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**Horticulture Centre
of the Pacific**



October 2023 eNews

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Everyday



A Message from our General Manager

For my article this month, I would like to share with you two of the many projects we are working on here at the gardens.

Thanks everyone, and don't miss Harvest Fest on October 28th!

Deborah



The HCP Library Children's Nook

Did you know that October is Canadian Library Month? The HCP has a Library that is used by students, instructors, members, volunteers, and the general public. It frequently receives requests for books specifically geared to children and educators relating to plants, gardens, and horticulture, but is unable to fulfil these requests. With help from you, the HCP will create a Children's Nook within the HCP Library with a special selection of children's and educators' books related to topics such as plants, gardens, nature, food, flowers, trees, seeds, wildlife, birds and bees, climate, water, seasons, sustainability, and the environment.

Our Children and Youth programs have been serving the community for many years. The specially designed courses are popular and are regularly over-subscribed. A children's book collection would support these programs. Teaching children about plants, gardening, food production, nature, and the environment benefits the whole community.

The HCP Library Children's Nook project will instill knowledge of plants, gardens, nature and the environment into children, and plant the seeds for a career in horticulture or for learning a life skill such as growing your own food or for being a citizen who cares about the environment and the future.

Our goal is to connect children with plants and nature. To contribute to growing that love throughout the community, please consider making a

donation to our new children's collection.

Our online [Wish List](#) has suggestions of books you can give or you can donate directly [HERE](#) (please put Children's Nook in the Donor Note).



ILC Rain Garden Recovery Project

In early September, I was approached by one of the Directors from Beacon Community Services about a possible collaboration rejuvenating a small garden and partnering in growing it to greater learning and community connection. This would be a new partnership between HCP, Beacon Community Services and ILC Saanichton – a well-recognized Alternative Education School operated with SD63. The garden, which is dedicated to First Nation's native plants is a piece of the desire to grow knowledge as well as commitment to reconciliation.

The vision for the garden was one which aligned with the education and partnership strategic goals of HCP. The garden is a place for story-telling and connecting the students and the greater community, that might bring great

meaning and solace to the students attending ILC as well as learning opportunities with may inspire multiple ripples.



Our own Youth Program Coordinator, Paula McCormick has taken the lead on this project. The initial phase of the recovery was to visit the site and begin the process of clearing the overgrowth and for this phase we engaged our 2023 FT Program Pacific Horticulture College students. The students were very enthusiastic about participating in the Rain Garden Recovery project and it provided opportunities for discussions on native plant ID and maintenance.



The next phase will be a discussion with the stakeholders and users of the Rain Garden as to what they are needing from the space and to work with them to develop a garden design plan. Stay tuned for progress updates!



A Message from our Head Gardener

Overwintering tropicals and succulents



Tender plants will be damaged by the cold, so it is best to bring them indoors before the first frost. Protect your plants when night temperature fall to 5C and below.

We have had single digits at night this week (7C here), time to make the shift.

Our mixed planters of succulents got moved into the polyhouse this week and our students emptied the annual beds. Our annual beds contain larger tropicals that need to be lifted and potted to winter indoors.

Brugmansias, Tibouchina and Hibiscus give our beds that WOW factor when planted along with Agave and showy annuals.

Check plants carefully for pests or diseases before moving them indoors.

We keep our polyhouse just above freezing and water sparingly over the winter. Most tropicals will go dormant (drop their leaves) but should not dry out completely. In early Spring when new growth starts and day length increases, we increase the watering.



Good housekeeping is essential all winter long.

Our succulent planters are groomed regularly, removing dead and dying leaves that can potentially rot causing diseases to spread. Raising your succulents off the floor keeps them away from ground frost. Top dressing the pots with a layer of grit reduces leaves and stems from rotting.

We have fans on in the polyhouse to make sure we have good air circulation and water sparingly.

DO NOT fertilize during winter.

Linda



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.

And 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!

Thank You Volunteers!



