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**Horticulture Centre  
of the Pacific**



**January 2022 eNews**

**Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Thursday through Sunday beginning February 3rd!**



**A Message from our General Manager**



Welcome to 2022.

I was so optimistic going into 2022! That things would return to relative normalcy and the world would gradually open up – even a little bit.

Obviously, that hasn't happened. I think now is the time we must show our resiliency and remember that one day we will be able to shake hands, hug without hesitation and dance like no one is watching!

I keep telling myself that this too shall pass and here at the Gardens, we are so fortunate that we get to come to paradise every day. Sometimes something this challenging will help to remind us of this and to remember that others do not have this very special sanctuary to use as a respite from the world, but that we can help them through with a smile, a kind word, or even just a nod of acknowledgement of what we are all going through together.

Please stay healthy and make one of your goals for 2022 to 'Pay it Forward' and do something kind for someone else.

We cannot wait to welcome you back on February 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Deborah



Giles' Jottings

Giles is taking a very well deserved vacation this month and will return in February!



will be reopening on Feb 4th - for Fri, Sat, Sun.

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





Gift Shop



THE  
GARDENS  
AT HCP

YES! WE HAVE

## GIFT CARDS

Gift cards can be used for  
memberships, gift shop  
purchases, community ed  
classes, and more!



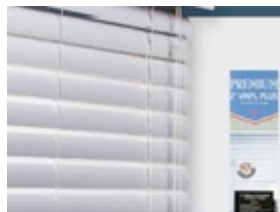
Yes, we are closed, but that is giving us time to restock in time for Spring!  
Please pop in and say hello to Barb when we reopen in February.

Many items are on sale and lots of new items to browse over.

## Spring Cleaning? Recycle! Reuse! Reduce!

Wanted for our propagation volunteers:

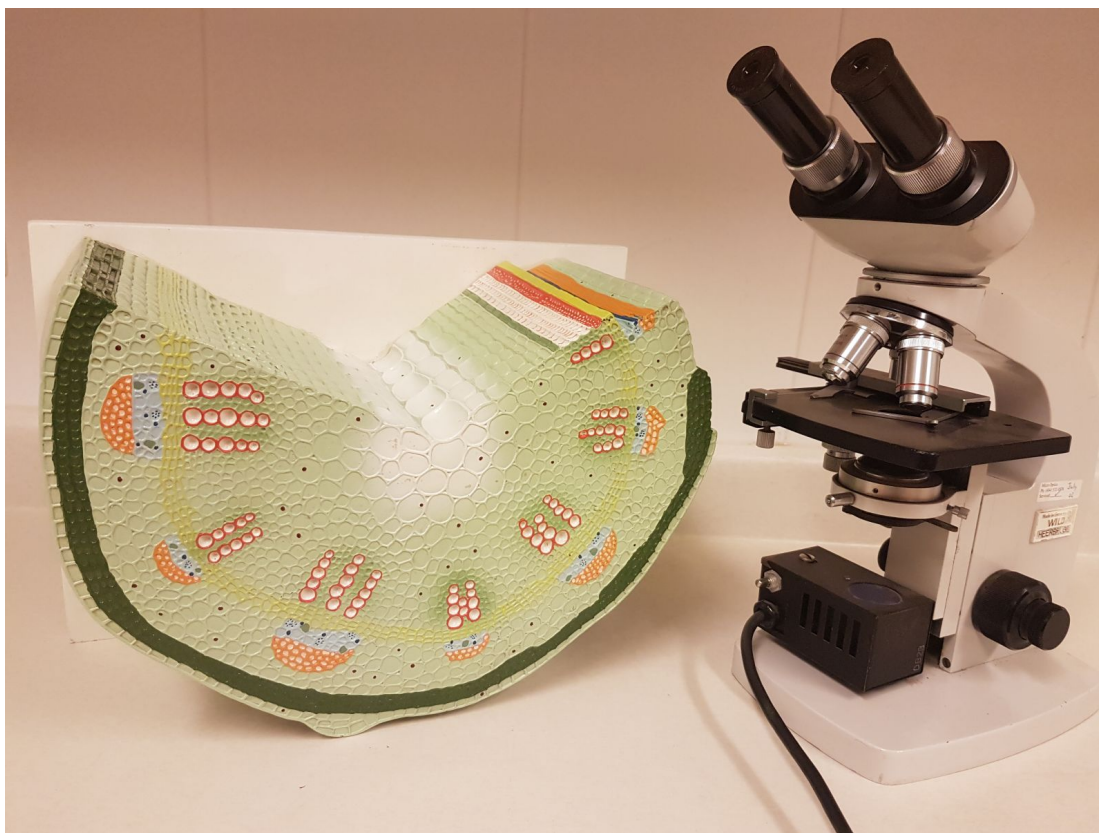
Vinyl blinds (for labelling plants) - Please drop off at the Gate. Thank-you!



