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**Horticulture Centre
of the Pacific**



May 2023 eNews

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Everyday



A Message from our General Manager

New Fundraising Opportunity!

The Gardens at HCP has been accepted into the Save A Tape fundraising program at Country Grocer!



SAVE A TAPE

Save Country Grocer receipts and receive 1% in return in the form of Country Grocer gift card(s)

Country Grocer's Save A Tape program is available to local community groups, sports teams and not for profits located on Vancouver Island.

For program details and registration view our website countrygrocer/community/saveatape



The graphic features a hand holding a receipt with the word 'RECEIPT' at the top, followed by several horizontal lines representing text, and a 'TOTAL' section with a barcode at the bottom. Another hand holds a red Country Grocer gift card with a farm scene illustration. To the right, text asks 'ARE YOU A...' followed by a list: 'COMMUNITY GROUP', 'NOT FOR PROFIT', 'SPORTS TEAM', and 'SCHOOL', with a white arrow pointing to the list. Below this is the text 'JOIN ONLINE'. At the bottom of the graphic are four icons: two people, a heart with hands, a person with a soccer ball, and a school bus. The entire graphic is set against an orange background with a white scalloped border at the top and bottom.

ARE YOU A...
COMMUNITY GROUP
NOT FOR PROFIT
SPORTS TEAM
SCHOOL

JOIN ONLINE

COUNTRYGROCER/COMMUNITY/SAVEATAPE

We collect Country Grocer receipts and receive 1% in return in the form of Country Grocer Gift Card(s).

Country Grocer's Save a Tape program is available to local community groups, sports teams and not for profits located on Vancouver Island.

How it works - Once accepted to Country Grocer's **Save a Tape Program**, please collect Country Grocer receipts from friends, parents, neighbours...in your community and submit in requested bundles to specific Country Grocer locations in order to receive 1% in return in the form of a Country Grocer gift card.

Please drop your Country Grocer receipts off at the Front Desk at HCP.

Thanks for your help!



A Message from our Head Gardener



Spring Plant Sale recap

Our biggest plant sale of the year has been held every April for over 30 years and is the kickoff to the planting season!

The weather was amazing, and shoppers lined up early, waiting for the gate to open. People definitely came ready to buy, armed with copies of the plant list.

The first hour was a shopping frenzy, people know that they have to come early for the best selection. We made several trips back and forth to the polyhouses restocking the tables.

One of our supporters sent me this message. "I attended the plant sale yesterday- truly an incredible gardeners' event! An amazing selection which is appreciated."

Volunteers, students, and staff did a fabulous job of helping where needed, with a high level of energy and enthusiasm.

A huge thank you as well to the Victoria Master Gardeners. They were busy answering questions and identifying plants!

Thank you everyone for your support! It was a very successful sale.

We have our plant sale area open now daily from 9-4, we are adding new stock as plants become available.

Our always popular Hardy Fuchsia plants will be available later this month as will our succulents and Salvias.



the gardens
at HCP
Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

Tomato Day

Tomato & Veggie Starts

May 20, 2023

Free Admission!

Limited quantities

Come early

9:00am - 12:00pm

For more details please visit
www.hcp.ca



The May long weekend is traditionally the time to plant your veggie starts. We will have several varieties of tomato starts as well as other veggies and herbs.

Our plant sale area is open and fully stocked and the Victoria Master Gardeners are on site to answer your questions.

Below is a list of tomato varieties we will have for you this year:

sweet million

sunrise bumblebee

pink bumblebee

red zebra

scotia

manitoba

speckled roman

early girl

sweetie

roma supremo

cosmonaut volkov

black krim

alaska

black cherry

...also veggie starts and herbs

limited quantities so come early for the best selection!



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 and the Conservation Park.

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.



Thank You Volunteers!

"Spring is nature's way of saying, let's party!" Robin Williams

Would you like to join our fun loving festival volunteers this summer?

The Arts and Music Festival, (August 12,13, 2023) is HCP's largest event of the year. Over 150 volunteers will come together over the weekend to help ensure the event is a great success! We have many volunteer roles available and our volunteers always have a great time enjoying the music, art and festivities held throughout the gardens on this very special weekend!

For more information about volunteering or to add your name to the HCP Arts and Music Festival volunteer list, please contact Kim, Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@hcp.ca.



