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**Horticulture Centre
of the Pacific**



March 2023 eNews

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Everyday



A Message from our General Manager



WHAT'S HAPPENING ONSITE?!?

Our plant sale area is getting a face-lift!

Thanks to donations from our donors and our hard-working construction volunteers, this new space will be ready for the healthy plants propagated by Giles in our polyhouses right now!



A Message from our Head Gardener

Testing seed for Viability

We start thinking about starting seeds this time of year, and if you are like me you have envelopes of seeds you collected or open seed packets and are not sure if they are still viable.

Most seeds will be viable for 3-4 years if they've been stored under optimal conditions- a dark, cool location. I store mine in a sealed glass jar in the refrigerator.

Water test: Take your seeds and put them in a glass of water. Let them sit for about 15 minutes. If the seeds sink, they are still viable, if they float, they most likely will not germinate. In my opinion, is not the best way to check your seeds. For more reliable results, try the germination test.

Germination test: Take some of your seeds, preferably 10, and place them in between two pieces of damp paper towel, place in a zip-up plastic bag and seal it, this helps to keep the towel moist and protected. Then refer to the seed packet or website for optimal germination requirement(light/dark, warm/cool) and check the seeds once a day to see if they have begun to germinate and/or to check the moisture of the paper towel. If it needs more water, carefully mist the towel keeping it damp, and keep them away from direct sunlight. If 7 out of 10 seeds germinate, then you have 70% germination which is good.



A guideline for seed longevity from our friends at West Coast Seed:

Vegetable seeds that are considered “long-lived” include the Brassicas ([broccoli](#), [Brussels sprouts](#), [cauliflower](#), [cabbage](#), [collards](#), and [kohlraabi](#)) the [chicory](#) group (endive, escarole, radicchio), [cucumber](#), [kale](#), [lettuce](#), [melons](#), [mustards](#), [peppers](#), [radish](#), [rutabaga](#), [sunflower](#), [tomato](#) and [turnips](#). Stored correctly, these seeds should maintain a good viability for more than five years.

“Medium-lived” varieties

include [beans](#), [carrots](#), [celery](#), [chard](#), [eggplant](#), [parsley](#), [peas](#), [pumpkin](#), and [squash](#). These varieties, if properly stored, should last up to five years.

“Short-lived” seeds include [corn](#), [leek](#), [onion](#), [parsnip](#), and [spinach](#). These are generally not recommended for more than one season, although they may maintain acceptable germination rates in the second year.

Pelleted seeds should be bought fresh each year.

SAVE THE DATE!



SPRING PLANT SALE

APRIL 29 & 30
9am - 4pm

Master Gardeners on site | 10% off for members
Many unique plants propagated from the Gardens

The Gardens at HCP
505 Quayle Road
Victoria, BC

FREE ENTRY

Visit our website
www.hcp.ca



Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

"In the spring at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." Margaret Atwood

It has been fantastic to see so many of you working in the gardens, digging in the dirt, and enjoying the fresh spring air!

The Gardens at HCP is supported by the contributions of over 250 amazing volunteers! Our hard-working team of volunteers work in all areas including gardening, conservation, office support, children's projects, and special events. We are now accepting volunteer applications for our spring and summer volunteer roles. For more information, please contact Kim, Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@hcp.ca



Giles' Jottings

I am a little nervous of declaring that Spring has begun.

I feel that we have had more cold snaps this winter than in recent years and to assume that we are finished with the cold weather is surely tempting fate. But for a couple of days in a row the cold night temperatures have given way to partially blue skies and some very agreeable sunshine, getting warm enough to necessitate removing my winter jacket. What a nice way to start the week.

And the lengthening days have encouraged many spring plants to try exposing their heads above the ground. When last week's snow finally melted, I was pleased to find that the snowdrops had already started popping up and throughout the Winter Garden and the Lily beds extensive carpets of pendulous white bells were brightening up the cold winter soil. Furthermore, it is not necessarily well-known but in the Fusion Garden, just across the main path from the Rhododendron Garden, we have a fascinating collection of many different snowdrop varieties that definitely merits a visit. The common snowdrop, *Galanthus nivalis*, is a perennial spring bulb that produces two narrow grey-green leaves and a flower stem supporting the familiar white hanging bell. The flower is essentially formed of six petals, or more accurately tepals, three longer outer ones and then three shorter ones that make up the inner 'skirts' and these inner skirts usually have some sort of greenish V-shaped marking.



Galanthus nivalis 'Atkinsii'; *Galanthus nivalis*; *Helleborus orientalis*; *Galanthus* 'Dionysus'; *Calluna vulgaris* 'Zoe' (left to right)

But looking at the different varieties one comes to appreciate how even such a simple flower as the snowdrop can vary, in size, colour, number of petals and variability of the green markings.