2" Vinyl Plus



Pacific Horticulture College



A new year brings new learning opportunities, and PHC is excited to welcome students to the following programs starting this January: Level 1 Apprenticeship, Level 3 Apprenticeship, and Landscape Horticulture Certificate. We look forward to meeting everyone on Zoom and in person as you start or continue your horticulture journey!

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](mailto:collegeadmin@hcp.ca)

Registration is open for Integrated Pest Management/Pesticide Training courses in February and March. Please visit the website [Pesticide Training Courses](#) for information and to register.



**A Message from our Head Gardener**





A new year also bring some changes here at the HCP.

With ongoing supply chain challenges, in particular product shortages, delivery delays and higher prices, I have decided to say farewell to Hellebore Sunday.

Traditionally, it was the first Sunday in March and dedicated shoppers would line up waiting for the gates to open. It was also the perfect time to walk through the Doris Page Winter Garden and soak in the beauty of a winter garden.

Thank you all for supporting us over the years and thank you Doris Page for introducing Hellebores to Vancouver Island!

Our Spring Plant Sale will be our first big event, April 23-24 and our Pollinator Event on June 25 will include a kickoff to our new plant sale Pollinators for the Planet.

Enjoy this time of year, to peruse seed catalogues and get outside for a walk-in nature to reduce stress, improve your mood and increase energy levels.

**Happy New Year** - a new year brings new hope and new gardening trends!

There is no denying that the coronavirus pandemic has made people who were stuck indoors due to lockdown restrictions channel their energy and creativity towards gardening.

Numerous Horticultural societies and experts release their predicted trends each year.

[RHS](https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/seasonal/2022-gardening-predictions) is my go-to for all things horticultural, and I have included an article below from Guy Barter, RHS Chief Horticulturist. (Original article here: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/seasonal/2022-gardening-predictions>)

Cheers to 2022!

Linda

### **"2022 gardening predictions: what trends will we see?"**

What a year 2021 has been for gardening! An icy spring, plant shortages, an upsurge of interest in grow-your-own and a peat ban. So what does 2022 have in store? Guy Barter gazes into his crystal ball.

In 2019, which seems like a lifetime ago, we were quietly satisfied with the advance of gardening into communities, families and, through houseplants, to a new generation. Then came covid, lockdowns, and a nation reeling with the effects of the pandemic. The response was to seek sanctuary in the great outdoors and we turned to gardening, gardens and plants for respite.

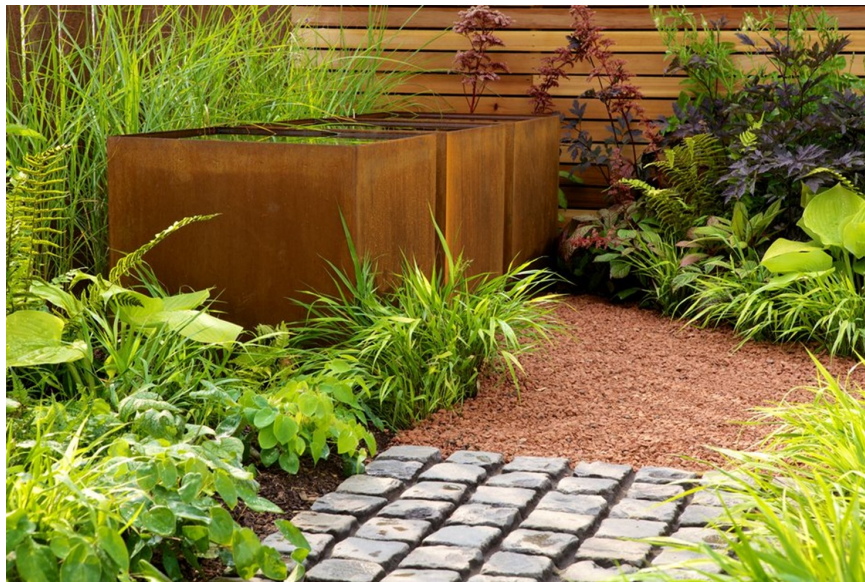


*"Home horticulture will never be the same again"*

*Guy Barter, RHS Chief Horticulturist*

People suddenly valued their neglected gardens, saw the potential in green spaces to help nature, found their well-being enhanced by plants and were comforted in uncertain times. Home horticulture will never be the same again - Here are some of my predictions for 2022.