Guest Article



A Shiny New Invader

By Marian McCoy

Shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) is an aggressive new invader of concern in our region, and one to watch out for in your garden and in natural areas. Shiny geranium is an annual and prolific seed producer that spreads rapidly, forming dense mats that exclude other plants. It grows well in shade or sun and can have a significant ecological impact in sensitive ecosystems. Shiny geranium looks similar to dove's-foot geranium (*G. molle*) but has no hair on its leaves and has rather turgid or succulent stems. Dove's-foot geranium has hair on its leaf undersides, more flacid stems, and does not grow in dense mats. The best time to remove shiny geranium is **March to early April**, before it goes to seed. We're a bit late, but if you find it now, remove it, bag it, and dispose of it (never compost) and try not to spread the seeds. You will need to remove any seedlings again next year until the seedbank is exhausted.

To learn more about how to identify and control shiny geranium, [watch this video](#) that was filmed in an Oak Bay Garden. You can also email shinygeranium@gmail.com for help in identification.

HCP Library
Annual 50% Off Book Sale
May 2023



Shop unique horticultural books at bargain prices and support the HCP
Library

Library Hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 10am to 1pm



Giles' Jottings

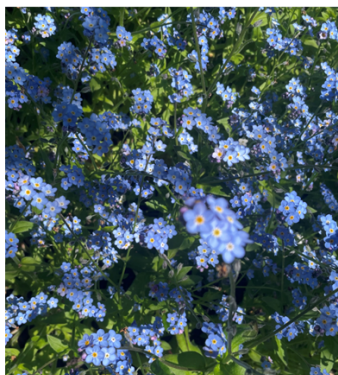
Well, my goodness me, all of a sudden I find we are at exactly that moment that we have been awaiting all winter.

I'm not sure precisely the moment it happened but sometime during the last week Nature turned on the faucet.

Growth is erupting everywhere; foliage is bursting out of the ground, blossom is exploding on the trees, flower buds are expanding until they can no longer hold back. It feels like one of those hilarious accidents you see on the internet, where someone can't manage to stop their kitchen blender and cake mix is pouring out all over the floor or a fun science show where they add together two seemingly innocuous ingredients which together however produce an unending plume of froth that tumbles everywhere, engulfing both the presenter and the studio.

As May began all the environmental triggers switched on and the plant world decided there was no longer any need to wait.

Bulbs jumped out of the ground, grass turned green and lush and every blade started competing to grow taller than its neighbour, tiny buds on the branches of trees began unfurling to create enormous expanses of green surfaces to absorb the sunshine.



Bellis perennis, *Myosotis sylvatica*,
Hyacinthoides non-scripta

Daisies (*Bellis perennis*) appear all over the lawns, forget-me-nots (*Myosotis sylvatica*) fill all the beds, weeds of every sort battle it out with our chosen plants to get first look at the sun and suck in all the available water. Brambles (*Rubus* sp.) sneak into your beds while you're not looking, bare patches are suddenly occupied by dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*), bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) form unexpected carpets of pale lilac-blue and ferns unfurl their curly fronds in both sunny spots and shade.



Primula bulleyana, Anthemis cupaniana, Papaver cambricum

Yet fortunately it is not only the wilder plants that are stimulated by the longer days of warm sunshine. All the HCP Gardens are filled with exciting fresh spring colours, the yellows of Welsh poppies (*Papaver cambricum*) and candelabra primulas (*Primula bulleyana*), the whites of Mexican orange (*Choisya ternata*), wood anemones (*Anemone nemorosa*), lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*) and Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum* sp.) and both colours together in the bright daisy-like flowers of *Anthemis cupaniana*.



Rhododendron sp.

In the Rhododendron Garden the magnificent mature plants surround you with their multi-coloured pom-poms, deep reds and every shade of pink, lilacs, oranges and yellows. Though one may fade another is bubbling up to take its place and the successive changes from one day to the next are a joy to witness.

The Takata stream bed is equally fascinating, crimson primulas (*Primula beesiana*) and pink heads of *Darmera peltata* standing proud amongst emerging spears of so many different varieties of *Hosta* and above them all stand three magnificent camellias in red, white and pink.

At the top of the Winter Garden crimson *Bergenia cordifolia* and pink *Dicentra formosa* look across to the deep red stalks of rhubarb (*Rheum rhabarbarum*) behind the Plant Sale area and in the 3B's Garden orange *Geum* flower beside yellow *Kerria japonica* and accentuate the beautiful deep red tulips.



