The male and female flowers are on separate trees. The males are catkins with 40 – 60 stamens, the female flower has 3 stigmas. They flower before the leaves open. The seeds are covered in white, fluffy hairs. The buds are sticky and full of a fragrant resin.

Sources:

Garden Bugs of British Columbia, Gardening to Attract, Repel and Control, by Elmhirst, Fry, Macaulay (2008, Lone Pine Publishing).

Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening in the Pacific Northwest, by Mary Kate Woodward (2005, Whitecap Books).

The Butterfly Garden Creating Beautiful Gardens to Attract Butterflies, by Jerry Sedenko (1991, Villard Books, New York).

Butterfly Gardening, by Thomas C. Emmel, Ph. D. (Cavendish Books, Vancouver)

Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest, 3rd edition, by Arthur R. Kruckeberg and Linda Chalker-Scott (2019, University of Washington Press, Seattle).

Plants of Coastal British Columbia including Washington, Oregon & Alaska, by Jim Pojar & Andy Mackinnon (2014, BC Ministry of Forests, Partners Publishing and Lone Pine).

E-Fauna BC: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia [efauna.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Brian Klinkenberg, 2020/2021.

E-Flora BC: Electronic Atlas of the Plants of British Columbia [eflora.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Brian Klinkenberg, 2020/2021.

WESTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY, CONT'D



Western tiger swallowtail. Photo: Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic, Richmond Garden Club Paulik Park 2023.



Black cottonwood. Photo: Wikimedia Commons



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would love to feature your club or community garden in the newsletter.

Tell us about some of the projects your club or community garden is involved in.

You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos and name of author). Photos should be high resolution and you should include the name of the photographer if possible. Articles should be in the range of 300–500 words. If you have an idea for a

longer piece, connect with the newsletter editor in advance to discuss your idea.

Articles are due on the 15th of the month preceding publication. If they are submitted after that date, they will be held for the next issue.

The **next due date is May 15 for June 1**. Submissions/inquiries: newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

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