



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

MAY 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

May is certainly made for all those who love gardens and nature. We are so busy getting back into the season of growing food, creating beautiful landscapes, and taking care to be mindful of our wildlife, we sometimes forget to eat!

Social media is full of enticing plant sale ads from garden clubs all over BC. Community gardeners are back at the helm taking care of their soil and getting started on choosing their favourite edible plants to grow. Organizations like Urban Bounty are offering plenty of workshops to help community gardeners have a great season.

The BC Council of Garden Clubs team is just tidying up after the Spring/AGM meeting held Saturday, April 5 at Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby.

Approximately 100 people attended for a day of guest speakers, floral art display, vendors offering their garden-related goods, delicious lunch, and a great time comparing notes with fellow garden clubs and community garden folks.


I think one of our favourite activities at our in-person meetings is the incredible prizes donated to raise funds for the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund. New Westminster Horticultural Society has hosted this popular activity for us for a number of years. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the New Westminster team for their efficiency and organizational skills. Many people left at the end of the meeting happily carrying off their treasures.

Of course, we have to thank all of the clubs that donated the wonderful prizes — such generosity every year!

Our team works very hard to ensure members get the best value out of the day spent with us. A new addition to this meeting was three busy bees from South Burnaby Garden Club who stepped up take care of all that needed to be done throughout the day so that our BC Council team could focus on the meeting itself. Our busy bees, Sofia Khouw, Lily AuYeung, and Lucette Wesley, wearing their bright green South Burnaby Garden Club t-shirts, were popping up everywhere during the day taking care of business! It was an incredible gift to our BC Council team. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. **Please note** that all the photos of the spring meeting in the newsletter were taken by Lucette Wesley.

Of course, we are so happy to have our vendors who show up to support us at our in-person events. The vendors pay a fee to participate in the event and those funds are also donated to BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund. Huge 'high five' to Grower's Delight, Front Yard Farms, Fraser Valley Rose Farm, Kelpman, and My Father's Garden!

For those who attended the meeting, we would appreciate any suggestions, improvements, concerns, even an 'atta boy' would be great. Send them to me, president@bcgardenclubs.com. We do act on your suggestions as you have probably noticed during your time with us.

Thank you everyone! 

SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

BETTY GIRARD, INCOMING SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIR

Anita Irani has completed her term as chair of the Scholarship Fund Committee. Anita has been an exemplary leader and we are going to miss her very much. Her passion for supporting horticultural students underpinned every initiative she undertook as chair. We are coming off a record year for fundraising under her leadership. We thank her for her service to the Scholarship Fund.

Debbie Mellenger will be taking on the role of treasurer this year. She will be working closely with the representatives at the Vancity Community Foundation to marshal our funds over the next year.

We would like to introduce Darlene Kalawsky, chair of the Castlegar Garden Club, chair of BC Communities in Bloom, and BC Yukon director of the Canadian Peony Society to the role of secretary with the Scholarship Fund. Her extensive experience in community funding and business will be an asset to the committee. Thank you Darlene for stepping up to join the Scholarship Fund Committee.

And we are thrilled to announce that we are halfway to our 2025 fundraising goal! Keep an eye on our Donations Thermometer in every issue of the *Bulletin* to see where we stand.



Betty Girard, Scholarship Fund Chair, speaker at the AGM.



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!

We raised \$716 from the prize draw table and \$180 from vendor registration fees at our Spring/AGM in April!

DONATE TODAY!



BETTY GIRARD, SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIR

Congratulations to our 2024 student recipients from eleven programs at nine academic institutions throughout the province. The students are enrolled in programs from certificates to graduate studies, all advancing horticultural science in BC. They hold the future of horticulture in their hands!