Rheum rhabarbarum,
Geum sp.

I want to go on but it is not possible to mention every plant that is now opening itself to our gaze; it is a moment of inexpressible beauty when Nature throws off the bonds of winter and exhibits its full glory. We can only stand in wonder and gratitude confronted by such a show; it costs us nothing and yet it cannot be bettered. We are fortunate to be alive to see it.



Gift Shop





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



OPEN

WEEKDAYS 10AM - 3PM

WEEKENDS 9AM - 3PM

charlottteandthequail.ca | 250.590.6346



Pacific Horticulture College





May is such a wonderful month for the certificate students to experience hands on learning in our beautiful gardens. Recently the students had the opportunity to help out with the very successful HCP Spring Plant sale. Over the past few weeks, they have also enjoyed some offsite excursions including: a Plant ID field trip to Royal Roads; a Landscape Design trip to Novus Plants wholesale; and worked offsite on some practical skills projects. Their current classes include: Soils, Landscape Design, Plant ID, Introduction to Food Growing and Practical Skills. The Special Topics in Horticulture classes this month are Organic Landcare and Seaweed. Please check out our [website](#) for the latest student blog posts.

The part-time Level 1 students are heading into the last month of their program! Finishing up at the end of May, the remaining classes include: Softscape Maintenance, Plant ID and Plant Health.

PHC is accepting applications for our Landscape Design Student Projects. If you are looking to design or redesign your garden, would like design ideas and inspiration and you are able to provide a \$400 donation for the student work, please submit an application form available on our [website](#).

PHC Alumni are invited to join us on Thursday, July 27th from 5 – 8 pm for our Alumni Picnic Night. Bring a picnic basket, listen to live music, chat with fellow alumni, and enjoy a lovely evening in the gardens!

Programs now open for applications:

[2024 Landscape Horticulture Certificate Program](#)

Program Dates: January 15 to November 12, 2024

Application Deadline: November 1, 2023

[2023 Level 2 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Program](#)

Program Dates: August 8 to December 14, 2023

Application Deadline: July 17, 2023

[2023 Level 3 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Program](#)

Program Dates: October 30 to December 8, 2023

Application Deadline: October 2, 2023

[2023 Level 4 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Program](#)

Program Dates: August 9 to December 16, 2023

Application Deadline: July 17, 2023

[2024 Level 1 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Program](#)

Program Dates: January 22 to May 22, 2024

Application Deadline: December 11, 2023

[2024 Level 4 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Full-Time Program](#)

Program Dates: January 8 to February 16, 2024

Application Deadline: December 11, 2023

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

Questions? Please email admissions@hcp.ca

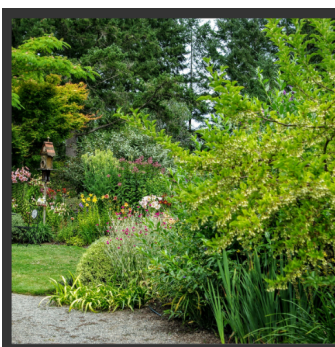


Community Education Workshops

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

Plant Identification & Culture Workshops with Jane Tice

Next date Saturday, June 24 & July 8 - 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

Landscape Design for Home Gardeners Series

6 part series on Wednesdays, 6:30pm - 8:30pm: May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28



Learn the fundamentals of how to create a design for your space with landscape designer, Heidi Hitchcock. Heidi is a third generation horticulturist. She has over 15 years of experience in the industry and loves bringing people and gardens together.

Heidi will take participants through the various steps in the design process with a series of lectures and hands-on exercises. Participants will get an opportunity to apply what they learn to their own garden design during this series. We always receive excellent participant feedback on this engaging class. All materials provided, beginners welcome.

HCP Members \$245 / Non-Members \$295

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

Online: Watercolor Meditations on Place: Pacific Dogwood

Wednesday, May 31 - 6:00pm - 7:30pm



Join us for an evening of meditative painting, inspired by our neighbor the Pacific Dogwood 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 this tree 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

Weaving with Willow – Rattle Weave Variations Workshop



community education
**weaving with willow –
rattle weave variations**
workshop

WITH JOAN CARRIGAN



Saturday, June 3 - 10:00am – 4:00pm

This is a great introduction to weaving with willow. Participants will be making several projects employing what is called Rattle Weave. Joan will provide the lovely fine willow for each project which she has grown and harvested. We will start with making several napkin rings, followed by a bird feeder and then a basket with a wood base. Discussion and demonstration will cover how to grow, harvest, sort and prepare willow for weaving.