It was wonderful to see so many of you join us for the 2023 Volunteer Appreciation BBQ held on Tuesday, October 3rd.

We thank you for the commitment, care and countless hours that all of you bring to HCP. Whether you've been a volunteer for many years or just started in the past few weeks, we appreciate all you do in the gardens and polyhouses, in the office, library, conservation lands and at special events!

We are very lucky to have such a large and dedicated volunteer team!

For more information about volunteering at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP) please contact Kim at volunteers@hcp.ca

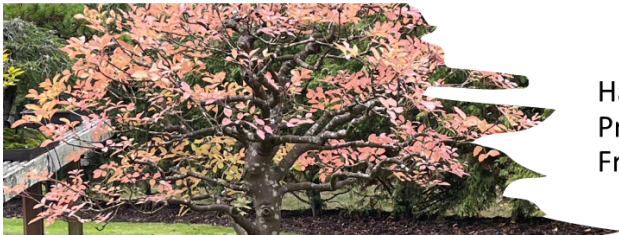
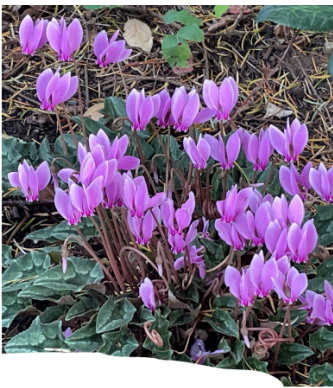


Giles' Jottings

Last week, while hiking in the mountains, I was confronted by some stunning fall colours and I had to admit to myself that fall was indeed coming on. So back at work this week I cannot help myself from looking around to see how

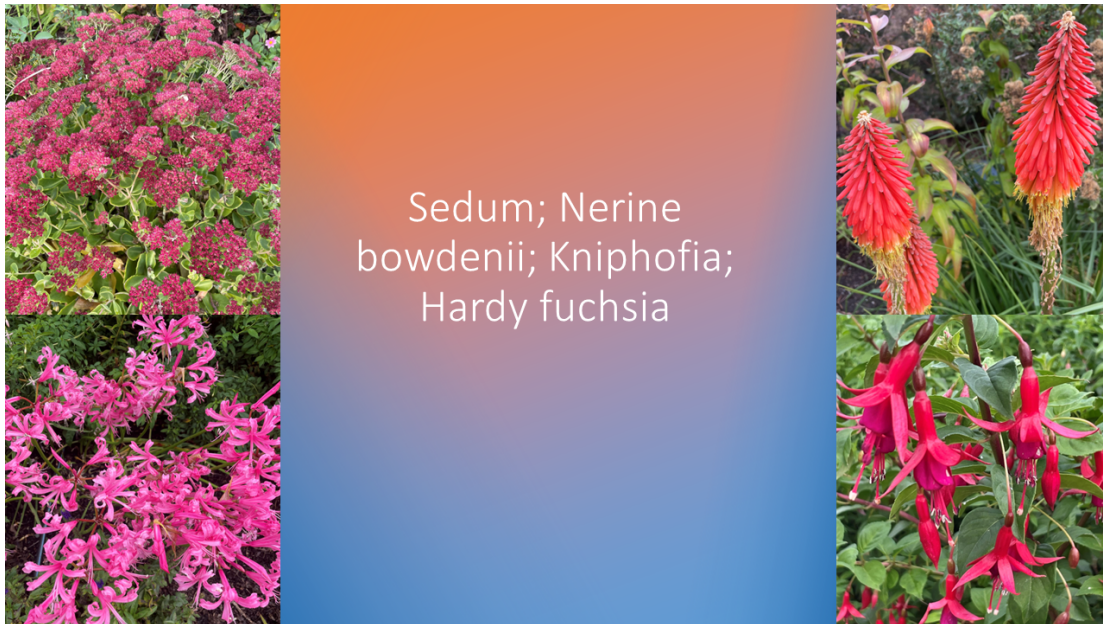
much the leaves have begun to change. I don't feel we have yet reached peak coloration; indeed the Japanese maple at the Takata entrance is still only a sort of grey-green. It will take perhaps another three weeks before it comes into its full glory.