Institution	Award	Amount	Recipient
Camosun College	BCCGC Horticulture Award	\$1,000	Jessica G.
Horticulture Centre of the Pacific	BCCGC Award	\$300	Alevtina J.
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	BCCGC Horticulture Award	\$1,200	Aaron C.
Okanagan College Foundation	BCCGC Award Viticulture	\$500	Nicholas T.
Thompson Rivers University	BCCGC Horticulture Award	\$1,000	Rosemary B.
University of British Columbia	BCCGC Rose Bancroft Horticulture Scholarship	\$1,400	Amy W.
University of British Columbia	BCCGC Horticultural Bursary	\$1,800	Mikhayla R.
University of British Columbia	UBC Botanical Garden BCCGC Horticulture Training Program	\$1,000	Whitney C.
University of Northern British Columbia	BCCGC Bursary	\$1,400	Kasey S.
Vancouver Island University	BCCGC Award	\$1,200	Amber Rae B.
Simon Fraser University	BCCGC Mildred Wells Graduate Scholarship	\$1,400	Not awarded
University of the Fraser Valley	BCCGC Scholarship	\$1,000	Angela C.



Guest student speaker at the spring meeting, Amy Wells, recipient of the Rose Bancroft Scholarship, is pursuing a master’s degree in soil science. She spoke of her journey in determining her field of study — from architecture to horticulture.



Winner of the Judges Category, Gerri Willms, BC Floral Artists Society, interpreting 'Towering Inferno.'



Best in Show and Best Novice Award, Debra Justice, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley. Beautiful Hogarth Curve interpreting 'James Bond — Diamonds are Forever.'



Winner of the open category, Catherine Deslauriers, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley, interpreting 'Days of Wine and Roses.'



Honourable Mention, Cindy Tataryn, Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs, interpreting 'Wizard of Oz, Follow the Yellow Brick Road,' a multi-rhythmic design.



Mei Harper, Buds and Flowers Floral Art Club, won first in Class 9: 'My Fair Lady — At the Races,' an achromatic black and white design incorporating paper.



Thank you Dorothy Scott, Floral Art Judge.





Sooke Secret Garden

“Anything Grows”

& Artisan Tour

June 7 & 8, 2025

Featuring
 Music by Sooke
 Philharmonic & Friends
 Local Artists, Studios
 & Special Destinations

Tickets \$40
On Sale Now!
 Sooke Region Museum
 Pharmasave Sooke
 East Sooke Grocer
 & General Store

A Fundraiser for
SOOKE PHILHARMONIC
 Orchestra & Chorus

More Info: SookePhil.ca/SecretGardenTour

PLANT SALES 2025!

Now that we are only days away from garden club plant sales, BC Council of Garden Clubs wishes everyone great success in raising much needed funds for garden clubs.

It is always important to debrief after the sale to see where improvements can be made for the next year.

Successful plant sales include strategic promotion, high-quality plants, and engaging customer experiences. To increase sales, focus on promoting

your plant sale well in advance through social media, newsletters, flyers, local newspapers, and of course, the event section on BC Council's website.

Consider hosting events like “Sip & Shop”, or workshops to enhance customer experience and encourage repeat business.

Good luck everyone!

MOTIONS PASSED AT BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 5, 2025

1. Motion to accept the agenda for the annual general meeting by Susan Lilholt, South Delta Garden Club, seconded by Gaitri Yapa, Port Coquitlam Garden Club. Motion passed.
2. Motion to accept the amended minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held April 6, 2024 by Victor Froese, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley, seconded by Anna Camporese, BC Floral Art Society. Motion passed.
3. Motion to accept the nominations and elections as recorded by Shawn O'Neill, South Delta Garden Club, seconded by Lorna Cloutier, New Westminster Horticultural Society. Motion passed.
4. Motion to end the business portion of the BC Council of Garden Clubs 2025 Annual General Meeting by Anna Camporese, BC Floral Art Society, seconded by Andrea Maudsley, Dogwood Garden Club. Motion passed.
5. Motion to adjourn the BC Council of Garden Clubs 2025 Spring/Annual General Meeting by Janet Bennie, Gibsons Garden Club, seconded by Jennifer Zuk, Vancouver Dahlia Society. Motion passed.

