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Horticulture Centre
of the Pacific



February 2022 eNews

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday through Sunday



Gardens Open
FAMILY DAY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21
ADMISSION BY DONATION
10AM - 3PM



A Message from our General Manager



WELCOME BACK!

To the very **Best** Volunteers any organization could ask for and to our extremely valued members, we would like to extend our most heartfelt Welcome Back – We Missed You! We were closed for an extra three weeks to try and give Omicron a chance to run its course and hopefully bypass the HCP and we appreciate your patience with the delayed opening. I hope you have all come into 2022 healthy and ready to embrace all that this year has to offer!

This is my favorite time of year, the hope that is renewed when we see the new growth push through the soil and 2022 is the Year of the Garden!



Thanks so much to all of you that took the time to fill out the Strategic Plan survey.

Here at the Gardens, we are always open to what we can do to be better in every way. As we compile the results and put together the direction for the future, we will take all your thoughts into consideration. In the meantime, some comments that were shared were: “Love the garden just the way it is”, “the constant improvements and the joy of walking in such an amazing garden”, “Unstructured serenity”, “Real not pretentious”, and of course the most responses for improvements were increased parking. No surprise to us and we are with you!

Thanks again to all of you, I can’t wait to see you back in the Gardens!

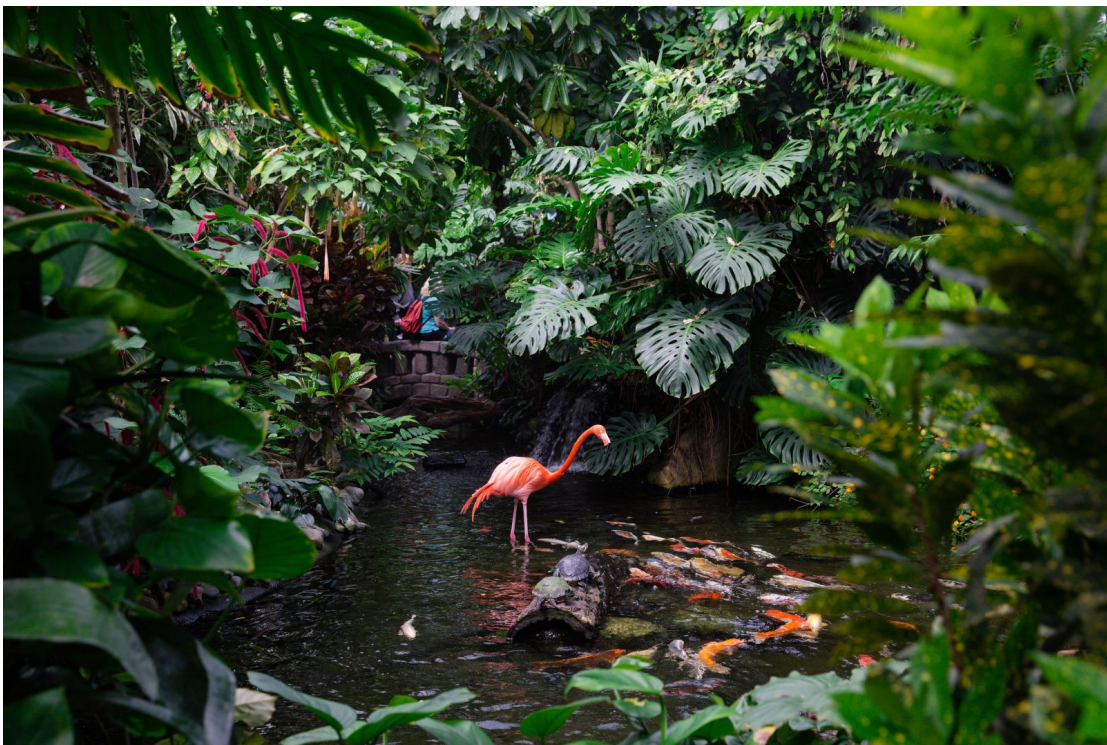
Deborah

Update on Member Benefits

Exciting News! And another reason to be a member! The Victoria Butterfly Gardens would like to partner with us and is offering a discount of 20% off admission to all of HCP’s Members!

Thank-you, Butterfly Gardens! <https://butterflygardens.com/>





A Message from our Head Gardener

SMART PLANTS FOR SMALL SPACES

Great Plant Picks is a Northwest-based nonprofit educational program from the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden. For more information, go to greatplantpicks.org.