However elsewhere there are some lovely signs of fall, many trees turning fiercely yellow and some shrubs displaying beautiful combinations of yellows and oranges, pinks and reds. On the steps up from the Moon Bridge to the Bonsai Garden there is a *Stewartia* whose foliage has started to turn through a whole delightful range of oranges and pinks. And amongst the bonsais themselves there is a beautiful Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) whose leaves have all turned a delicate pink.



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Arnold Promise'; Cyclamen; *Stewartia*; *Fraxinus latifolia*

In the Doris Page Garden many of the carefully chosen varieties are now just beginning to display their winter style with berries and foliage that will brighten the coming months. But already the witch hazels are dazzlingly yellow and one of them, *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Arnold Promise', offers us gorgeous scarlet edging round its leaves almost as if they had been dipped in strawberry wine. On the ground cyclamen hold their lilac petals aloft like a fluttering of pink butterflies and the Mexican Orange (*Choisya ternata*) has leaves both yellow and green and sweet-smelling white flowers as well.



Sedum; Nerine
bowdenii; Kniphofia;
Hardy fuchsia

As I walk further around the Gardens, enjoying those plants that flower so belatedly, I am struck by the preponderance of pinks and reds; I had not particularly associated the fall season with red blooms but in the Lily Garden alone there are dusky pink sedums, vivid pink nerines (*Nerine bowdenii*), bright red alstroemerias and candy pink kniphofias. Whilst just across the path is the Fuchsia Garden, now looking very fine, and every bush is covered in reds, pinks and scarlets.



Hesperantha coccinea; *Anemone japonica*

Of course there are other colours to see, especially the purples of Monkshood (*Aconitum*), Russian Sage (*Perovskia*) and several different salvias. But my eyes are drawn back to more pinks and reds, especially the vivid Scarlet Lilies (*Hesperantha coccinea*) and several different varieties of Japanese anemone. The Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*) in the Swing Bed currently has wine-dark berries hanging amongst its racemes of flowers and in the bed

edging the lawn below the cottage there is a very lovely viburnum (*Viburnum nudum* 'Brandywine') whose leaves and berries are turning a delicate pink.

It is wonderful to watch the daily progress of the colour changes around the Gardens and though we often hope for a few more days or weeks of fine weather I think it is actually the increasingly cold nights that activate and intensify those fall colours that we find so magical. Let's enjoy this amazing kaleidoscope while we can.

It's Pumpkin People TIME!!!



hcp.kids 18h





October Hours: Weekdays 10am-3pm

Weekends 9am-3pm



Gift Shop





Many new items! Please stop in when you are in the gardens next and find the perfect gift for someone special. Many great deals!

APPLE PRESSING!

We have often been asked what we do with the fruit we grow. We donate fruit to LifeCycles, our volunteers are able to take what they need, and with the bumper crop this year we offered apple pressing for the volunteers and PHC students.



PACIFIC HORTICULTURE
COLLEGE

Interested in Growing your Career in Horticulture?

ENROLL NOW!

10 month Landscape
Certificate Program
Start January 15th, 2024

Claim your Spot!

CONTACT:
ADMISSIONS@HCP.CA

There are two upcoming Landscape Integrated Pest Management courses on November 4-6 and November 22-24. Please visit our [website](#) for information and to register.

Programs now open for applications:

2024 Landscape Horticulture Certificate Program

Program Dates: January 15 to November 12, 2024

Application Deadline: Extended!