2025 BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS EXECUTIVE AND CONTRIBUTING POSITIONS

President	Lynda Pasacreta	president@bcgardenclubs.com
First vice president	Cindy Tataryn	1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com
Second vice president	Ron Ouwerkerk	2vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com
Secretary (new)	Dorothy Barkley	secretary@bcgardenclubs.com
Treasurer	Ann Peters	treasurer@bcgardenclubs.com
Scholarship Fund Chair	Betty Girard	scholarship@bcgardenclubs.com
Membership	Lorna Herchenson	membership@bcgardenclubs.com
Webmaster	Frank Girard	webmaster@bcgardenclubs.com
Insurance	Ron Ouwerkerk	2vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com
Newsletter	Lynda Pasacreta	newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com
Communications	Lynda Pasacreta	communications@bcgardenclubs.com



KAMLOOPS GARDEN CLUB

CAROL WOZENCROFT, PRESIDENT

The Kamloops Garden Club is taking on a lot of new initiatives this year and is excited about this spring's events and club meetings. We are actively looking for more membership, and listening to what our members are excited to participate in and learn from. Starting in April we will be learning about backyard chicken keeping, preparing for the Kamloops Garden Club annual plant sale May 10, and preparing for the annual June Flower Show June 21.

In June, we will also be updated at the meeting on the Japanese beetle that is now in our area, working with the Invasive Species Council of BC. As well, our club is preparing to take a bus trip to the Summerland Ornamental Gardens, a 15-acre, 109-year-old garden

in Summerland. We have many backyard garden tours that we are getting ready to start visiting in May that belong to members and backyard gardeners.

The busy gardening season has arrived! We are thankful for the warm weather, sunshine, and the wonderful growing season ahead.

As we start this busy season of gardening, we are reminded that a garden is not just a place, it is a conversation between the earth and the soul.



The Kamloops Garden Club annual March seed starting meeting. Photo by Carol Wozencroft.



VICTORIA
CONSERVATORY
OF MUSIC
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

MOTHER'S DAY MUSICAL Garden Tour

May 10 & 11, 2025 | 10am - 4pm

Enjoy two days of access to Victoria's most
enchancing private gardens in support of
the Victoria Conservatory of Music



vcm.bc.ca/garden-tour
250.386.5311

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Costa Verde
Garden City Tree and
Landscaping Ltd.
Patio Gardens
RBC Dominion
Securities
DoubleTree by Hilton
Used.ca

Tickets

\$45

Order online at
vcm.bc.ca/garden-tour*
Or purchase in person at
the Victoria Conservatory
of Music and select
outlet locations

*Service charges and mailing fees apply

CRD
Making a difference...together

BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

KEITH G.BRIGGS, EMERITUS PROFESSOR, ALES - UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON

SHERYL NORMANDEAU, PRACTICING MASTER GARDENER, HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT, AUTHOR, CALGARY

JANET MELROSE, PRACTICING MASTER GARDENER, HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT, AUTHOR, CALGARY

The free on-line publication of a *Horticultural Perennial Plants Guide for Canada Plant Hardiness Zone 4* has been co-authored by Keith, and two professional horticulturalists who also are practicing Master Gardeners in Calgary and have also published hard-copy horticultural books for Western Canada.

This new horticultural guide can be used for BC Council of Garden Clubs members in their own gardens.

The guide has been published in an e-format using the University of Alberta Library ERA system, and is in the Commons Public Domain. It is available free of charge for viewing online, or for downloading. Content may also be freely used in any derivative publications of any kind where the content is used,

as long as acknowledgement of the authors and source is duly noted.

Website URL (click on the URL to read or download the complete guide)

<https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-tbvy-7a26>

Editor's note: I highly recommend taking a look at this guide. There is so much valuable information for even the home gardener, along with excellent photos and further resource information.



Example of a section in the guide that shows trees with show-stopping flower display +/- fragrant flowers.

Photo of Hawthorne from Wikimedia Commons.



Healthy Soil for a Healthy You

Are you a community garden leader/member looking to revitalize your soil? Learn practical, field-tested composting techniques to improve soil health and boost plant vitality.

What You'll Learn

- How to assemble and manage high-quality compost piles for maximum biological activity.
- The key differences between liquid bio-blends (compost teas and extracts)—and how to apply them effectively.
- Proven methods to maintain compost quality throughout the process.
- Hands-on techniques for creating and using liquid bio-blends (compost teas & extracts).
- The long-term benefits of composting for soil structure, fertility, and plant resilience.

This workshop is designed for both beginners and experienced growers looking to take their composting to the next level.