The collection we have at the HCP contains both cultivars of *G. nivalis* and also some of the twenty or more different species of *Galanthus* found worldwide.

Unfortunately, many of the varieties have already been attacked by slugs so I have not been able to get very good photos but hopefully in the coming years the groupings will develop and expand and become strong enough that the odd slug will not be such a threat.

Of the *G. nivalis* cultivars one or two stand out; *G. nivalis* 'Straffan' is a late flowering variety and, unusually, produces two flowering stems rather than one. *Galanthus* 'George Elwes' is a particularly tall variety and its green markings run all the way down the outside of the inner petals. *Galanthus* 'Elfin' is, as its name suggests, a miniature variety, slightly honey-scented with a pale green marking on the tips of the outer petals. And *G. nivalis* 'Dionysus' is one of a group known as the Greatorex Doubles, hybrids of *Galanthus plicatus* and *Galanthus nivalis* 'Flore Pleno', created by one of the first snowdrop breeders, Heyrick Greatorex, in the 1950's. *G. 'Dionysus'* is distinguished by spectacular inner skirts with double the number of petals and extensive green markings. You can also see a couple of quite different species; *Galanthus woronowii* is from north-eastern Turkey and most noticeably its leaves are a bright glossy green colour while *Galanthus reginae-olgae* (Queen Olga's snowdrop) has its origins in Sicily and, in contrast to most of the others, flowers in the fall.



However, though I have been somewhat captivated by the snowdrops, already a wonderful assortment of other spring bulbs and perennials are lighting up the Gardens with their colourful displays. Walking up the hill from the Farm Garden the lower beds of the Doris Page Garden are on your left, followed by the Heather Garden beds, and they are a delight, awash with yellows, pinks and oranges. Facing the new Crevice Garden are several attractive heathers flowering in pink and white and yellow but one that caught my eye is *Calluna vulgaris* 'Zoe' that has a range of fiery colour from red to orange. Yet to my surprise, when I investigated further, I discover it is a heather that was bred to be non-flowering and all that powerful bright colour is its foliage alone.

A few steps further and the lower Winter Garden beds are full of crocuses and dwarf irises, yellow primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) and purple hellebores. Several mounds of *Hebe* 'Silver Dollar' are looking beautiful, their stems evolving from grey to pale green and then pink at the tips. And these pink shades are mirrored by heathers further up the hill, the mature plants creating interwoven pillows of whites and pinks and mauves. In the Lily Garden there are vivid purple *Anemone blanda* and buttery yellow *Helleborus* 'Spring Promise Sally'.

It is impossible to keep track of every emerging plant but that is why walking around the Gardens is such a joy; every day there is something new to see, another bud that is opening, more coloured petals squeezing their way out into the sunshine.



Gift Shop



Many new items, please stop in when you are in the gardens next!

"We are looking for paper bags with handles again! Our preferences are for small and medium sizes, but we are happy for any paper bags you're willing to part with. Please drop them off at our front office. Thank you!"





OPEN

WEEKDAYS 10AM - 3PM

WEEKENDS 9AM - 3PM

charlottteandthequail.ca | 250.590.6346



Pacific Horticulture College





The full-time 2023 Certificate Program and part-time 2023 Level 1 Apprenticeship Programs are in full swing here at PHC. February classes for the Certificate Program included Plant ID, Practical Skills, Botany, Introduction to Business Practices, and Pruning. Of course, there are plentiful plants to prune at the Gardens at HCP, but Pruning class also takes place at several off site locations. This year the Certificate Program students had pruning classes at the Government House Gardens, The University of Victoria, Abkhazi Garden and Starling Lane Vineyard. Many thanks to these organizations for hosting our students! The Certificate students can look forward to Irrigation, Turfgrass Management, and Landscape Design classes in the month ahead. The Landscape Design course spans over the majority of the 10-month program and includes the Landscape Design Student Projects. This opportunity is open to the public and chosen applicants will receive 2-4 landscape design possibilities for their garden. For more information and how to apply, please read the [blog post](#) on our website for more information.

It's hard to believe that our part-time Level 1 Apprenticeship Program students are already halfway through their program! Upcoming classes for the Level 1 students include Communication Skills, Botany, and Turfgrass Management. Last week the students assisted with the installation of the new HCP

Community Education Garden in Grading and Drainage class. Due to the nature of their schedule, we don't see the part-time program students as often as the full-time program students, but we are so grateful for their contributions to the gardens in their time spent here!