2023 Level 3 Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship Program

Program Dates: October 30 to December 8, 2023

Application Deadline: October 2, 2023 (Waitlisted)

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 (Waitlisted)

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

Questions? Please email admissions@hcp.ca



Community Education Workshops

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

Plant Identification & Culture Workshops with Jane Tice

Saturdays, October 21, November 18 & December 9 - 1:00pm - 4:00pm



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

2024 - Pack of 12 now available - HCP Members \$400 / Non-Members \$500

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

Mason Bee - Fall Cocoon Harvest & Cleaning Session

Tuesday, October 31 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm



If you have a mason bee nesting box out this Summer and are not sure what to do next, then this class is for you. Cleaning your nesting box and cocoons is vital for the health of the bees and an essential seasonal task for the mason beekeeper. Fall clean-up can be fun and easy if you do it with a group! Bring your nesting box, cube or tubes to class and we can clean them together. If you don't have a nesting box of your own, we have one for you to clean, plus you get to take some cocoons home for your efforts! During this guided cleaning session, participants will get the opportunity to assess the success of their nesting box, clean their cocoons and prepare them for winter storage. They will also receive guidance on how to identify common pests and diseases.

Participant Fee \$10

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

Finger Painting without the Paint Workshop

Sunday, October 22 - 9:00am - 1:00pm



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

A Gardener's Journal with Exposed Spine Binding with Trisha Klus

Saturday, October 28 - 10:00am - 3:00pm



Exposed bindings are one of the most versatile structures for books. By learning just the basic stitching pattern, a whole world of possibilities opens for the participants to mix and match the different sewing patterns or to create their own. In this workshop the participants will create a blank journal with covers made from handmade papers. Exposed stitching will decorate the spine. This journal is perfect as a garden journal, a trip journal, for collage or sketching. Basic concepts of book binding will be discussed including tool usage, book binding terms and paper grain.

All materials required to complete this project will be provided by the instructor. A supply list will be available upon registration.

HCP Members \$110/Non-Members \$120

VISIT OUR WEBSITE to learn more or to register online

"Watercolour Miniatures" - Christmas & Winter Themes, Watercolour Workshop on Japanese Art Paper

Sunday, November 12 - 1:00pm - 4:00pm



Join us for a delightful afternoon creating watercolour miniatures with Richard Wong (all new designs). Richard will guide you through several Christmas and Winter related miniature scenes that you can use as personalized greeting/Christmas cards. This workshop has become a popular annual gathering! Everyone is welcome.

Class Fee: \$80 not including supplies/\$90 includes all supplies

VISIT OUR WEBSITE to learn more or to register online

Willow Chair Workshop

Thursday, November 16 - 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

Unlimited Possibilities in the Garden with Trisha Klus

Saturday, November 25 - 10:00am - 3:00pm



Get ready to make your own Artist's Book with a garden theme. We will create a hard covered book secured with a ribbon tie. Each page will be different and ready for your own special touch with pop-ups, pull outs, mini books, hidden panels and more. Although this workshop will have a garden theme, this book can be adapted in unlimited ways for a truly creative piece of art. All materials required to complete the project will be provided by the instructor, a supply list will be provided upon registration.

HCP Members \$110/Non-Members \$120

VISIT OUR WEBSITE to learn more or to register online

Wreath Making Workshops



Learn to create a beautiful handmade wreath from scratch. Classes are instructed by the HCP Head Gardener, Linda Petite and her assistant, HCP Community Education Coordinator, Cheri Le Brun.

Please visit our **Website** to register.

Dates & Times: 10am - 12pm or 1pm - 3pm: Nov 25, 26, Dec 2, 3, 9, 10

HCP Members \$55/ Non Members \$65

If you prefer to work at home, please order a wreath making kit **HERE**.

Wreath making kits which come with all the materials you need to make a wreath at home, including printed instructions and a link to an instructional

online video. Kits are available starting on November 27 and can be picked up at the HCP within one week or ordering.

Willow Stars and Hanging Lanterns Workshop with Joan Carrigan

Sunday, December 10 - 10:00am - 3:00pm



Tis the season to make some willow stars and star lanterns! Joan Carrigan will have willow on hand to make an assortment of decorative stars of various sizes as well as a willow hanging mobile which when strung with fairy lights makes a magical lantern. The shape of the mobile is a dodecahedron which incorporates the star pattern. Many variations within these shapes are possible. They make great gifts and will brighten up your home throughout the winter season.