URBAN STURDY



Cotoneaster salicifolius 'Repens'
SPREADING WILLOWLEAF
COTONEASTER



Anemone nemorosa
WOOD ANEMONE



Cistus x *hybridus*
WHITE ROCKROSE



Chionanthus retusus
CHINESE FRINGE TREE



Veronica peduncularis 'Georgia Blue'
GEORGIA BLUE SPEEDWELL



Achillea 'Moonshine'
MOONSHINE YARROW



Elaeagnus x *ebbingei* 'Gilt Edge'
GILT EDGE VARIEGATED ELAEAGNUS



Sedum oregonum
OREGON STONECROP



Veronica cypripedifolia
Boughton Dome
BOUGHTON DOME HEBE



Abelia x *grandiflora* 'Kaleidoscope'
KALEIDOSCOPE VARIEGATED ABELIA

SNUG SPACES



Adiantum x *inaequalis*
TRACY'S MAIDENHAIR FERN



Trillium grandiflorum
GREAT WHITE TRILLIUM,
WHITE WAKE-ROBIN



Crocus 'Pickwick'
PICKWICK CROCUS



Taxus baccata 'Standishi'
STANDISHII GOLDEN YEW



Arisaema sikokianum
JAPANESE COBRA LILY



Geum 'Double Bloody Mary'
DOUBLE BLOODY MARY GEUM



Disporum uniflorum (syn. *D. flavescens*)
FAIRY BELLS



Lilium 'Star Gazer'
STAR GAZER ORIENTPET LILY



Berberis thunbergii 'Goruzumi'
GOLDEN RUBY
GOLDEN RUBY JAPANESE BARBERRY



Cupressus nootkatensis
Green Arrow
GREEN ARROW WEEPING
ALASKAN YELLOW CEDAR

CAPTIVATING CONTAINERS



Begonia grandis ssp. *evansiana*
HARDY BEGONIA



Clematis 'Clemisnow 51'
SAPHYRA INDIGO™
SAPPHIRE INDIGO CLEMATIS



Hakonechloa macrochaeta 'Aureola'
VARIEGATED JAPANESE
FOREST GRASS



Acer palmatum 'Shaina'
SHAINA DWARF RED
JAPANESE MAPLE



Tricyrtis 'Taipei Silk'
TAIPEI SILK TOAD LILY



Hosta 'Fragrant Bouquet'
FRAGRANT BOUQUET HOSTA



Bergenia ciliolata 'Dumbo'
DUMBO BERGENIA



Calluna vulgaris 'Spring Torch'
SPRING TORCH HEATHER



Polystichum polyblepharum
JAPANESE TASSEL FERN



Fatsia japonica 'Murakumo nishiki'
CAMOUFLAGE™
CAMOUFLAGE JAPANESE FATZIA

The Seattle Times
PACIFIC NW

PHOTOGRAPHY
Blooming Nursery, Joy Creek Nursery, Sue Olsen,
Rick Peterson, Richie Steffen, T&L Nursery

This poster has been produced in partnership with Pacific NW magazine and The Seattle Times. Great Plant Picks is administered by the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.

greatplantpicks.org

Great Plant Picks

This time of year, a group of HCP staff and volunteers get ready to board the Clipper and head to Seattle to the Northwest Flower and Garden show.

The last time we went was 2020, when we had a booth and were very excited to showcase the HCP south of the border-that was life pre-COVID, so many things have changed!

Great Plant Picks have their much-anticipated poster and info available at the show.

Richie Steffen is part of the committee that selects the gardening theme each year. Richie is the Executive Director at the Elizabeth C. Miller Garden in Seattle.

I have gotten to know Richie, attended many of his lectures and had the pleasure to visit the Elizabeth C. Miller botanical gardens a few years back.

He graciously agreed to an interview and shared the poster and article he wrote for the Northwest Horticultural Societies Newsletter GardenNotes.

This year's theme is "Smart Plants for Small Spaces".

Does the committee submit gardening theme options and plant lists? Rick Peterson, Education and Outreach Manager for the Miller Garden, and I select the gardening theme each year. We look at past themes, current trends in horticulture, and landscape needs for plant material. Each theme must be applicable to all of our subcommittees – Trees and Conifers, Shrubs and Vines, Perennials and Bulbs.

Is that chosen by a vote? Once Rick and I come up with a theme we present it to the GPP committee who can suggest changes. Committee members are also welcome to suggest future gardening themes. So much of what we do is a collaborative effort between the Miller Garden staff and the GPP selection committee.

How far ahead do you decide? Currently, we try to plan ahead by one to two years for gardening themes. We have been as far out as 5 years ahead which allows plenty of time for the selection committee to review and choose plants that fit a particular theme. The plants selected for a particular theme are a mix of GPP's from plants chosen years ago to new plants added this year. The idea of the garden theme is to present a full pallet of plants for the gardening community.