Prepare your applications! Program applications are opening soon. Please see below for more information:

2024 Landscape Horticulture Certificate Program

Program Dates: January 15 to November 12, 2024

Application Opening: March 13, 2023

Application Deadline: November 1, 2023

2024 Level 1 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Program

Program Dates: January 22 to May 22, 2024

Application Opening: April 17, 2023

Application Deadline: December 11, 2023

2023 Level 2 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Program

Program Dates: August 8 to December 14, 2023

Application Opening: March 27, 2023

Application Deadline: July 17, 2023

2023 Level 3 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Program

Program Dates: October 30 to December 8, 2023

Application Opening: April 3, 2023

Application Deadline: October 2, 2023

2023 & 2024 Level 4 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Programs

2023 Part-Time Program:

Program Dates: August 9 to December 16, 2023

Application Opening: March 20, 2023

Application Deadline: July 17, 2023

2024 Full-Time Program:

Program Dates: January 8 to February 16, 2024

Application Opening: April 24, 2023

Application Deadline: December 11, 2023

For more information, please visit our [website](#)

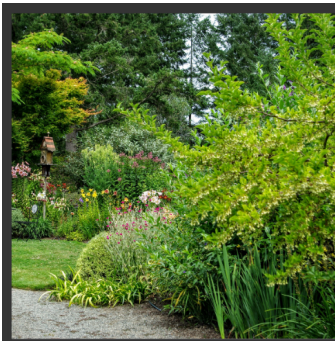


Community Education Workshops

[Click to view a list of copy of upcoming adult workshops and classes](#)

Plant Identification & Culture Workshops with Jane Tice

Next dates Saturday, March 18 & April 15 - 1:00pm - 4:00pm



community education plant identification & culture workshops

WITH JANE TICE



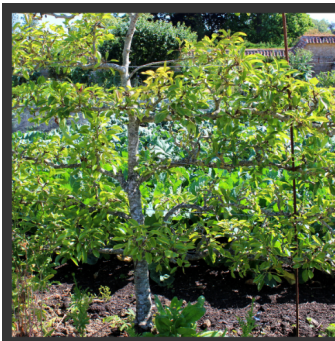
If you are a new gardener, new to Victoria or just want to brush up on your plant knowledge, this is a great place to get started. This is a monthly class where participants will be introduced to 20 new plants which fit with our local climate. Plants are selected for our local growing conditions and the value they bring to the garden. Part of the class will be in the classroom and part will be out in the gardens to view the plants for that month. Dress for the weather and bring something to take notes.

HCP Members \$40 / Non-Members \$50

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Introduction to Fruit Trees

Sunday, March 19 - 9:00am - 12:00pm



introduction to fruit trees workshop

WITH GORDON MACKAY

This course participants will be introduced to the pruning fundamentals and concepts for fruit trees, including apple, pear and the stone fruits. We will look at summer versus winter pruning and pruning old, mature trees versus young newly established trees.

Tree planting and early training will be covered along with various methods of growing fruit trees e.g. tall spindle, dwarf pyramid, ufo etc. and also the choice of tree rootstocks. These terms will be explained along with many more.

There will be ample opportunity to ask questions in this class and participants will have an opportunity to spend some time in the garden looking at fruit trees and viewing demonstrations of the various pruning cuts recommended for fruit trees.

HCP Members \$40/Non-Members \$50

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Pruning For Beginners Series

Mar 22, 29 - 6:30pm - 9:00pm & Apr 8th 9:00am - 12:00pm



Learn the basics of pruning with Adam Miller, a Red Seal Certified Horticulturist and pruning instructor at the Pacific Horticulture College. In this course you will learn not only how, but why (and if) pruning should be done. Through in-class lecture, group work, instructor demonstration and hands-on work you'll gain confidence in your ability to tackle basic pruning tasks in your garden.

2 classroom sessions and 1 hands-on class

HCP Members \$135/Non-Members \$155

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Basket Weaving with Rush and Soft Materials

Saturday, March 25 - 9:30am - 4:00pm



We will explore weaving baskets with soft materials such as rush, sedge and flower leaves such as iris and daylily leaves.

Fees: HCP Members \$120/Non-Members \$140

SOLD OUT - Sign up for the [Basketry Enthusiast List](#) to get notified when new classes are added.

Online: Watercolor Meditations on Place: Cedar

Wednesday, March 29 - 6:00pm - 7:30pm



Join us for an evening of meditative painting, inspired by our neighbor the Cedar tree. Let's practice the art of noticing and explore painting as a way to tune into the present moment. This live online workshop offers guided watercolor painting prompts and an introduction to Cedar through an artist's lens.

Marisa Pahl is an artist living in East Vancouver whose work is grounded in human relationships with place. This workshop is part of a year-long series, where each month a different coastal tree of the Salish Sea is featured.

