

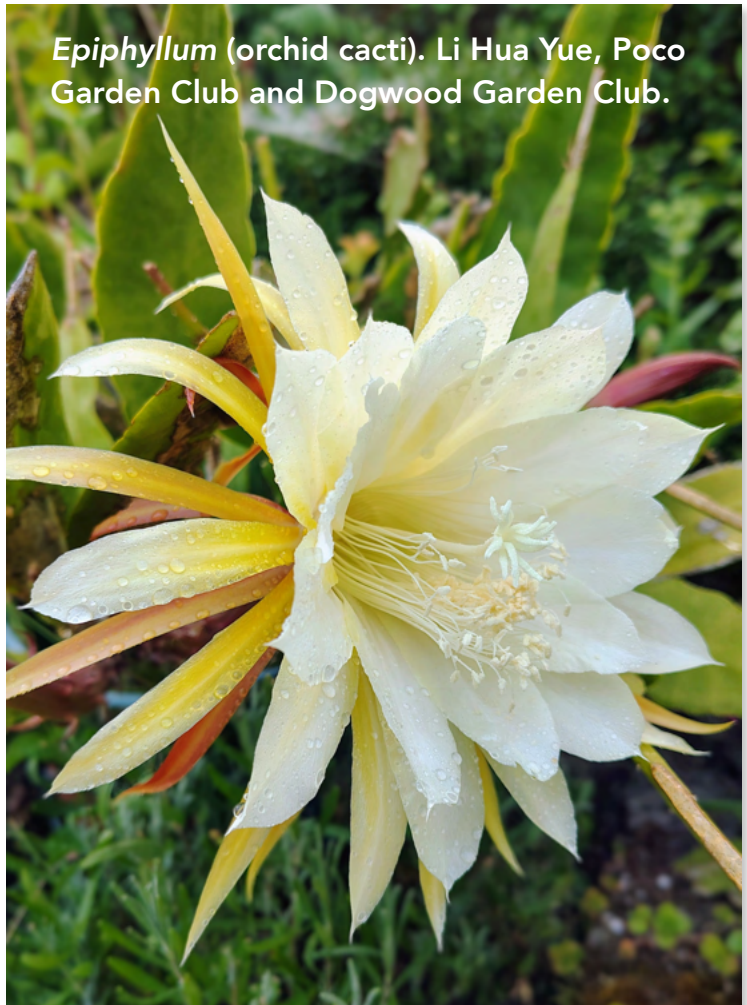


THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Epiphyllum (orchid cacti). Li Hua Yue, Poco
Garden Club and Dogwood Garden Club.



WHO ARE WE?

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

I recently had the opportunity to chat with one of our member clubs.

He had a couple of questions about the BC Council of Garden Clubs.

One of them comes up regularly so it's probably a good time to talk about it.

The question was why the BC Council of Garden Clubs is not a registered society.

As we know, registering as a society in British Columbia does have some great benefits. (Richmond Garden Club, my club, is a registered society. We apply for government grants every year.)

Key benefits of registering includes eligibility for government grants, the ability to open bank accounts and sign contracts, and enhanced public credibility.

BC Council of Garden Clubs will be turning 85 years old in 2027! We are 52 years old and still looking pretty good! We have an excellent track record in the marketplace. And based on our activities, becoming a society isn't necessary.

BC Council of Garden Clubs is a **resource** for garden clubs, community gardens, and specialty gardens throughout BC.

We provide access to **group insurance**, which offers our member clubs protection for meetings in public venues, field trips, a couple of plant sales and flower shows per year, and operations of allotments and community gardens. Monies paid for liability insurance go directly to the insurance company. The BC Council does not receive any money for this service.

The BC Council of Garden Clubs assists students residing in BC to access scholarships and bursaries to further their education in the horticultural field in a recognized accredited college or university. (This was

the second question — how the scholarship fund works.)

All funds donated to the BC Council of Garden Clubs **scholarship fund** are held with Vancity Community Foundation (VCF) as a Donor Advised Fund. VCF recommends the distribution of 4% of the value of the fund each year. The BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Committee is responsible for encouraging donations and for allocating the available funds to BC educational facilities for students in their horticultural-related program. (The BC Council of Garden Clubs also donates all in-person meeting vendor fees and prize draw monies directly to the scholarship fund each year.)