### **Sustainability and a sales boom**



Re-used and recycled elements are finding a place in even the smartest urban gardens

The phenomenal surge in gardening during the initial pandemic period continues, with sales of gardening goods remaining high. After their first taste of success, new gardeners will be tempted to invest in everything from cold frames and raised beds to big ticket items such as conservatories, greenhouses and sheds.



However, with return to work and a resumption of commuting, time to garden will decrease. Time and labour-saving activities, products and services are likely to be especially popular; including growing kits, pre-planted hanging baskets, troughs, and garden maintenance services.

Gardeners will be less willing to use plastics, water, pesticides and will accept paying more for sustainable products and organically-grown garden plants and glasshouses rather than plastic greenhouses for example. The current supply chain crisis will encourage re-use, recycling and buying second hand.

### Edible evolution



*"Knowing where your food comes from and how it is produced is increasingly important to gardeners"*

[Growing your own](#) is an example of a long-term trend that evolves in waves. Firstly it was seed-raised vegetables, then fruit, then on to perennial vegetables and next to permanent or forest gardens. My colleague at RHS Garden Wisley, renowned fruit specialist Jim Arbury, tells me that there has been movement towards red-fleshed apples such as 'Rosette'. Not only are they very attractive, juicy and sweet, they are full of healthy anthocyanins too.





*Apple 'Rosette'*

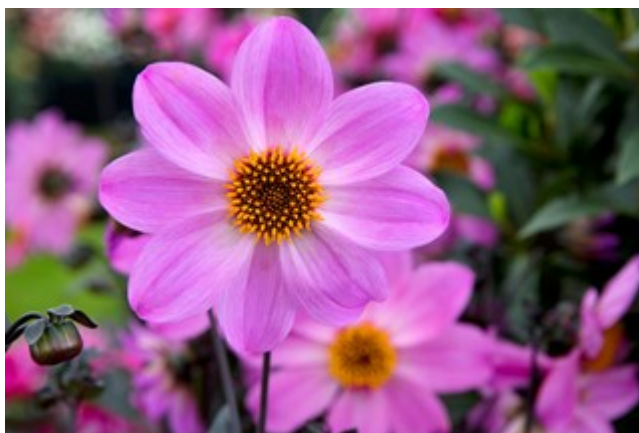
Coming up in 2022, we welcome more naturalistic, lower input gardening; growing edible crops with no digging, no fertiliser, little watering and a different approach to dealing with weeds, pests and diseases. Using this approach doesn't reduce yield and quality as much as traditional gardeners might expect, and proponents point to other aspects that they hold more important, such as environmental benefits. [Gardening for the Environment](#)

### **How we use our gardens**

Whilst alternative leisure activities have re-opened, many people are still wary of public indoor situations. This suggests that high levels of visiting gardens and garden centres will persist.

[Climate change](#) remains highly topical and with it, our national obsession with the weather. Activities that revolve around weather will remain important as shown by interest in RHS gardening advice on how to enhance gardening at each end of the growing season. "All weather"gardening is of interest the boom in gazebos and shelters during lockdown and subsequent shortages of garden furniture suggest this will continue.

### **An appetite for colourful plants**



*Dahlia 'MT New Pink Single'*



*Zinnia 'Pulcino Mixed'*

Many people have realised that their previously somewhat neglected gardens are rather under-planted. The new-found appetite for plants and planting is likely to continue, making use of the very wide range of easy to grow, quick-flowering and affordable offerings from the horticultural industry: these include clematis, hydrangeas and roses, for example.

The relative scarcity of strong colours in the recent autumn [RHS Chelsea Flower Show](#) suggests the tastemakers are still wedded to green. Pastel colours brought comfort in the troubling times of the last 18 months, but as people's confidence returns so will a taste for more strident tones of blooms.

Part of this is driven by more cut flowers being grown. Vibrant dahlias and

zinnias for example, have opened people's eyes to colour. Fuel costs will inhibit tender bedding plant production (pelargoniums and petunias, for example) but low-temperature plants such as plug-raised perennials will remain affordable.