Participant Fee \$38

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping

Saturday, April 1 - 9:00am - 12:00pm



Have you ever wanted to start keeping bees but didn't know where to start? Would you like to see improved fruit production in your garden along with the potential of having your own honey? Learn the basics of beekeeping with Gordon Mackay.

In this workshop we will cover the basics of how to start your first colony. We will look at the various parts of the hive and what is involved in setting up and maintaining your colony in your first year. We will talk about some of the potential challenges and ways to mitigate these. The favourite plants that honey bees are attracted to will also be covered.

HCP Members \$30/Non-Members \$40

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

The Art of Bonsai Series

Sundays - 1:00pm - 4:00pm, April 2, May 7 & September 17



the art of bonsai series

WITH MARK PATERSON

Learn the art of Bonsai with Mark Paterson who is currently the bonsai artist at Royal Roads University. Mark has been practicing and teaching bonsai for 20 years. In this 3 part course you will learn all about bonsai! In the first session we explore what is unique about bonsai, and several ways to make bonsai. In the second class we will meet your new bonsai friend. We will design and plan the path your bonsai will take for best results, as well as learn several exotic bonsai techniques. In the final class we will implement the design portion of your plan, sending you home with a delightful looking bonsai. Note - the plant does not go home with you until the 3rd class.

HCP Members \$135/Non-Members \$155

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Little Gourd Owl Terrarium

Friday, April 14 - 10:00am - 11:30am



little gourd owl terrarium workshop

WITH SHEILA WEITMAN

Come enjoy a moment of nature-based creativity as we paint an individual owl using dried gourds with horticulture therapist Sheila Weitman. Perched in a

non-breakable terrarium and surrounded by natural found materials, this little gourd owl terrarium will add some quiet whimsy to a special spot in your home.

HCP Members \$45/Non-Members \$50

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Pretty in Pink - Dot Mandala Painting Workshop

Saturday, April 15 - 10:00am - 11:30am



In this class participants will learn the basics of dot mandala painting. You will be painting on a smooth molded four inch stone. You will learn how to set up the pattern with step by step instructions as you paint along with Susan. This class is perfect for beginners as Susan will share many tips and tricks along the way.

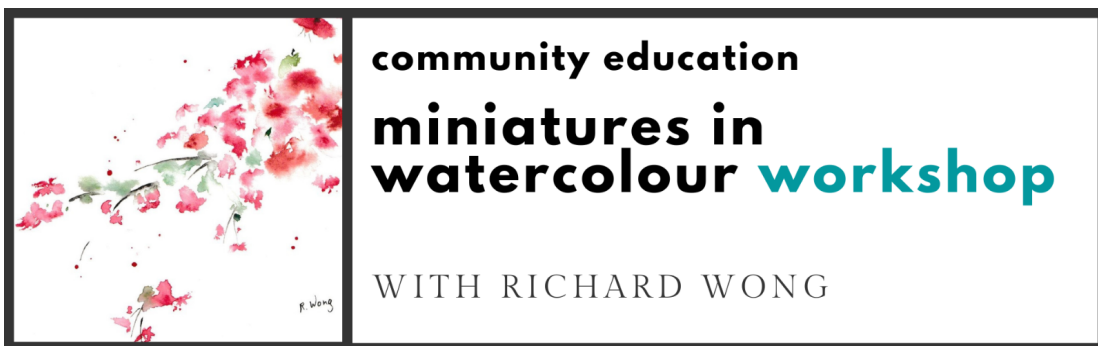
Bring an apron and your glasses if you need them.

HCP Members \$45/Non-Members \$50

Sold Out! Add your name to the [interest list](#) and receive an email when new dates are added for this class.

Miniatures in Watercolour Workshop

Sunday, April 16 - 1:00pm - 4:00pm



Join Richard Wong in an all new miniatures workshop. Richard usually teaches only one of these classes annually. However, due to the popularity of the format and student requests, he will teach a miniatures class of about 3-4 generic subjects that the student can use as greeting cards for all occasions throughout the year.

Class is suitable for all levels including beginners. Register early for your seat as Richard's classes usually sell out.

\$80 supplies not included - student brings their own / \$90 supplies included

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Rustic Building - Small Table Workshop

Wednesday, April 19 - 9:00am - 3:00pm



community education

rustic building - small table workshop

WITH ANDREW KENT

If you have attended a Willow Chair Workshop with Andrew Kent and are keen to try another project, this is the workshop for you. Anyone interested in exploring rustic building while making something functional and useful would enjoy this opportunity. In one day, participants build one Cedar top tripod table and one small or medium sized Slate top table with rustic builder Andrew Kent. All tools and materials provided.