We also offer access to further education in the **floral arts**, which continues to be an important part of many garden clubs through our floral design courses.

The Bulletin monthly newsletter offers a platform for many of our member clubs to share valuable information. And the website is another opportunity to promote events happening in the different communities.

So with our excellent track record in mind and the fact that the BC Council of Garden Clubs is primarily a **resource centre**, we will not need to apply for society status, as we do not require the benefits that come with becoming a registered society.

Remember to visit our website, as it can answer many of your questions right away:
www.bcgardenclubs.com.

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS FALL MEETING

Saturday, October 24, 2026

10:00AM to 3:00PM

***GREAT SPEAKERS, VENDORS, PRIZE
DRAWS, LIGHT LUNCH, AND MORE!***

Our speakers



Ron Long, Science
Photographer for
Simon Fraser University



Liz Knight, Darts Hill
Conservancy Trust
Society



Lynda Pasacreta, Sales
& Marketing, Richmond
Garden Club



Nick Tooke, Okanagan
College, Scholarship
Recipient

**Bonsor Recreation
Complex
6550 Bonsor Avenue
Burnaby, BC**



REGISTER TODAY

BC Council of Garden Clubs is keeping the registration fees the same as for our Spring meeting. Registration in advance is \$40 including lunch and refreshments. If paying by cheque (made out to BC Council of Garden Clubs) mail to Ron Ouwerkerk, 8119 Laval Place, Vancouver BC V5S 4B1. If paying by e-transfer: treasurer@bcgardenclubs.com.

IMPORTANT: Please note on your payment to us: "BCCGC Fall Meeting."

LATE SUMMER FLOWERING DAHLIAS SUPPORT POLLINATORS!

This is something to add to your garden journal — plants we need to include in our gardens for next year.

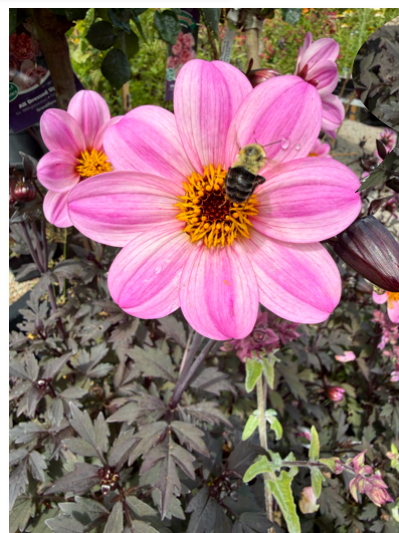
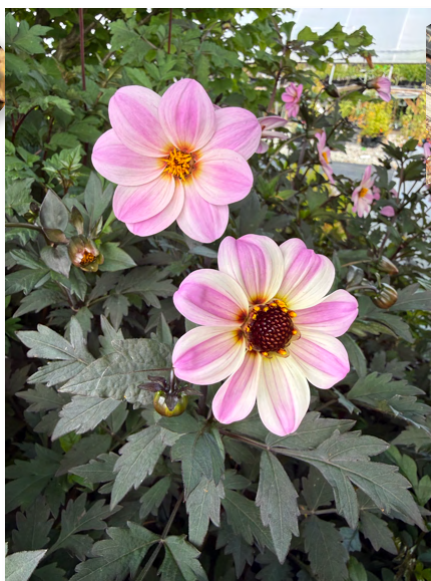
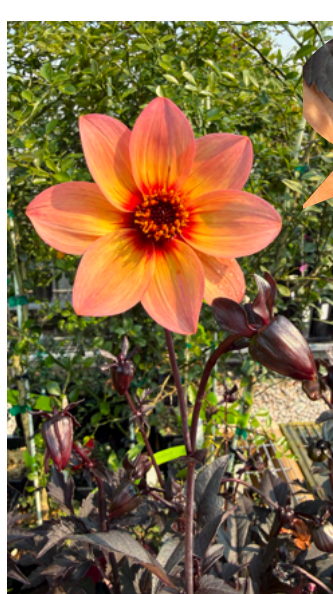
There are some gorgeous dahlias in flower in the garden right now that support pollinators as well as packing a punch of colour.