### **Potted pleasures**



More time at home has cemented many people's love of houseplants

Houseplants, health and well-being remain deeply embedded in people's engagement with plants and gardens. Nurturing is a key factor for well-being and taking care of houseplants plays its part here. [Learn more about growing houseplants](#)

Having limited space to garden, even if the growing space is temporary, for example when renting a home, has played a part in helping boost houseplant growing. Shortages of potting compost in the past 18 months shows how container cultivation has surged as people literally make space

### **Eco-friendly gardening from the ground up**





*Letting lawns grow long for wildlife is a trend that shows no sign of abating*

Wildlife gardening has long been part of mainstream gardening, but increased awareness of the current biodiversity crisis has raised the profile of activities supporting native plant and animal species. Letting lawns grow is the latest example. [Grow a low-carbon wildflower meadow](#)

Long-lasting trends tend to develop as aspect after aspect seizes interest; with soil health having likely to come into greater focus for 2022."



## Events at HCP

### Welcome to HCP Amber!

Please join me in welcoming Amber Brown to the Event Coordinator role.

We will give her a few days to get up to speed and will be opening bookings on January 25th.





Happy new Year! What an exciting time to join the Gardens @ HCP as Events Coordinator! Connecting people with plants and finding respite from the dark days of winter while escaping the dreary covid clouds in paradise. I am so grateful for the opportunity to join this marvelous group of dedicated nature lovers and to help further enable community events through seed sharing, farmers markets, fest of fields, and of course to celebrate all the love and life's special events in these magical gardens. I am looking forward to helping you plan your special events, tailored to your specific needs, to make your event heart felt and memorable - whether that is your dream wedding, office party or nature retreat.

See you soon!

Amber



## 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.

Thank you to all who attended our pre-K learners programs, workshops, staff training, school tours, camps and events in 2021! We hope you can join us again for another meet up in our gardens where we learn, plant and grow together in 2022!



### Garden Nature Academy - Winter 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 8 Weeks: from January 25th to March 15th, 2022

**Time:** 9:00am to 11:30am

**Age:** 3 to 4 years

**Fee:** \$185/members, \$215/non-members (price is for full series)

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

### Garden Nature Academy - Spring Session

**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 Parents

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:** Every Thursday 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



### **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.

**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:** Saturday's, March 12 (Salad), April 9 (Herb, May 14 (Pizza), June 11 (Pollinator)

**Time:** 10:00 am - 11:30 am

**Age:** 5- 12 years

**Fee:** \$125/members for a 4 class session, \$140 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:** Saturday's, 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:** Saturday's, 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)**

A single seed is all it takes to grow a plant. Introduce or support a child/youth to grow their own vegetables and pollinator plants with help from this grow kit featuring all they need to get started. This is a fun way to follow the life cycle of a plant from a seed through to seed production and have fresh produce to use with the family!

**Age:** 5+ years, recommended

**Fee:** \$25

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

### **Teacup Fairy Gardens (KIT+VIDEO)**

Gardens come in all shapes and sizes. Get creative as you learn about the needs of little plants, and what better place to grow them than in an upcycled glass container? Choose a glass bowl, vase, jar or other container (up to 20cm) to upcycle and see what you can create! You provide the glass container and we provide the rest.

**Age:** 6+ years, recommended

**Fee:** \$25

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

### **Outdoor Fairy Gardens (KIT+VIDEO)**

These outdoor fairy gardens are suited for your deck, balcony or garden. The video will take participants through the steps to use an ornamental flowering plant as the base for this project. Then you will learn how to care for it in a small container. Next we get started designing and decorating the garden with provided natural and created elements as well as additional raw materials to create other fun decor. These miniature gardens provide a fun

reason to move your child's play outdoors this season and makes a great destination to check on during the summer and fall too!

**Age:** 5+ years, recommended

**Fee:** \$25

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

### **Fairy Furnishings (KIT+VIDEO)**

Making your own fairy garden furnishings can be fun and easy with a little expertise and guidance. In this kit and video package, we will take a walk together to forage natural materials that can be made into fun and functional furnishings for existing and future fairy gardens. We will explore doors, gates, transitions and theme related furnishings. Participants will receive a kit with instructions and supplies to make featured items and will be encouraged to source out their own special materials going forward. Imagination is a wonderful tool as we learn to create items for these playful and whimsical gardens!