HCP Members \$200/Non-Members \$230

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Companion Planting Workshop

Sunday, April 23 - 1:00pm - 3:30pm



community education

companion planting workshop

WITH RYAN BARTON

Have you ever wondered if your veggie garden has cliques? Who are best friends and who are arch nemeses? Well that is where companion planting comes in! In this class you will learn which plants benefit each other, what ways they do so, and what plants negatively affect others' growth. This class will help you get the most out of your garden, while encouraging biodiversity and sustainability practices.

Enjoy a fun and engaging class with Ryan Barton, PHC graduate and landscaper.

HCP Members \$30/Non-Members \$40

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Edible & Medicinal Herbs for the Home Herbalist - Spring Workshop

Sunday, April 23 - 9am - 12pm



Are you interested in herbalism? Curious about the power of plants and how to utilize them? Come join Registered Holistic Nutritionist and Herbalist Racheal Schnarr for an engaging session as we explore the traditional uses of medicinal and edible spring plants. This class offers educational, practical, and creative components as we learn about, taste and create with spring herbs. You will leave with your own custom spring herbal tea blend as well as the knowledge, recipes and resources to practice herbalism in your own kitchen. This class is suitable for beginners.

HCP Members \$45/Non-Members \$55

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Online: Watercolor Meditations on Place: Bitter Cherry

Wednesday, April 26 - 6:00pm - 7:30pm



Join us for an evening of meditative painting, inspired by our neighbor the Cedar tree. Let's practice the art of noticing and explore painting as a way to tune into the present moment. This live online workshop offers guided watercolor painting prompts and an introduction to Cedar through an artist's lens.

Marisa Pahl is an artist living in East Vancouver whose work is grounded in human relationships with place. This workshop is part of a year-long series, where each month a different coastal tree of the Salish Sea is featured.

Participant Fee \$38

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Papermaking with Wild, Invasive and Garden Plants

Saturday, May 27 - 10am - 3pm



Participants will learn about local examples of plants suitable for preparation by hand beating, or by using a kitchen blender. Following this they will hand-beat pre-cooked invasive Daphne/Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*) fibers to a fine pulp. There will also be smaller quantities of prepared pulp from common wild and cultivated plants for experimentation. Each participant will have their own station with supplied equipment to make Western style paper. Papers will be dried and pressed in the days following the workshop and be ready for pickup up at HCP.

Papermaking is a wet process. If you have one, bring a waterproof apron, and wear shoes that can get wet.

This workshop is at a beginner level. There will be a handout with a list of resources.

HCP Members \$45/Non-Members \$55

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn more or to register online

Coming this Summer! Hypertufa Containers Workshop

[Sign up](#) to go on the interest list and receive a notice when registration opens.



Children & Youth Programs

School and Youth Programs

Look what is happening this season at HCP Kids!

- **VOLUNTEER/STAFF** - opportunities for youth looking for experience working with children for our JMG Garden Camps this Spring Break. Contact youthprograms@hcp.ca for details. Deadline March 15 to apply
- **EARTH DAY in The Gardens** for local educators and their students Grades 3-8 on April 21, 2023
- **SCHOOLS** [HERE](#)
- **HOME LEARNERS'** [HERE](#)
- **SPRING PRE-K LEARNERS** [HERE](#) (GNA, Stories in the Garden, Garden Friends, Science Friends, Garden Club)
- **SPRING WORKSHOPS** [HERE](#)
- **SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS** - April 2 (Family Membership holders), April 4 (public)
- **BIRTHDAYS** [HERE](#)

EARTH DAY IN THE GARDENS

"Theme: Invest in Our Planet"

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

**REGISTER YOUR
CLASS TODAY!**

youthprograms@hcp.ca



Family Day Event at HCP

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather on Monday, February 20 and joined our HCP Family for a day of activities, exhibits, backyard birding and so many other memorable experiences. We welcomed over 250 people into our gardens along with our partners; Sierra Club, Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Victoria Compost Education Centre, Victoria Master Gardeners, Kate from Bees Please and Selina Jorgensen of COVE Studio. Thank you to Stefano at Mosi's for providing their AMAZING cookies for the canteen, and the HCP volunteers and friends who helped us welcome our guests and create wonderful experiences for the children and their families who stopped by our

HCP Kids booth! Looking forward to seeing you along with your friends and their families again next year!.

Did you know that ...that our School & Youth Program department offers year round programming to connect educators, families, students, and children with plants and our natural systems? This includes workshops, home learner programs, school programs for young learners up to senior high, mentorship for school gardens, pre-k programs for participants and their families, as well as birthday parties, events and family learning? Our gardens are amazing, and we value your support to help spread the word!