Any other info I should include? Our GPP selection committee members are horticultural experts from a wide range of backgrounds. Members represent public garden, retail and wholesale nurseries, landscape architects, garden designers and city parks. The committee meets three times a year, currently all meetings are virtual. The plants selected each year are based on the

criteria set forth on the GPP website. The new 2022 additions do not need to conform to the current gardening theme but do need to meet the criteria.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/>





Images from Costa Rica



(Pictures above)

Clockwise Top: Heliconia wagneriana; Strangler fig (Ficus spp.); Pineapple nearly ready for harvest; Torch ginger (Etlingera elatior); Coffee in flower (Coffee arabica)

Clockwise Bottom: Another unusual orchid; Ripe chocolate pod; A tiny orchid; Laziness Tree; A weird orchid and its natural pollinator



Allamanda and bougainvillea

Missing January at the HCP I have been away in Costa Rica for several weeks and, though I did not make any great effort to acquaint myself with the local flora, I could not help but be struck by some of the many fascinating plants all around.

A tropical country, the weather in January was seriously hot and dry, especially near the coast. Further inland the mountains and jungle-covered slopes temper the intense heat somewhat and we enjoyed some days of temperatures down into the twenties though it was nearly always humid and sticky.

But everywhere you go there are plants and flowers of startling colours and fragrances mirrored by the huge variety of coloured birds.

Initially one is struck by the familiar plants, those we buy in florists and nurseries here but which, in Costa Rica, grow wild and in abundance.

Bougainvillea and hibiscus are everywhere, covering walls and fences, a blaze of scarlets and fuchsia pink; equally common are caesalpinia, heliconias, zinnias and many varieties of ginger, cannas and amaryllis, lantana, brugmansias and thunbergias. Ageratums grow wild on the roadsides.

The jungle is another environment altogether. Thick with vegetation, enormous trees tower above you but every one is covered with other 'piggy-backing' organisms, algae and fungi, mosses, ferns and vines, orchids and bromeliads, all so thickly layered one can hardly distinguish the original tree at all. And often the tree you see is no longer the original species anyway; that has already been engulfed by one of the several varieties of 'strangling' fig whose seeds germinate high up in the fork of a branch. Roots grow down to the ground and over time they form a vast lattice that completely surrounds the original tree, killing it to leave the fig as an enormous and fascinatingly tangled network of buttress-like roots.

The jungle around you is rarely silent and most of the time you are surrounded by a strident cacophony of insects, birds and animal calls.

Of the trees I could manage to identify the national tree of Costa Rica is particularly attractive. The Guanacaste (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*) is a member of the pea family which grows tall and wide-spreading, forming a huge umbrella-shaped crown. It is often grown singly in large pastures so that cattle can enjoy its welcome shade. The laziness tree or pop-a-gun (*Cecropia obtusifolia*) is a fast-growing 'weed tree' that pops up everywhere but is easily identified by its deeply palmately lobed leaves that, against the sky, look like limp hands with many slender fingers. Mango trees (*Mangifera indica*) can grow to over 100 feet and 45 feet across though in cultivation they are kept small. They have long leathery leaves and sweetly-scented small white flowers, the fruits taking 4 or 5 months to develop and ripen.

Costa Rica is home to more than 1300 orchid species and while in the little mountain-top town of Monteverde we decided to visit the local orchid garden. On arrival we were a little disappointed at how small it seemed but once the tour began how our perceptions changed! Our very knowledgeable guide explained that over 80% of orchids are very tiny and gave out magnifying glasses to each of us. Equipped with these and shown where to look we began to see hundreds of otherwise invisible blooms, often hidden beneath leaves, and in almost every colour of the rainbow. I knew something of orchids beforehand, but this was a real eye-opener.

In our final week we were fortunate to find lodgings on an organic chocolate farm. The owner is trying to develop a permaculture food forest and amongst

the wild jungle plants he is growing a whole variety of productive crops. Chocolate and turmeric, vanilla and cinnamon, pineapples and bananas, mandarins, coffee, and several other spices. Kind and helpful, he had tea recipes for every eventuality, offering a few leaves of this, a few petals of that to make many delicious brews. Did you know that the soft white flesh surrounding the beans in a chocolate pod is sweet and fruity and tangy? That you can chew the petiole of a cinnamon leaf and it has a range of amazing, unexpected flavours? And vanilla is an orchid and a vine that needs to be pollinated by hand in the morning immediately the flower opens?

Costa Rica is a marvellous country of huge biodiversity and I have only just begun to explore its incredible variety.

Giles



Reopening on Feb 11 -
for Fri, Sat, Sun.

Mark your calendars and treat yourself
to a visit to the Gardens
and the amazing food at C&Q



Spring Cleaning? Recycle! Reuse! Reduce!

Wanted for our propagation volunteers:

Vinyl blinds (for labelling plants) - Please drop off at the Gate. Thank-you!





January was a busy month full of new programs and new faces at Pacific Horticulture College!

As of February 7th, the Level 3 program is on site for two weeks and working on in-person projects including Landscape Structures, Irrigation, Pruning, Water Features and Landscape Lighting. It's so nice to see them after four weeks online! And they are happy to be outside and, in the gardens, again.