Upcoming Workshop Dates

- March 30, 2025 (Sunday)
- April 26, 2025 (Saturday)
- May 31, 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 9 AM – 3 PM

Fee: \$75.00 per person

Registration Link: <https://www.burnabyccce.ca/courses/restoring-soil-health/>

THE VICTORIA FLORAL ARTISTS GUILD PRESENTS



A DEMONSTRATION BY SUSANNE LAW

Susanne Law (AIFD) is a renowned floral designer and educator who holds the European Master Certificate. With an emphasis on art nouveau and linear structure, she will share her floral design skills developed during more than two decades in the industry.

\$20 for visitors

Date: May 13, 2025

Location: Garth Homer Society
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria

Time: 7pm to 9pm

URL: <https://victoriafloralartists.ca>



'Raspberry Jam' iris - grown and sold by Penny Santosham, Penticton. O. David Niswonger, R.1980; Cook-Douglas Medal 1988. Great increaser and showy. Photo by Penny Santosham, BC Iris Society.

Jack Oostenbrink, Fruits and Shoots Plant Farm, Chilliwack, BC was our guest speaker for Richmond Garden Club's April meeting.

His topic was addressed as "No Dig Gardening" but it was so much more. We enjoyed an hour of learning about the web of life in soil. All of us learned some things we have never heard before.

His presentation was simple and definitely should be shared with students in our education system.

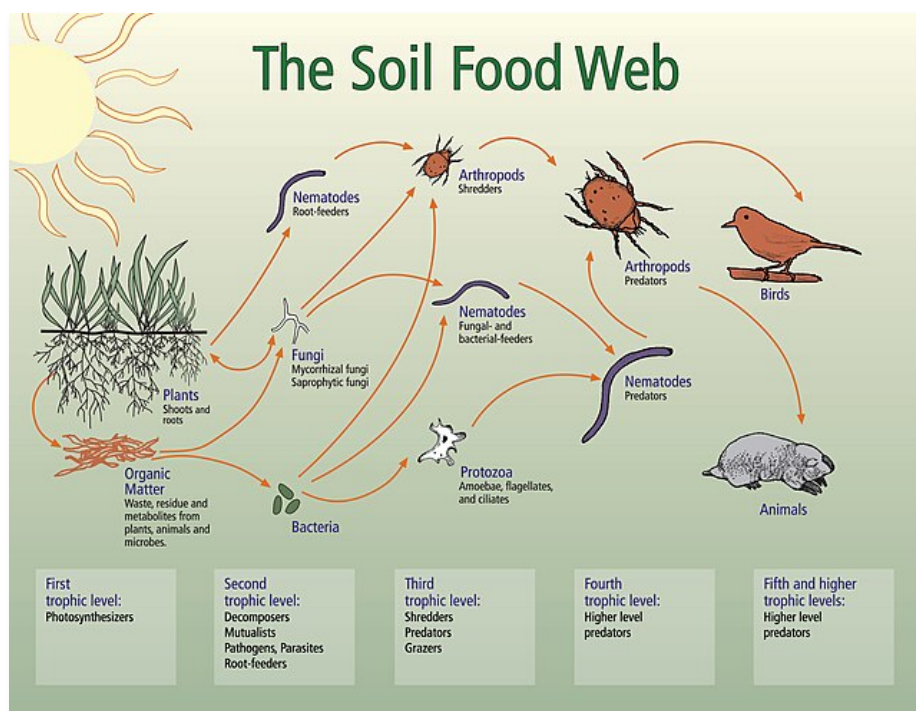
He spoke of all that is going on in our soil if it's nurtured and untreated with chemicals. All the little critters like bacteria, fungi, beneficial nematodes, arthropods, flagellates, and so much more rely on plant roots for sustenance and organic matter and they give back all the nutrients plants need to thrive.

He spoke of the sugar in beets. Beets release the sugar into the soil and the different critters derive what they need from the sugars and give nutrients back to the beets!

He referenced Elaine Ingham, an American microbiologist and soil biology researcher and founder of Soil Foodweb Inc. Ingham is recognized as the foremost soil biologist in the world. She claims she could solve our climate crisis simply by growing fungi all over the world. Fungi is a huge carbon catcher.