Stories in the Garden

Imagine a gentle nature walk with your child to calm and inspire you both! This rain or shine outdoor program on our endless pathways provides us with many social and nature connections. This is followed by a storytime that encourages the development of listening skills and small group interactions. Plan to bring along your favourite story blanket and snack to enjoy during the story with your child and invite a friend. Minimum registration is required. Please share word of this engaging program with your friends and make it a play date!

- **Date:** Tuesdays, April 4 - 18, 2023
- **Time:** 11:00 am - 12:00 am
- **Age:** 3 + years recommended
- **Fee:** \$37.50/3 classes or \$30/3 classes with a Family Membership
- **Register:** [HERE](#)

- **Date:** Tuesdays, May 9 - June 13, 2023
- **Time:** 11:00 - 12:00 pm
- **Ages:** 3+ years recommended
- **Fee:** \$75/6 classes or \$60/6 classes with a Family Membership
- **Register:** [HERE](#)

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, sharing circle and story time. Bring a snack and picnic blanket for story time and dress for the weather.

- **Date:** Thursdays, April 6 - 20, 2023
 - **Time:** 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
 - **Age:** 3 - 6 years
 - **Fee:** \$55/3 classes or \$45/3 classes Family Membership rate
 - **Register:** [HERE](#)
-
- **Date:** Thursdays, May 11 - June 15, 2023
 - **Time:** 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
 - **Ages:** 3 - 6 years
 - **Fee:** \$110/6 classes or \$90/6 classes with a Family Membership
 - **Register:** [HERE](#)

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 adventure time to explore the many pathways throughout our space, story time and craft. Pack a snack and picnic blanket for story time and dress for the weather.

- **Date:** Tuesdays, April 4 - 18, 2023
 - **Time:** 9:00 am - 10:30 am
 - **Age:** 3 - 6 years
 - **Fee:** \$60/3 classes or \$50/3 classes Family Membership rate
 - **Register:** [HERE](#)
-
- **Date:** Tuesdays, May 9 - June 13, 2023
 - **Time:** 9:00 am - 10:30 am
 - **Ages:** 3 - 6 years
 - **Fee:** \$120/6 classes or \$100/6 classes Family Membership rate
 - **Register:** [HERE](#)

Fairy Garden Workshop - 3 dates, 3 themes

Join us for some fun and creative time as we enter the world of fairy garden making! Your child will be introduced to garden design as we visit various gardens looking for inspiration, collecting items in nature to create furnishings with. and followed by a hands-on lesson to make their own garden to take home. These miniature gardens offer hours of play potential for children of all ages. This workshop will include an indoor garden version suited to keeping in a child's room. Plant care, planting techniques, and furnishing making will all be featured. Consider signing up with your child and making one of your own!

- **Theme:** Mushroom Hollow
- **Date:** Saturday, April 15, 2023
- **Time:** 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
- **Age:** 4+ years (6 and under must be accompanied by a adult)
- **Fee:** \$30/child, \$25/accompanying adult or second child
- **Register:** [HERE](#)

- **Theme:** Blossom Lane
- **Date:** Saturday, May 13, 2023
- **Time:** 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
- **Age:** 4+ years (6 and under must be accompanied by an adult)
- **Fee:** \$30/participant, \$25/accompanying adult or second child
- **Register:** [HERE](#)

- **Theme:** Sweets Retreat
- **Date:** May 27 , 2023
- **Time:** 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
- **Age:** 4+ years (6 and under must be accompanied by an adult)
- **Fee:** \$30/participant, \$25/accompanying adult or second child
- **Register:** [HERE](#)

Terrarium Gardens

Gardening with tropicals and succulents is an easy way for children to use their creativity to make these miniature gardens. We will learn about the individual needs of these interesting plants and create a safe environment for them to grow in while using a glass container that is being reused or upcycled. These make great gifts! (Please note there is a minimum registration for this program to run.)

- **Theme:** SeaScapes
- **Date:** Saturday, April 22, 2023
- **Time:** 10:00 am - 11:30 am

- **Age:** 5+ years
- **Fee:** \$30/participant
- **Register:** [HERE](#)

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 weekly class will have us in this amazing teaching garden where we grow our own food crops. Hope you can join us with your pre-k learner or drop-off (or join) your school age child. There are lots of takeaways, including seeds, transplants and more! Please pack your child's own garden gloves if you have some and bring along a water bottle (and snack if needed:)

- **Date:** Saturday's, April 8 - June 3, 2023 (no Class April 29)
- **Time:** 9:30 am - 11:00 am
- **Age:** 3 - 14 years
- **Fee:** \$120/ 9 weeks
- **Register:** [HERE](#)

Pro D Day Camp Dates 2023:

- **Date:** May 19
- **Times:** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- **Ages:** 5 to 12 years (school age)
- **Fee:** \$40/child

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

Spring Break Camp Dates:

Week 1 - *Now FULL!*

Week 2 - *Now FULL!*

Summer Camps

These JMG (Junior Master Gardener) Camps & Garden Arts Camps feature an outdoor program that includes time in our very own HCP Kids Teaching Garden where we grow food, learn to support natural systems and enjoy the many wilderness areas surrounding us! We also learn about using natural

materials and resources for artistic projects and garden art too! Space is limited to 16 participants in each camp.