HCP Members \$285 / Non-Members \$305

SOLD OUT - Add your name to the [waitlist](#) to receive a notification when another date is added.

Pocket Flower Press Workshop

Monday, June 5 - 10:00am - 12:00pm



community education
pocket flower press
workshop

WITH SHEILA WEITMAN

Come and capture the fleeting days of spring in this two hour workshop with horticulture therapist, Sheila Weitman. Participants will each make a pocket press, then explore a section of the HCP gardens to find just the right leaves and flowers for pressing.

Please bring a pair of scissors.

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

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

Rustic Building - Small Table Workshop

Saturday, June 10 - 9:00am - 3:00pm



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

Willow Chair Workshop

Sunday, June 18 - 9:00am - 5:00pm



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. This is a great introduction to rustic building techniques. Learn how to make a square frame from pieces of alder

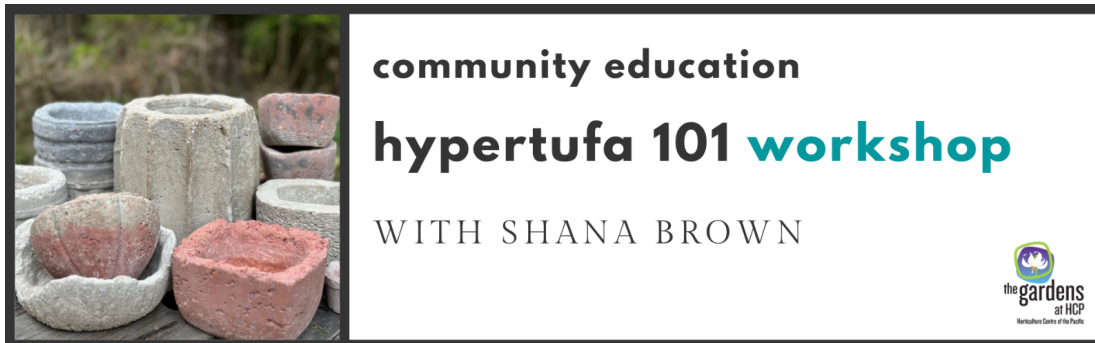
& work with different sizes of willow to create your chair. This is recommended as it is ideal to have a helper for this class. Registration is for up to 2 participants making one chair together.

HCP Members \$285 / Non-Members \$305

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

Hypertufa 101 Workshop

Saturday, June 17 - 9am - 12pm & Sunday, June 18 - 1pm - 4pm



Join local artist and Organic Master Gardener, Shana Brown for an intensive, two part, hands-on workshop where you will learn how to mix, mold, finish and cure a beautiful, one of a kind hypertufa planter for your home or garden.

Prized for its lightweight, porous qualities, durability and rustic look, hypertufa is an

ideal medium to create unique planters and garden ornaments. Made from easily

sourced, domestic materials; when properly cured and reinforced these charming

creations can withstand harsh winters and last for years and years.

HCP Members \$140/Non-Members \$160

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

POLLINATOR WEEK! Appreciating our Garden Pollinators

Saturday, June 24 - 9am - 12pm



During this workshop discover what all the buzz is about our pollinators - learn about native pollinators, their importance to ecosystems and our food supply, and the issues they are facing. Find out how these bees and butterflies and birds like to live and what they like to eat with practical information on creating a garden in the southern Vancouver Island region that will be a pollinator paradise. And if the flowers are blooming, we will learn how to identify some of the common pollinators in your garden and take a stroll to see who's buzzing around.

Participant Fee - \$10 which goes towards the maintenance of our mason bee nesting boxes.