Dahlias that support pollinators are open flowers with just one or two layers of petals surrounding a fully visible centre, making it easily accessible to insect visitors.

These open-flowered dahlias are magnets for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators,

providing a top-up of pollen and nectar when many summer-flowering plants are starting to fade.

Some wonderful dahlias to choose for pollinators include: Dahlia 'Burgundy Leaf Bishop of York', Dahlia 'Burgundy Leaf Bishop of Canterbury', Dahlia 'Burgundy Leaf Bishop of Auckland', Dahlia 'Burgundy Leaf Happy Days Lemon', and so many more! (Examples of the 'Burgundy Leaf' varieties were found in Phoenix Perennials plant encyclopedia — www.phoenixperennials.com. (Photos courtesy of Gary Lewis, Phoenix Perennials.)





Country Vines dahlia event, Richmond, BC. Photos by Alice Jensen-Stanley, Richmond Garden Club.



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.



TO THE MOON ALICE!

DEBBIE MELLENGER, SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIR

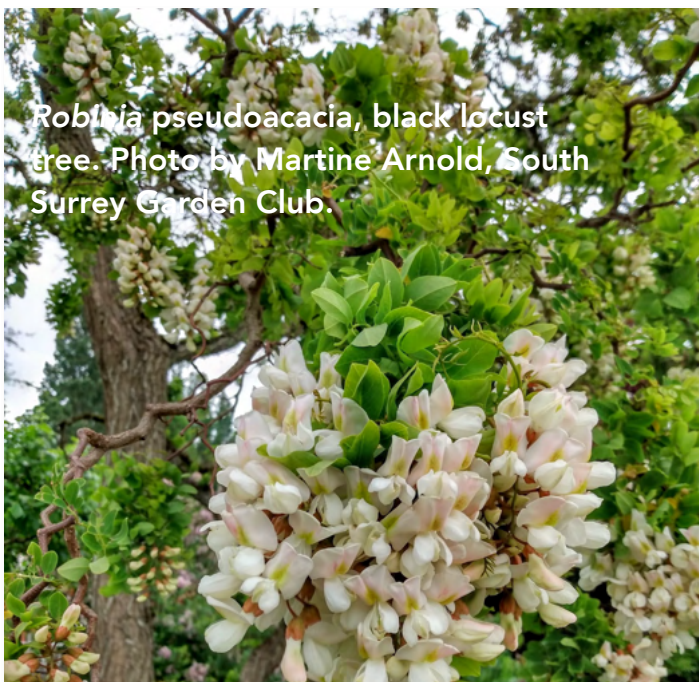
Our fundraising goal for 2026 is \$12,000. We have surpassed that goal and have almost reached **\$14,000** in donations! Keep those donations coming in for our horticultural students throughout British Columbia!



Cecil Beaton Photographs — Women's Horticultural College, Waterperry House, Oxfordshire, 1943. Photo from Wikimedia Commons.

PANTONE COLOUR 'CLOUD DANCER' FOR 2026

Thank you to everyone who sent in photos of their representation of the colour 'Cloud Dancer.' It is always so nice to see how this beautiful peaceful colour is captured in our gardens.





Gladiolus murielea.
Photo by Sylvie Field,
Seed to Sky Garden
Club.



Hibiscus. Photo by Alice Jensen-Stanley,
Richmond Garden Club.



Astrantia. Photo by Alice Jensen-
Stanley, Richmond Garden Club.

SOUTH BURNABY GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATING 125 YEARS!

LUCETTE WESLEY, SOUTH BURNABY GARDEN CLUB

In January 1901 a group of Central Park residents met to form a Farmers' Institute (incorporated in May 1901). They leased 17 acres of Central Park from the Provincial Government. With surprising speed, they arranged for government grants and constructed a "magnificent two-story building."