Summer Camp Dates:

- Week 1 – July 3-7 (5 day, full day) \$185
- Week 2 – July 10-14 (5 day, full day) \$185
- Week 3 – July 17-21 (5 day, full day) \$185
- Week 4 – July 24-28 (5 day, half day) \$95
- Week 5 – August 1- 4 (4 day, full day) \$150
- Week 6 – August 8-11 (4 day, half day) \$80
- Week 7 – August 14-18 (5 day, full day) \$185

Summer camp registration opens April 4, 2023 (public) and April 2 (for Family Membership holders)



Birthday Parties

HCP offers private workshop bookings to celebrate your child's birthday in our gardens throughout the year! We host outdoors (rain or shine, year round) and offer an indoor option and covered areas to temper the seasonal weather. Contact our Youth Programs Coordinator for more information and to book youthprograms@hcp.ca.

Here is what parents have to say ...

"I just wanted to thank you for everything you did to make (our daughter's) party so special. We really lucked out with some beautiful weather, and everyone had a lovely time. Thank you for being such a gracious host, we really look forward to seeing you again soon."

"Thanks again for creating such a special birthday for our child. He loved every part of it! And the kids at school were all talking about it as well! We definitely want to recommend your program to others!"

Garden Nature Academy

CHILD & YOUTH NATURE PROGRAMS

HORTICULTURE CENTRE OF THE PACIFIC



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 include time in our HCP Kids Teaching Garden where we grow food throughout the year, as well as numerous pathways and native plant forest areas to explore. Our small group sizes and experienced nature educators help to create a nurturing and engaging environment for young children to learn, play and grow! We welcome parent participation.

- **Dates:** Thursdays, April 6 - June 15, 2023 (No class April 27)
- **Times:** 9:00 am - 11:30 am
- **Ages:** 3 - 6 years
- **Fees:** \$275
- **Register:** [HERE](#)

Schools

CHILD & YOUTH NATURE PROGRAMS

HORTICULTURE CENTRE OF THE PACIFIC



Check out our [SCHOOLS](#) programming for 2023 and **BOOK** your class visit for **spring programs now!** Our gardens offer many seasonal opportunities to connect with indigenous plants and food crops among the many demonstration gardens onsite. Pathways lead us through, allowing for vital relationships of natural systems to be observed and supported in the gardens and throughout the connecting wilderness spaces..

This is what one child care provider has to say about our programs ... *"Every spring I take the children in my child care center to The Gardens at the Horticulture Center of the Pacific. I care for a group of 7 children between the ages of 1-5 years. The facilitator gives us a wonderful tour of the garden, with*

age appropriate dialogue and learning along the way. We get to look, feel, and smell the wonderful flowers, herbs, and moss growing all over the garden, and explore all the bugs and wildlife that live in the gardens... this is by far one of our most beloved outings. I highly recommend any child care center or preschool looking for a fun field trip, to arrange a visit. You won't be disappointed!"



Garden Creatures - Short Series Program

Join us for a fun morning in the gardens! Exploring the various species of creatures that make up our gardens, wetlands, and forests provide us with many lessons. Each day we will deepen our understanding of these creatures, through hands-on activities, observations, and garden exploration. Gaining a better understanding of how every garden creature is essential to their habitat, allows us to better understand how we can support them. Sign up for one or all three sessions.

- **Date:** Friday's, April 14, 21, and May 5, 2023
- **Time:** 9:30 am - 11:30 am
- **Ages:** 5 - 14 years
- **Fee:** \$25/session; \$85/4 session bundle
- **Register:** [HERE](#) or call 250-479-6162



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.