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

Papermaking with Wild, Invasive and Garden Plants

Wednesday, June 28 - 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

Eco Printing Workshop with Lorelei Textile Design

Tuesday, June 27 - 4:00pm - 7:30pm



community education eco printing **workshop**

WITH LORELEI TEXTILE DESIGNS



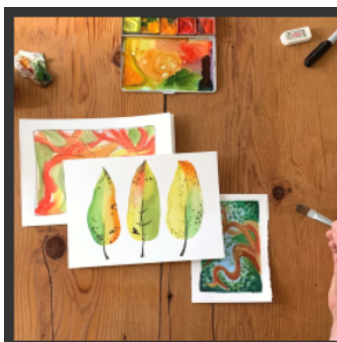
Join Carly of Lorelei Textile Design as she leads you through a beginner-friendly eco printing workshop! Engage in an afternoon of plant-infused play with a lovely community of inquisitive minds! Attendees will be provided with a handmade and upcycled bandana and a set of 2 vintage hankies to explore different techniques and applications of eco-printing. All flowers and foliage are also provided. You will leave this workshop with the foundational skills to continue exploring this fascinating practice at home, your very own eco printed bandana and hanky set, and an instructional booklet full of resources for further research and experimentation.

HCP Members \$65/Non-Members \$75

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

Online: Watercolor Meditations on Place: Arbutus

Wednesday, June 28 - 6:00pm - 7:30pm



online: community education **watercolor meditations** **on place: arbutus**

WITH MARISA PAHL

Join us for an evening of meditative painting, inspired by our neighbor the Arbutus 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 this tree 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

Finger Painting without the Paint Workshop



Have FUN in the Gardens with Artist and Author Wendy Picken. Explore the mixed medium techniques she has developed over the past 30 years. Learn how to create beautiful flowerscapes while exploring the Gardens on paper. This class is suitable for beginners. All supplies are included.

Fees: HCP Members \$70/Non-Members \$80

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



Children & Youth Programs

Look what is happening this Spring at HCP Kids!

- **STUDENTS - JOBS & VOLUNTEER opportunities.** Looking for experience working with children during our JMG Garden Camps this Summer. Contact youthprograms@hcp.ca for details. Deadline May 15 to apply.
- **POLLINATOR DAY in THE GARDENS** (info to follow:)
- **SCHOOLS** [HERE](#)
- **HOME LEARNERS'** [HERE](#)
- **SPRING PRE-K LEARNERS** [HERE](#) (Stories in the Garden)
- **BIRTHDAYS** [HERE](#)



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, 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](#)

Fairy Garden Workshop - 2 dates, 2 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:** 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](#)

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](#)

Please contact youthprograms@hcp.ca for late registration options.

Pro D Day Camp Dates 2023:

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

Register: 2023/24 Pro D Day Camp registration opens August 22 for Family Membership holders and August 24 for the general public.



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.



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 (1 day/week for 11 weeks)
- **Register:** [HERE](#)

There is still time to join us this spring with space available. Connect at youthprograms@hcp.ca for more information.



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..



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.

- **Date:** Wednesdays, May 17 (birds), 24 (herptiles), and 31 (insects), 2023
- **Time:** 9:30 am - 11:30 am
- **Ages:** 5 - 14 years
- **Fee:** \$75/participant

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



Are you interested in learning more about what is happening at the Gardens or browsing through gardening articles? Then please visit our website and check the [HCP Blog](#). If you have a suggestion for an article or if you are a writer who would like to contribute, please email us at communityed@hcp.ca



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

The Crevice Garden

By Kenton Seth and Paul Spriggs

A confluence of mountain climbing and a career in horticulture brought local author Paul Spriggs deep into the world of gardening with rocks. The passion that Spriggs and co-author Kenton Seth bring to this topic is evident in this new, beautifully illustrated guide to what crevice gardening is and how to design, build and plant one.

In definition, this style of rock gardening buries rocks by at least half and uses the crevices between them “to mimic the conditions that many difficult-to-grow plants need.”

The history, dynamics, advantages, and planning discussions lead to the section on the eight steps in building your own crevice garden. While creating one takes effort, the maintenance is less than traditional beds and borders as the plants are slow-growing and long-lived.

Case studies from such places as Wisley and Port Townsend demonstrate the beauty and flexibility of this gardening technique. Beacon Hill Park is listed as a resource to visit. The plant profiles section offers a starting point

and a reference. (Dragon's Head (Dracocephalum) is a great choice for a beginning crevice gardener.) Plant lists also help with design.

Through this book I gained a deeper appreciation of the alpine world, elements both hard and soft, and ways it can be incorporated into our own gardens. It is available now to borrow from the HCP Library.



Library Hours

Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 10am to 1pm

Contact us at library@hcp.ca

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

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