**Age:** 5+ years, recommended

**Fee:** \$25

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

### **Terrarium Gardens for Kids (KIT+VIDEO)**

Gardens come in all shapes and sizes. Get creative as you learn about the needs of little plants, and what better place to grow them than in an upcycled glass container? Choose a glass bowl, vase, jar or other container (up to 20cm) to upcycle and see what you can create! You provide the glass container and we provide the rest, including a tropical plant, gravel, soil, and decor.

**Age:** 6+ years, recommended

**Fee:** \$25

**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)

Explore the gardens with your senses! Smell flowers, see bees, listen to the birds, touch the soil, and maybe even taste something delicious! No matter the season, there is always something to discover in the garden!

#### Garden Creatures (Preschool to 2)

Worms, snails, birds and snakes! Join us in the garden to discover all the animals that call this place home. Together, we will learn about who they are, what they need to survive, and how we can help their habitat.

#### Worms Aren't The Only Ones! (Preschool to Grade 5)

Worms aren't the only hard workers in the garden! Come explore the other animals, bacteria, and fungi that are breaking down organic matter and turning it into soil! Get ready to get your hands dirty!

#### School Gardens 101 (Preschool to Grade 7, Teacher workshops available)

Does your school garden have you stumped? Wondering what to plant and when? Come explore our educational garden or invite us to yours to learn about growing food for you, flowers for pollinators, and habitat for garden animals!

#### Water, Water Everywhere! (Grade 2 to Grade 7)

Do you ever wonder about water? How do plants drink with their roots? Where does water go after it rains? How does dirty water become clean? Come learn about the vital role of water in the gardens, the nearby wetlands, and the watersheds we live in!

### **Programs offered March to June**

#### All You Seed is Love (Preschool to Grade 5)

In this engaging hand-on program, students will learn about the plant life cycle through seed starting techniques, transplanting, and the basics of plant

propagation. Each student will have the opportunity to get their hands dirty in the soil and take home their planted seeds!

### Ethnobotany Explorations (Grades 2 - 7)

Join us in WSÁNEĆ territory to learn about the cultural and ecological importance of native plants and ecosystems. Together, we will walk the Ethnobotany Trail, learn about the indigenous names and uses of plants, and discuss the importance of native ecosystems as we navigate our climate crisis.

### **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](mailto:ypschoools@hcp.ca) or visit [www.hcp.ca](http://www.hcp.ca) for more information.*



### **HCP Home Learners Program - Habitat Series (*Registration now open for ages 5-7 in 2022!*)**

Calling all home learners! HCP is excited to offer a program just for you! Come explore the different habitats in and around the gardens while connecting to other home learners in your community. Through hands-on activities, games, and crafts, we will discover the many plants and animals that live in neighbouring wetlands, forests, meadows, and of course, a backyard garden! Please note, this is a drop-off program. See you at The Gardens!

**Dates:** Fridays for 4 Weeks: from February 4 - 25, 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](#) or Phone (250) 479-6162

### **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](#)



## **Community Education Workshops**

### **Attending classes during Covid.**

Thanks to everyone who has registered for a class and has been patient while we made adjustments to meet provincial health orders. Our priority is to keep our participants and instructors safe during this challenging time. However, we do hope to keep bringing you exciting workshops and classes!

If you are registering for a class, please note that we now require proof of full vaccination and facemasks. Occasionally classes may need to be rescheduled or moved online via zoom. We need to adapt and grow, just like our plants have with the unusual weather this past month!

If you are immune compromised or uncomfortable with potential changes in class delivery or scheduling, then please consider not signing up for in-person classes right now. There will be more opportunities in future and we look forward to seeing you soon!

### **Introducing the Backyard Farmer Programs**



This series of new programs at the HCP will teach you how to turn your backyard into a productive paradise! Participants will learn how to use a small urban outdoor space to produce a variety of fruit, vegetables, flowers and even honey crops. (We plan to add a Backyard Chickens program next year.) Learn nature friendly, cost-effective methods to grow your own! Plus, you will receive a certificate of completion for each program you complete. Currently we have three programs under the Backyard Farmer Series:

[The Backyard Farmer - Urban Food Gardens](#) - Program full, [interest list](#) being taken for 2023.

[The Backyard Farmer - Cut Flower Gardens](#) - Starts March 7, spaces still available.

The Backyard Farmer - Beekeeping - Starts in April, interest list open [HERE](#).