After a couple of weeks of orientation and introduction classes, the Landscape Horticulture Certificate program is immersed in Botany, Practical Skills, Plant ID and Pruning. They are out cleaning up garden beds, studying plant cells under microscopes and learning Latin nomenclature.

The Level 1 program is alternating between online and in-person classes with Soils, Tools and Equipment and Communication Skills. What's the difference between a shovel and a spade? Ask a Level 1 student!

Finally, the 2022 Gap Training program started at the beginning of February and diving straight into Landscape Construction. We look forward to seeing them in person in March!

Applications for our 2022 Part-Time Level 2 Program and 2023 Full-Time Certificate Program will open in March - stay tuned for details! Application forms and admission requirements can be found [online](#). Please contact the college if you would like to be added to the interest list for any of these programs or if you have any other questions: collegeadmin@hcp.ca

Registration is open for Integrated Pest Management/Pesticide Training courses in February and March. Please use this link to visit the website (<https://hcp.ca/pesticide-training-courses/>) for information and to register.



Children & Youth Programs

We continue to offer a full range of programs, exclusively outdoors! These fun and engaging hands-on options bring joy while introducing plants and their many attributes to our lives. Consider giving an outdoor adventure of exploration to a curious child or youth in your life or join us with your family!



Family Day at HCP

Join us for guided walks, activities and crafts as we explore the many birds that call our gardens, forests, and wetlands their home. Learn to identify birds in your backyard and how to support their habitat necessary for them to thrive. To find out more about the Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb 18-21) check out birdcount.org.

Date: Monday, February 21, 2022

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Fee: Admission by donation to The Gardens at HCP



Garden Nature Academy - Spring Session

The outdoors offer safe and seasonal opportunities for your preschooler to explore through play, games, songs and activities! These outdoor sessions will include time in our vegetable garden, as well as numerous pathways and native plant forest areas to explore. The small group sizes and our experienced nature educators help to create a nurturing and engaging environment for young children to learn, play and grow!

Dates: Tuesday's for 12 weeks: from April 5th to June 21, 2022

Time: 9:00am to 11:30am

Age: 3 to 4 years

Fee: \$275/members, \$320/non-members (price is for full series)

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162



Garden Friends - A Series for Children and a Parent/Adult

Children love to explore our gardens while observing and experiencing nature. Together, we will engage in a series of nature activities. Each session includes a garden wander, story time and craft activity. Bring a snack and picnic blanket for story time and dress for the weather.

Dates: Thursday's from February 17 - March 10, 2022

Time: 10:00 to 11:30am

Age: 3 to 6 years old, plus parent/guardian

Fee: HCP Members \$75/Non-Members \$85 (price is for full series)

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162

Science Friends - A Series for Children and a Parent/Adult

Bring along your budding naturalist for a trek around the pathways, bridges and fields as we explore the creatures who call our gardens, woodlands and ponds their home. Each session will focus on a different nature friend and include a wander, story time and craft. Pack a snack and picnic blanket for story time and dress for the weather.

Dates: Tuesday's from April 5 - 26, 2022

Time: 1:00 to 2:30pm

Ages: 3 to 6 years old, plus parent/guardian

Fee: HCP Members \$75/Non-Members \$85 (price is for full series)

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162



Garden Camps

Join us at the gardens for our JMG (Junior Master Gardener) Pro-D Day camps! An outdoor garden experience where we take on seasonal gardening tasks and activities in our very own HCP Kids Garden plot. There are also opportunities to explore the vast wilderness areas to experience the natural systems that keep our gardens growing, get our hands busy with garden arts and crafts and more.

Pro D Day Camp Dates:

[Feb 18, 2022](#)

[Apr 25, 2022](#)

[May 20, 2022](#)

Times: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Ages: 5 to 12 years (school age)

Fee: \$40/child

Register: Click on camp date to register or call 250 479 6162

Spring Break Camp Dates:

[Mar 21-Mar 25, 2022 \(full day, 5 days/week\)](#)

[Mar 28-Apr 01, 2022 \(full day, 5 days/week\)](#)

Times: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Ages: 5 to 12 years (school age)

Fee: \$180/child, \$345/2 children, \$520/3 children

Summer Camps Dates:

[Jul 4-8, 2022 \(full day, 5 days/week\)](#)

[Jul 11-15, 2022 \(half day, 5 days/week\)](#)

[Jul 18-22, 2022 \(full day, 5 days/week\)](#)

[Aug 2-5, 2022 \(full day, 4 days/week\)](#)

[Aug 8-12, 2022 \(half day, 5 days/week\)](#)

[Aug 15-19, 2022 \(full day, 5 days/week\)](#)

Times: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (full days) and 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (half days)

Ages: 5 to 12 years (school age)

Fee: \$180/child, \$345/2 children, \$495 3/children (full day, 5 days/week)

Fee: \$145/child, \$275/2 children, \$390/3 children (full day, 4 day week)

Fee: \$95/child, \$180/2 children, \$255/3 children



NOW OFFERING - *Private Workshops*

HCP offers private workshop bookings to celebrate your child's birthday in our gardens. These are hosted exclusively outdoors (rain or shine, year round) and feature the popular themes offered each season in our In-Person

Workshop listings. See our website for our current offerings or contact our Youth Programs Coordinator for more information(youthprograms@hcp.ca).