His focus was to show us how important it was to continuously feed our soil with living things — like compost, seaweed, leaves, worm castings, wood chips (except cedar and walnut). He says that mixing up mulches on regular basis helps feed the soil. For example if you spread compost around your tomatoes, the next time spread wood chips or seaweed.

I highly recommend Jack to speak at one of your meetings. Check out his website: <https://fruitsandshoots.com/>.



Elaine Ingham's Soil Food Web. Photo by Wikimedia Commons

SOUTH DELTA GARDEN CLUB



GARDEN TOUR 2025

Sunday
June 22th
10am - 4pm

Self Guided Tour of Ten
Private and Distinct Gardens
In Ladner and Tsawwassen

Tickets Available May 9th:

Harris Nurseryland
Phoenix Perennials
Sunnyside Nurseries
Vandula Farms
West Coast Gardens
West Coast Seeds

(cash only please)

Advance Tickets \$30

(\$40 on Tour Day - Harris Nurseryland only)

TO PURCHASE TICKETS IN
QUANTITIES OF 10 OR GREATER
PLEASE CONTACT
LINNEA ROBINSON AT 778.878.0854
OR CRAIGANDLINNEA@GMAIL.COM

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A TRIBUTE TO EURILDA LARSEN, LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE POCO GARDEN CLUB

PIPPA VAN VELZEN, FOUNDING MEMBER, POCO GARDEN CLUB

E – Energetic

U – Understanding

R – Religious

I – Involved

L – Loving

D – Doing

A – Always



My friend, our friend. Eurilda joined the PoCo Garden Club in September 1990 and immediately took on the role of historian. In November 1991, when Len Cuddeford stepped down as President, Eurilda put her name forward and was elected. She served as President until 1995. Since then, she has served in many different roles.

Eurilda ran our club with ease. It was fun. We went on field trips, took part in May Day, gardened at PoCo Heritage, and created planters on Shaughnessy Street and at Finnie's Garden in Riverview. We had plant and seed swaps, and open gardens. As our membership increased, we outgrew our meeting space at the Terry Fox Library and moved to Central School, and then on to the Trinity United Church.

Through the past 35 years Eurilda carried on life with a purpose, full of energy. She was involved in many community organizations. She loved to be busy but always found time for the people she cared about, whether it was family or friends. She loved to travel; even when her mobility lessened it didn't stop her from seeing and going places.

She recently took on the role of President again, to continue guiding our club. But as her health started to fail, she made the decision to step down so the club could move forward under new leadership.

Her last words to me were:

"So my friend, just know I am safe in a place full of love and support with the expectation of coming home in due course.

Love and hugs,

Eurilda"

She passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 9, 2025, surrounded by her family. Eurilda will be missed.

The Shop in the Garden and Garden Centre is pleased to offer your garden club members 10% off*

The Shop in the Garden

We offer a carefully curated selection of locally sourced products that align with the Garden's mission, including the finest horticulture-themed books, garden-collected seeds, dried flowers gathered by our volunteers, a range of children's items, sunhats, gardening tools, First Nations giftware, and beautiful decor pieces.

Garden Centre

Our FOG volunteers propagate perennials and shrubs from private and botanical garden collections, while our nursery horticulturist grows rare and unusual selections. We focus on resilient native and non-native plants that thrive in the changing climates of today. Because our operations are primarily volunteer run, we are able to keep our prices competitive, offering you quality plants without the premium cost.

How it works

To enjoy 10% off, simply show your Club membership at the time of purchase. Instead of the 10% off, you can join our Loyalty Program! You will earn one stamp for every \$30 spent on full-priced items. Collect 10 stamps and receive \$50 off your entire purchase. This offer applies to one order only and is one-time use.

Why we're special

The Shop & Garden Centre is jointly operated by the volunteer Friends of the Garden and the Garden administration. Every purchase in the Shop & Garden Centre supports world class research to combat climate change; loss of plant biodiversity and promotes and encourages the planning and planting of climate ready gardens.

UBC Botanical Garden
6804 SW Marine Drive
(604) 822-4529

Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date hours



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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