### **The Backyard Farmer - Cut Flower Gardens**

New Program! 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](#)



### 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: January 22.

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](#)



### Willow Chair Workshop with Andrew Kent

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.

February 2 sold out. Please sign up for the interest list [HERE](#) to get a notice when additional dates are set.



### Beginner Watercolour Workshop Series with Richard Wong

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](#)





Basketry workshops with Joan are held both in-person at the HCP and online via zoom. Both options are extremely popular and sell out quickly. The next set of classes will start in February. To receive updates on classes and registration, sign up to be on the Basketry Interest List [HERE](#)

## 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
- Free admission, free parking, or other discounts at participating gardens in the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program



## Guest Article

### Viaduct Flats Wetland: more than just a scenic backdrop

- by Marian McCoy, HCP Director

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is World Wetlands Day, and what a great opportunity to showcase our very own Viaduct Flats wetland in HCP's Conservation Area!

Many visitors to HCP don't realize that the scenic pond to the south of the gardens, and the lands that surround it, form the major part of the 42.3 hectares (104.5 acres) that HCP manages.

In the mid-1990s, some 20 years after the HCP was established, it was agreed that the area outside of the 3.8 hectare demonstration gardens would be rehabilitated and managed as greenspace. A primary reason for this decision was beavers.

There was not always a Viaduct Flats wetland as we know it today. Through the '80s, HCP leased out the Viaduct Flats lands for agriculture. The streams and seasonal standing water in the area were repeatedly trenched, drained, and cultivated for potatoes and daffodils (the legacy of the latter is ample all around the wetland in springtime).



Photo: Hoke Holcomb

Potato farming at Viaduct Flats  
before the site was flooded

Around 1993, not long after the agriculture lease expired, beavers dammed the outflow stream, named *Goward Springs Creek* or *Viaduct Creek*, depending on who you ask. Thanks to the beavers, water levels rose and remained year 'round, resulting in establishment of excellent habitat for aquatic and wetland plants, birds, and other wildlife. Viaduct Flats quickly became known as a migratory waterfowl hotspot!

To retain the habitat and the new wetland, HCP installed two weirs near where *Goward Springs Creek* exits the wetland. The weirs provide the same function as the beaver dam, with the added benefits of relatively stable water level and downstream flow. A covenant agreement between HCP, District of Saanich, and the Victoria Natural History Society was established to ensure preservation of the wetland and lands immediately surrounding it. Any work in this covenant area requires agreement by all three parties.

Viaduct Flats wetland is fed by five small streams, including the one flowing through Takata Garden. Not far downstream, near Quick's Bottom, *Goward Springs Creek* joins the salmon-bearing Colquitz River on its way to the ocean and estuary at Cuthbert-Holmes Park and Portage Inlet.

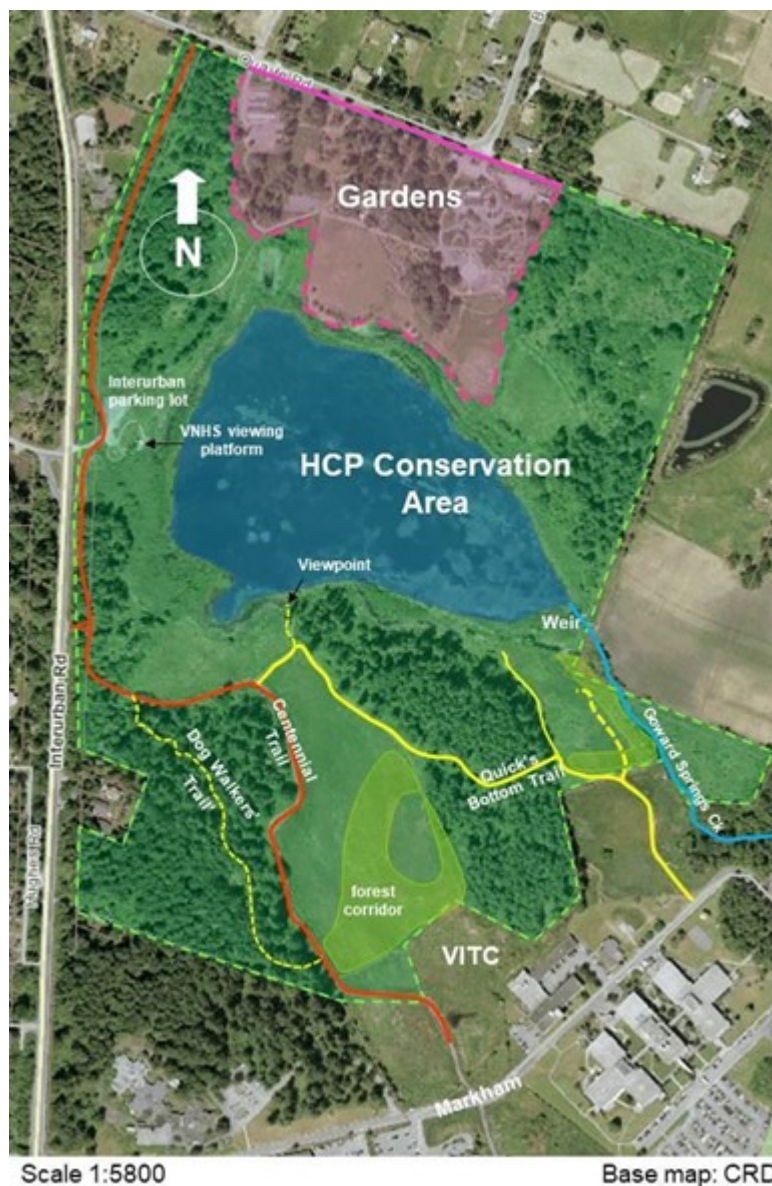
The Viaduct Flats wetland supports dozens of songbird, waterfowl, and other bird species. Bald eagles, ravens, ospreys, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawk,