The building was described as "second to none outside Victoria and New Westminster" and was ready in time for the September 1901 Fall Fair.

In 1903 the institute amalgamated with the South Vancouver and Burnaby Agricultural Society and became the Central Park Agricultural Association & Farmers Institute.

They continued to hold successful Fall Fairs and improve the building and grounds.

In 1906 their hard work was rewarded with a visit to their annual Fall Fair from BC Premier Richard McBride. In 1907 the membership doubled to 520 members.

However, this was the pinnacle as increasing urbanization and World War I saw the last exhibition in 1919. The lease expired in 1921 and the building was demolished in 1924.

The society continued to meet and hold small exhibitions in rented halls under the name the South

Burnaby Horticultural Association. After several name changes, the association became the SOUTH BURNABY GARDEN CLUB in 1960.

Today the SOUTH BURNABY GARDEN CLUB is affiliated with the BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS.





South Burnaby Garden Club

125th Anniversary!!!

Fall Harvest Fair

Saturday, Sept. 12: 1 - 4pm
Sunday, Sept. 13: 11am - 4pm

At: Bonsor Community Centre
6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby
(2nd floor)

Free Admission

GREAT PRIZE DRAWS

- Baking
- Flower arranging
- Canning
- Photography
- Fruits
- Plants & Flowers
- Vegetables
- Containers & Crafts

Free Entries: Anyone can enter!
 See our schedule at www.southburnabygardenclub.ca

Refreshments Available - Bake & Harvest Sale




For more information: Phone Lucette at 604.250.2394



September 12-13 at Bonsor Recreational Centre, 2nd floor ballroom at 6550 Bonsor Ave.

Everyone is welcome Saturday 1:00-4:00 and Sunday 11:00-4:00. You can even take part in any category with your own prize-winning entries; just get them in on Friday evening. There are no costs to exhibit or to come visit us, unless you want to purchase some of our goodies or plants for sale.

SIGRIE KENDRICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OKANAGAN XERISCAPE ASSOCIATION AND MASTER GARDENER

What started with a garden conundrum has morphed into something completely different – a deep dive into learning about the allelopathic traits of some xeric plants.

My master gardener mentor, whose garden I have had the pleasure of working in for at least a decade, had a garden bed where she couldn't keep anything alive.

In a pot of *Lamium maculatum*, or spotted dead-nettle (one of my favourite ground covers for dry shade), she had tried to grow a variety of other plants alongside the lamium.

When we picture plants competing for survival in our semi-arid Okanagan Valley, we usually think in terms of aggressive roots reaching for any available moisture. But some of our toughest xeric natives have evolved a quieter, more insidious strategy.

Allelopathy, the production of biochemical compounds that suppress the germination or growth of neighbouring plants, is one of the more fascinating, and underappreciated, survival tools at work in dry land ecosystems.

Allelopathic plants release compounds through their leaves, roots, or decaying litter.

These phenolics, terpenes, and alkaloids leach into the surrounding soil and interfere with seed germination, root elongation, or nutrient uptake in competing plants.

In water-stressed environments like our Okanagan Valley, where every drop of moisture and every square centimetre of root space matters, suppressing the competition

chemically can be as valuable as outcompeting it physically.

Artemisia tridentata (big sagebrush) is perhaps the Okanagan's most familiar example.

Its foliage contains volatile terpenes that inhibit the germination of grasses and forbs beneath its canopy, helping to explain the open, parklike spacing often seen on sagebrush-dotted hillsides.

Other natives such as *Artemisia frigida* (pasture sage) and *Ericameria nauseosa* (rabbitbrush) are believed to employ similar chemical strategies, contributing to the patchy, irregular plant spacing characteristic of natural Southern Okanagan landscapes.

An allelopathic shrub like big sagebrush can suppress weed germination in the surrounding area, effectively doing some of the weeding for you and reducing the water-thirsty grasses that would otherwise compete for the same limited moisture.

This is also a useful argument for plant spacing in xeriscape beds.

Crowding sagebrush or rabbitbrush too closely with other seedlings can stunt germination success, something worth knowing before blaming poor soil or inadequate water for a struggling planting.