Fee: \$25/child (up to 10 participants)

Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am *or* 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm)

Dates: Select Saturdays



Winter Garden & Nature Workshops (*In person*)

Outdoor Fairy Gardens (adult + child)

Inviting all garden enthusiasts!! It might still be a bit early to get out into our gardens this month, but we really want to!! Here is a fun way to get creative, using seasonally appropriate plants that will stand up to the elements and give a head start to doing some early planting! This workshop is geared to an adult and child looking for an outdoor class together. Combine your efforts or each make your own miniature garden to take home. We will begin with a garden tour to inspire us, then collect natural materials to begin our Fairy Garden making together. Please dress for the weather. Class size is limited to 12 participants.

Date: Saturday, February 26, 2022

Time: 10:00am - 11:30am

Fee: \$30/1 garden, \$55/2 gardens

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162

Outdoor Fairy Gardens (drop off)

Do you know a youth who loves to garden? Have them join us for this early season gardening class to learn about garden design, plant care and to be inspired to add a magic factor to the home garden or balcony. We will begin with an inspirational garden wander to gather ideas and materials. Then we will create our miniature gardens to add to an existing fairy village or begin anew! Please have your child dress for the weather. Class size is limited to 10

participants. Parents are welcome to support their child's participation, if needed.

Date: Saturday, February 26, 2022

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Age: 7+ years

Fee: \$25/members, \$30/non-members

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162

Container Garden Series for Youth

Container gardens have become very popular and they are so versatile. They are perfect for growing flowers to support our native pollinators as well as growing food crops for ourselves. No matter the space available (or lack of it), youth can develop their gardening skills and learn about food security while creating a miniature garden to take home, nurture and harvest! Each class will feature a different themed garden to create and take home.

Date: Saturdays, March 12 (Salad), April 9 (Herb), May 14 (Pizza), June 11 (Pollinator), 2022

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Age: 5- 12 years

Fee: \$95/members for a 4 class session, \$115 non-members for a 4 class session

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162



HCP Kids Garden Club

Do you know a child or youth who loves the outdoors and thrives in the garden? Our HCP Kids Garden provides many opportunities for land-based engagement activities, including seed starting and propagation, planting, garden maintenance, pollinator habitats, and so much more. Each monthly class will have us in this amazing teaching garden where we grow our own food crops.

Pre-K Learners (Adult + Child)

Date: Saturdays, March 5 - July 2, 2022

Time: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Age: 3 - 5 years

Fee: \$60/5 class session

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162

School Age Learners (Drop off)

Date: Saturdays, March 5 - July 2, 2022

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Age: 6 - 12 years

Fee: \$80/5 class session

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162



Looking for a unique activity for a child who loves creativity and nature? Our **Workshop Kits + Video** are available to order! Check out the selection below or visit our website for more information.

Seed Starting for Kids (KIT+VIDEO)

Register: [HERE](#) or Phone (250) 479-6162

Teacup Fairy Gardens (KIT+VIDEO)

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162

Outdoor Fairy Gardens (KIT+VIDEO)

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162

Fairy Furnishings (KIT+VIDEO)

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162

Terrarium Gardens for Kids (KIT+VIDEO)

Register: [HERE](#) or phone (250) 479-6162



School Programs for 2021/22

Welcome to HCP's School Programs! We are excited to offer diverse and engaging nature programs to classes from preschool to grade 7. Together we will explore a variety of gardening and nature themes led by a fun and dynamic educator! All programs are aligned with the BC Science Curriculum. Check out our new programs below!

Program offered February to June

- Sensing the Seasons (*Preschool to Grade 2*)
- Garden Creatures (*Preschool to 2*)
- Worms Aren't The Only Ones! (*Preschool to Grade 5*)
- School Gardens 101 (*Preschool to Grade 7, Teacher workshops available*)
- Water, Water Everywhere! (*Grade 2 to Grade 7*)

Programs offered March to June

- All You Seed is Love (*Preschool to Grade 5*)
- Ethnobotany Explorations (*Grades 2 - 7*)

Program Details

Programs are **1 hour** for preschool to grade 2 and **1.5 hours** for Grade 3 - 7. Each program has an optional 30 minute self guided activity in the gardens for an additional fee. Preschool to Grade 2 programs are **\$90** and Grade 3-7 programs are **\$115**. The optional 30 minute self guided activity is **\$25**. Program fees include entrance into the gardens.