and Cooper's hawk are regular visitors, hunting voles, shrews, and other prey in the upslope meadows.

Since the late 1990s, volunteers have spent many hundreds of hours of sweat, toil, and camaraderie in the Conservation Area, removing invasive plants and planting hundreds of native trees and shrubs that are suited to this area and climate, such as Garry oak, arbutus, Oregon ash, Douglas-fir, Western red-cedar, cottonwood, alder, trembling aspen, and bigleaf maple. The focus has been re-establishment of vegetation along *Goward Springs Creek*, and two forest corridors that will provide habitat and connectivity between the remaining second-growth forest stands.

Next time you're walking Saanich's Centennial Trail, and the connecting HCP trails in the Conservation Area, take a moment to appreciate the many ecological services provided by the wetland – and the beavers that created it.

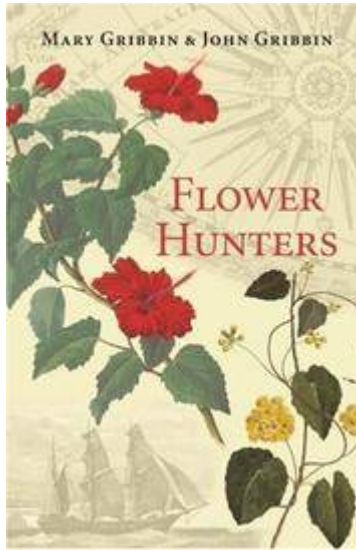




*If you'd like to know more about the Conservation Area and volunteer opportunities, stay tuned for future guided walks as part of our Community Education program. Discussion will range from biodiversity to invasive species to climate change adaptation.*



## The Bookend



### Flower Hunters

By Mary Gribbin and John Gribbin

Sometimes when we face challenges it is helpful to look outside ourselves for inspiration. History and biography can show us how others have dealt with struggles and persevered with strength and determination. In *Flower Hunters*, Mary Gribbin and John Gribbin share the stories of men and women who did just that. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries the foundations for the new science of botany were being laid. These eleven intrepid explorers traveled the globe and risked all to paint, collect seeds and plants in the wild. They faced unexplored country, rugged mountains, impenetrable jungles, hunger, disease and local hostility.

Robert Fortune battled pirates to smuggle tea plants out of China. Carl Peter Thunberg passed himself off as a Dutch physician in order to travel around Japan. And Marianne North visited almost every continent to paint beautiful and scientifically valuable records of the plants she saw. Douglas Fir, monkey puzzle tree, orchids and azaleas are just a few of the thousands of plants brought back by these adventurous early botanists.

'Flower Hunters tells of their lives, their adventures, their scientific quest, and the lasting impact of their travels in our familiar garden plants.' 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 out our [online catalogue](#) to see our entire book collection, available 24/7.

Questions? Email [library@hcp.ca](mailto: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**

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