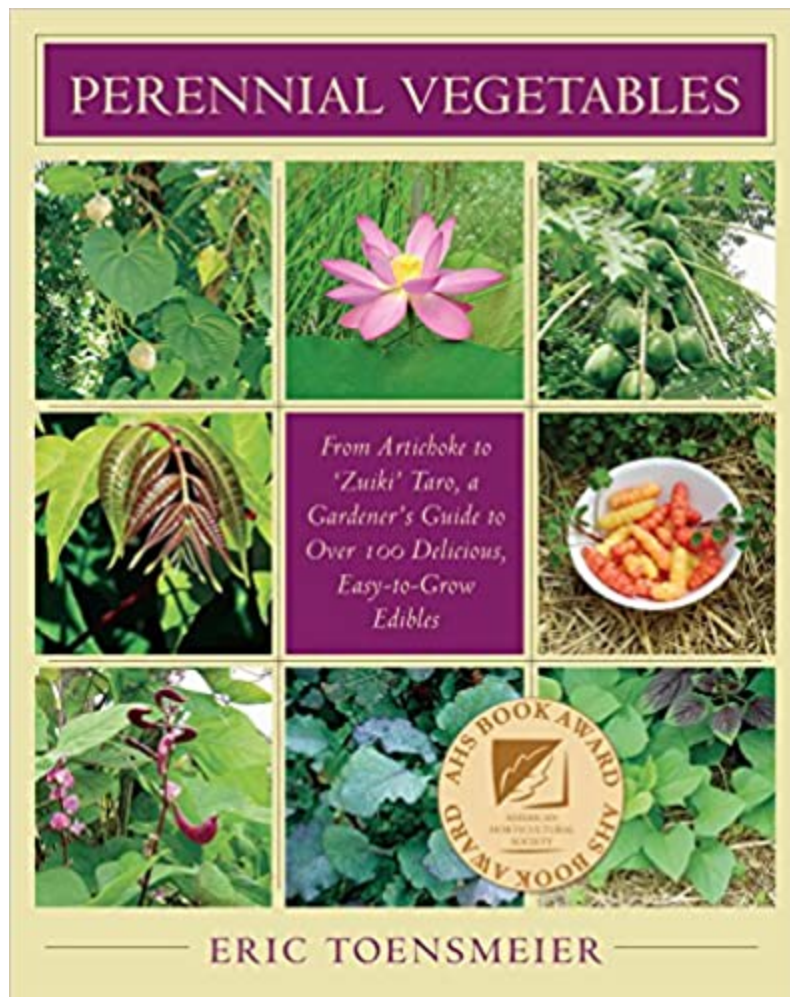
Memberships are a great value and include:

- 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
- Borrowing privileges at the HCP Library
- 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



The Bookend



Perennial Vegetables

Eric Toensmeier

To expand the bounds of your kitchen garden, consider checking out *Perennial Vegetables* by Eric Toensmeier. This catalogue of plant profiles includes some exotic and unusual species, little-known and underappreciated. Consider *Lycium barbarum* (wolfberry or goji berry). While it isn't a cure-all for disease, its shoots, leaves and berries are used in traditional Asian cuisine. It is one in a long list of perennial vegetables of Toensmeier's recommendations for Pacific Northwest gardening. Other surprising options include fuki, jinenjo, achira, and scorzonera.

The idea with perennial vegetables is that they complement annuals, not replace them. Being low-maintenance and extending the harvest season gives them some advantages as food crops. They can taste delicious, yield abundantly, and produce for many years without replanting, benefits that will be attractive to many gardeners.

Toensmeier also discusses tips and techniques, design ideas, and native vs. non-native. Each of the over 100 thorough plant profiles includes a North American map of growth range, history, ecology, preferences, harvest, uses and much more. Many drawings and photographs supplement the text.

This American Horticultural Society book award-winner was written by a permaculture advocate and teacher who brings enthusiasm and expertise to the topic of edible perennials. Available now to borrow from the HCP Library.

Library Hours

Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 10am to 1pm

Contact us at library@hcp.ca

And check out our [online catalogue](#) of more than 2600 books.

Recent Acquisitions to the HCP Library!

Contact us at library@hcp.ca for the full list of Recent Acquisitions, but here are a few to get you started:

Perennial Vegetables: A gardener's guide to over 100 delicious, easy-to-grow edibles. (*Eric Toensmeier, Chelsea Green, 2007*)

Permaculture Handbook: The definitive, practical North American guide to this revolutionary practice. (*Peter Bane, New Society, 2012*)

Edible Forest Gardens: Ecological vision and theory for temperate climate permaculture. (*Dave Jacke, Chelsea Green, 2005*)

The Carbon Farming Solution: A global toolkit of perennial crops and regenerative agriculture. (*Eric Toensmeier, Chelsea Green, 2016*)

Saving Farmland: The fight for real food at Madrona Farm (*Nathalie Chambers, Rocky Mountain, 2015*)

Plants for a Future: Edible and useful plants for a healthier world. (*Ken Fern, Permanent Publications, 2000*)



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