Currently booking for the 2021/2022 school year. To book a school program for your group or answer any inquiries, contact Erica, our School Programs Coordinator at ypschoools@hcp.ca or visit www.hcp.ca/school-programs/ for more information.



HCP Home Learners Program - Garden Science Series

(Registration opens Feb 1st)

Ever wonder about how plants grow or how they decompose? What is soil and do all plants need it? In this Home Learner series, we will discover the science at work in the garden from the ground up! Through hands-on activities, games, crafts, and experiments, we will learn about soil, photosynthesis, water, pollination and more! We are excited to offer two sessions of this series designed for different age groups. Please note, this is a drop-off program. See you at The Gardens!

Dates: Fridays for 4 Weeks: April 1, 8, 22, and 29, 2022

Time: 9:30am to 11:30am

Age: 5 to 7 years old

Fee: \$80 for members, \$100 for non-members (price is for full series)

Register: [HERE - Registration opens February 1st](#)

Dates: Fridays for 4 Weeks: April 1, 8, 22, and 29, 2022

Time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Age: 8 to 12 years old

Fee: \$80 for members, \$100 for non-members (price is for full series)

Register: [HERE - Registration opens February 1st](#)



Community Education Workshops

Note: Proof of Covid vaccination and masks are required for all adult in-person classes.



The Backyard Farmer: Cut Flower Gardens with Emily Lily and Jessica Lokker - Starts on March 7 at 5:30pm

Last chance to register! Learn to grow cut flowers in your own backyard in this 7 part/21 hour series. This course is intended for new or lightly experienced gardeners who want to learn basic techniques for producing cut flower crops in their own backyard. Visit our website for more information [HERE](#)



Floral Design Program with Linda Rambaud

This course will give participants a comprehensive overview and introduction to the floral design industry with Floral Designer Linda Rambaud or Lindara Design. Participants will be introduced to decorating with florals, floriculture and botany, point of sale marketing and event floristry. Registration is now open for Levels I & II. Visit our website for more information [HERE](#)



The Backyard Farmer: Beekeeping with Gordon Mackay - Starts on April 12

A new addition to our Backyard Farmer series. This is another way to add another "crop" to your garden and pollinate your plants at the same time. Plus,

bees are fascinating and interesting to learn about, but be warned, beekeeping can be addictive! Participants will learn about equipment, how to locate and set up a hive, purchasing and installing bees, bee castes, common issues like swarming, integrated pest management, products from the hive, winterizing and more. Registration is not open yet, but sign up for the interest list [HERE](#) to receive registration updates.



Plant Identification & Culture Workshops with Jane Tice

This is a great monthly class for new gardeners or gardeners who want to improve their plant knowledge. Each month participants will be introduced to 25 new plants in each session. Plants are selected for our local growing conditions and the value they bring to the garden. Next date: February 19th, 1-4pm.

For more information or to register, please visit our website [HERE](#)



Pruning Ornamental Plants Workshop with Patty Brown

Gain an understanding of how and why plants respond to pruning in this three-part workshop which includes a field trip. This workshop will help you get the results you want with any plant in your garden. This is a popular course and sells out quickly, so register soon to avoid missing out. Starts on February 22 at 6:30pm.

For more information or to register, please visit our website [HERE](#)



Beginner Watercolour Workshop Series with Richard Wong - Starts on February 25th at 1pm

Join Richard for this four-week course to learn how to create lovely watercolours on Japanese art paper. Enjoy the benefits and warmth of a small group setting. Richard's classes are interactive and based on enjoyment, patience, and kindness. Classes are ideal for beginners and those with some watercolour experience. Four part series beginning on February 25.

For more information or to register, please visit our website [HERE](#)



ONLINE: Knotless Netting Pouch with Joan Carrigan - February 12, 10am - 3pm

SOLD OUT! To receive a notice when additional dates are set for this specific workshop, please sign up for the waitlist [HERE](#). Alternately, to receive updates for all upcoming basketry classes, sign up for the Basketry Interest List [HERE](#)



ONLINE: Random Woven Nest Basket with Joan Carrigan - February 26, 10am - 3pm

SOLD OUT! To receive a notice when additional dates are set for this specific workshop, please sign up for the waitlist [HERE](#). Alternately, to receive updates for all upcoming basketry classes, sign up for the Basketry Interest List [HERE](#)



ONLINE: Coiled Baskets with Soft Materials with Joan Carrigan - March 12, 10am - 3pm

SOLD OUT! To receive a notice when additional dates are set for this specific workshop, please sign up for the waitlist [HERE](#). Alternately, to receive updates for all upcoming basketry classes, sign up for the Basketry Interest List [HERE](#)



Creative Flower Photography with Jana Zachariou - Saturdays, March 19 – 10:00am – 11:30am

Jana loves to share her passion for photography and her commitment to natural floral beauty. She has created workshops for those individuals who want to learn how to capture stunning images of flowers. These workshops focus on the basics of photography. Emphasis will be on supporting each participant in achieving an individual approach to floral photography. The ultimate goal is to have participants develop a deeper connection with flowers through the camera lens.....and of course, have fun along the way.