Several non-native plants commonly grown in xeriscape and drought-tolerant borders employ the same chemical toolkit, which is worth knowing when planning a mixed bed.

Ceratostigma plumbaginoides (hardy plumbago), a popular low-water ground cover prized for its late-summer blue flowers, contains plumbagin, a naturally-occurring compound with well-documented herbicidal and allelopathic activity.

It's part of why this ground cover spreads so cleanly and resists being crowded out by weeds once established, making it a reliable low-maintenance choice for sunny, well-drained xeriscape edges.

Lamium maculatum (spotted dead-nettle), though typically grown in part-shade rather than full xeric exposure, is another vigorous ground cover whose dense mat growth and phenolic leaf compounds are thought to give it a competitive edge against germinating weed seeds.

Gardeners often notice that little else establishes readily beneath an established lamium patch, as found in the garden that motivated my study into allelopathic plants.

This can be a useful trait along dry, shaded borders where water-wise plant choices are limited.

These examples are a reminder that allelopathy isn't a trait confined to Okanagan natives, but a strategy

plant breeders and gardeners have long selected for.

A ground cover that suppresses its own competition is, in effect, doing the weeding for you, a genuine asset in any low-water garden bed.

Allelopathy is a reminder that drought adaptation in the Okanagan isn't only about taproots, waxy cuticles, and CAM photosynthesis, it's also about chemistry – refined over thousands of years of dry summers.

Whether it's a native sagebrush thinning the grasses at its feet or a garden-centre ground cover quietly holding its ground against weeds, allelopathy adds another layer to thoughtful xeriscape plant selection.

It's not just about what plants survive the heat, but also how plants curate the company they keep.

Native to the Okanagan's dry hillside, rabbitbrush, *Ericameria nauseous*, keeps the competition at bay using chemicals to inhibit their growth. It is one of a number of plants that are allelopathic. Photo courtesy of Judie Steeves, Okanagan Xeriscape Association.



Gardens, Castles and Wine: The German Rhineland
May 15-26, 2027 with Linda Dietrick



Tour Highlights:

- Dusseldorf Hofgarten, oldest public garden in Germany
- International Garden Exhibition
- Hortus, private garden of Peter Janke
- Botanical Garden Bonn
- Rhine Boat Tour
- Kloster Eberbach Monastery Winery & Tour

For information or to book, email Ruth MacRae, Worldwide Ecotours
ruth@worldwideecotours.com or call 1-888-778-2378

Enjoy a tour of Maria Issa's garden in North Vancouver. Maria is a member of the Lynn Valley Garden Club. Thank you Michael and Sébastien from filmsreflektor.com.





Announcing the 2026 Communities in Bloom Theme — Therapeutic Gardening

This year, CiB is recognizing the restorative power of green spaces — gardens that nurture the mind, body, and spirit. For more information on therapeutic gardening — <https://bccib.ca>.

As we race to the garden every day to pick ripening tomatoes before the critters use them for their dinner, we have gratitude for the tiny space we have for growing our own fruits and vegetables.

Our kitchen garden gives us so much through all seasons here on the West Coast.

We live on a small city lot and use every square inch of it to grow fruits, vegetables, herbs, and oodles of pollinator-friendly flowers.

Preparation of meals usually involves poking around the gardens figuring out what we will be cooking for our evening meal or breakfast. We even see deep red raspberries in amongst *Heliopsis helianthoides*, false sunflower, right out of our window at the breakfast table.

Hubby has three narrow raised beds down the side of our house that receive more than six hours of continuous sun.

He only grows what we like to eat. He might have planted a few too many cucumbers and tomatoes this year (greek salad is quite often on the menu). He always adds pollinator-friendly flowers into his raised edible beds, such as borage, calendula, sunflowers, and marigolds.

Home-grown food is such an important part of taking care of us and our environment:

- 🌱 It's good for our body and mind.
- 🌱 Growing organic.
- 🌱 Lessen your environmental impact.
- 🌱 There is great joy in sharing the bounty!
- 🌱 Fresher and more flavourful.



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 September 15 for October 1. Submissions/ inquiries:

newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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