For more information or to register, please visit our website [HERE](#)



ONLINE: Willow Bark Wall Pouch with Joan Carrigan - March 26, 10am - 3pm

SOLD OUT! To receive a notice when additional dates are set for this specific workshop, please sign up for the waitlist [HERE](#). Alternately, to receive updates for all upcoming basketry classes, sign up for the Basketry Interest List [HERE](#)



Willow Chair Workshop with Andrew Kent - March 29th, 9am - 5pm

Join artisan Andrew Kent from The Willow Way for this full day workshop. In one day, with Andrew Kent's expert instruction, you can make and take home your own Bent Willow Rustic Chair.

For more information or to register, please visit our website [HERE](#)



Cannabis for the Homegrower with Jo Wyld - March 30, 6pm - 9pm

Learn the basics of growing Cannabis for personal use with college instructor, Jo Wyld. This workshop will cover cannabis species and strains, how cannabis is used, starting from seed or clone, considerations and methods

for growing outdoors or indoors, common pests and disease, harvesting and relevant legislation.

For more information or to register, please visit our website [HERE](#)



Backyard Orchard Workshop with Ryan Senechal- April 9 & 16 at 9am - 12pm

This workshop is for those serious about cultivating fruit and nuts in an urban space. Ryan Senechal will cover: selection of cultivars, planting, staking & training, soil, nutrients & watering, pruning, plant health & cultural controls, grafting & propagation. The focus will be on apple, cherry, pear, plum, peach, kiwi, Carpathian walnut, butternut, hazelnut, fig, blueberry & raspberry.

For more information or to register, please visit our website [HERE](#)



Advanced Pruning Workshop with Ryan Senechal- April 30 & May 7 at 9am - 12pm

If you are hesitant to prune small trees and shrubs for fear of injuring or undesirably altering the appearance, this course with certified arborist Ryan Senechal is designed to give you the skill you need. In 2 sessions, basic pruning techniques will be reviewed and applied to advanced pruning strategies to encourage desirable structure, reduced maintenance & long term plant health.

For more information or to register, please visit our website [HERE](#)



Guest Article

A new year brings new signage to the 3-bin compost system in the upper Veggie garden.

A dedicated group of volunteers look after this garden and volunteer Frances used her artistic skills to create the signs.



UPPER VEGGIE GARDEN COMPOST

Ahhh...We love the smell of compost in the morning. Over in the Upper Veggie Garden we recycle the majority of our garden waste back into the beds as a delicious, nutritious addition to the soil. It is not necessarily your standard composting technique but it seems to work for us.

As the various crops move through their growth cycles the clippings, pruning and spent plants are chopped into the “add to” bin. Although a little time consuming, the chopping process greatly assists decomposition of the plant material and is a wonderful activity to do while chatting. We do our best to keep out any noxious weed as with this size of operation, the internal temperature may not get hot enough to kill the all seeds. The raised bins off to the side, is where we keep our layering materials, leaf mulch and straw

mostly, and each week we cover over the new additions. Elder wisdom has stressed the importance of the balance between 'green' and 'brown' material for composting. Many of the resources on line stress the same thing. Brown matter needs to be at least twice as much as green. The Borage and Mallow growing around the garden adds to our blend and the mason bees LOVE them.

Meanwhile, the finished compost is being screened out. We have a big wheel barrow screen which Jamie, our compost caretaker extraordinaire among other things, diligently fills for us and a small bucket screen if we only need a little. Once that bin is spread around the garden, it is ready to become the new "add to" bin and we switch the signage around.

Now that the soil is warming and the worms are awakening from their winter sleep, we are looking forward to another great growing season here in the Veggie Garden and everywhere around The Gardens.

Submitted on behalf of the Veggie Garden Volunteers



Keep The Flowers Blooming



Thank you so much for your generous support!

As a charity, the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific depends on the support and generosity of others to help us make a difference. The maintenance of our gardens is funded through our memberships as well as donations, sponsorships, grants and income from our gardens through admissions, plant sales, events and weddings. Even though much of the creation and maintenance of the gardens is carried out by teams of hardworking and cherished volunteers, there is still a large financial commitment when caring for nine acres of curated gardens. Your donations provide essential support, especially now.

Thank you so much for your continued support -- we couldn't do it without you! Visit our [website](#) or phone (250) 479-6162 to donate today.



Membership Reminder

Revenue from annual memberships supports youth programming, horticulture student development, plants and supplies for garden improvements, and volunteer appreciation. You can purchase a [new membership](#) or [renew your membership](#) today online or by calling (250) 479-6162.

Memberships are a great value and include:

- Free admission to the Gardens
- A free guest pass with each membership
- Discounted rates for additional guests
- 10% off plants and gift shop purchases
- Discounted member rates on Community Education Workshops
- Discounts at select garden centers throughout Victoria
- 20% off Admission at Victoria Butterfly Gardens
- Free admission, free parking, or other discounts at participating gardens in the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program



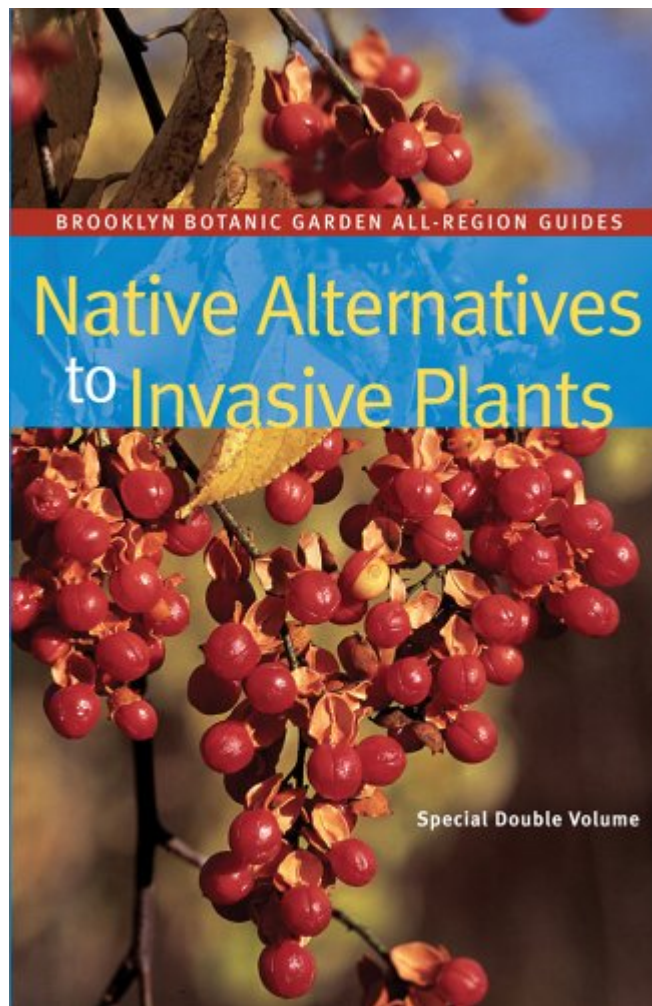
AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Reciprocal Admissions Program 2022 member garden



The Bookend





Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants

By C. Colston Burrell

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Invasive plants are in the news. Just this week the Times Colonist reported (thanks to the HCP) that *Arum italicum* has jumped the border from Washington state and is causing problems in Greater Victoria.

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/toxic-invasive-plant-from-us-spreading-in-greater-victoria-5027256>

An invasive plant is defined as one that causes harm to humans, the environment or the economy, whereas a native plant occurs naturally in a region without human intervention. Biologists consider invasive species a tremendous threat to native plants, second only to outright loss of habitat. Amazingly, many invasive plants are still being sold despite their noted ability to spoil natural areas.

This handbook is for both plant professionals and home gardeners. It shows many ecologically safe alternatives; beautiful, regionally native species that fill the same needs as the worst invasive plants commonly used in horticulture. It covers habitat and range, ornamental attributes and uses, and growing tips, with a profusion of colour photographs. It's well organized by plant group: trees, shrubs, vines, herbaceous plants, grasses.

Here are a couple of examples from the book:

Invasive tree: *Ilex aquifolium* (English holly); Native alternative *Lithocarpus densiflorus* (Tan Oak)

Invasive shrub: *Buddleja* (Butterfly bush); Native alternative *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush)

Invasive vine: *Hedera helix* (English Ivy); Native alternative *Mahonia nervosa* (Longleaf mahonia)

Invasive plant: *Digitalis purpurea* (Foxglove); Native alternative *Iliamna rivularis* (Mountain hollyhock)

Available to borrow from the HCP Library.

Library Hours:

Wednesdays 10:00am - 1:00pm (for HCP volunteers and PHC students only)

Thursdays 10:00am - 1:00pm

Saturdays 10:00am - 1:00pm

Check our [online catalogue](#) to see our entire book collection, available 24/7.

Questions? Email library@hcp.ca anytime or drop by during open hours.

We at HCP gratefully acknowledge that we occupy unceded territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ and Lək̓ʷəŋən peoples. We recognize these lands and ecosystems are not our own. We recognize our role in the continuing process of dispossession, colonialism, and reconciliation. We recognize the need to do better. We humbly welcome all to join in this learning journey.

Office - 250-479-6162

Website - HCP.ca



This email was sent to cheri@hcp.ca. [Click here to unsubscribe.](#)