HCP Members \$120 / Non Members \$140

VISIT OUR WEBSITE to learn more or to register online

Basketry Workshops with Joan Carrigan



Joan Carrigan is a full time basketmaker and basketry teacher living on Salt Spring Island, BC. Over the past 25 years, her passion for baskets has led her to study, travel and explore many different techniques and materials within the medium. These classes are popular, so sign up for the Basketry Enthusiast list to receive notices of upcoming classes.

To add your name to the Basketry Enthusiast List, please click [HERE](#).

The Master Gardener Program 2024 - Only 2 spaces left!



community education the master gardener program

2024

Lifelong learning is at the heart of the Victoria Master Gardener Association, the idea that no one can possibly know it all. You have to start somewhere and the Master Gardener Program is the place. You will learn current, reliable home gardening basics – the framework to pin everything else to. You will also learn how to look it up, who to ask and how to share that knowledge of sound, environmentally responsible gardening practices with the community. This course is a requirement to join the Victoria Master Gardener Association. It is also a great course in garden basics for hobbyists and homeowners.

Registration can be done on the [website](#) or via phone - 250 479 6162.

Now Available! Workshops & Classes for Private Groups



community education workshops & classes for groups

RESERVE A PRIVATE CLASS AT THE
GARDENS FOR YOUR GROUP

The list of available classes, pricing and other information to help you plan your activity are available on our website [HERE](#).



Children & Youth Programs



Look what is happening this Fall at HCP Kids!

- **SCHOOLS** - Bookings are now open for **2023-24** [HERE](#)
- **HOME LEARNERS'** - Sign up your child or a group [HERE](#)
- **BIRTHDAYS** - popular themes include Fairy Gardens & Mythical Creatures [HERE](#)
- **STUDENTS JOBS & VOLUNTEER opportunities.** Looking for experience working with children during our JMG Garden Camps this school year? Contact youthprograms@hcp.ca for details.
- **HARVEST FESTIVAL** - Saturday, October 28 from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Join us for our Fall Market Place, face painting, pumpkin people, exhibits and activities. Family friendly, admission by donation.
- [Wreath Making for Families Workshops](#) - Registration links below.

Looking for a workshop or lesson for your group? Contact us at youthprograms@hcp.ca

To see more details about a program please use the link in the title.

BIRTHDAYS in The Garden!

We offer 90 minute birthdays for children in the garden. Our parties are based on fun and engaging nature experiences using a theme of your choice, including Terrarium Gardens, Mythical Creatures, Fairy Gardens, and Herbal Creations, among others. See our complete list of workshops [HERE](#) . For more information contact our School & Youth Programs Coordinator at youthprograms@hcp.ca .

HOME LEARNERS

We offer a unique program selection for home learning families and networks! Whether you are a homeschool parent or group teacher, these garden based nature programs are filled with curriculum rich learning experiences for your child. We offer full day, drop in and series programs. If you are looking for inspiration for program ideas, in addition to the program listed [HERE](#), please take a look at [SCHOOL PROGRAMS](#), these can also be provided for your group as can can of our HCP Kids – Workshops.

If you are interested in having us design something for your needs, please reach out to us at youthprograms@hcp.ca.

Pro-D Day Camps

Please Click on the date to register

[Oct 20](#)

[Nov 20](#)

Feb 16

May 17

Pumpkin People

Bring along your family or friends group and create a seasonal Pumpkin person that will be displayed on our lower field for the month! You bring along the clothing and we provide the straw, binding and pumpkins. All ages welcome

Dates & Times: **October 28 - 10 am; October 28 - 11 am**

Register: Online by selecting the date and time or call 250-479-6162

Mythical Creatures

Dragons, gnomes and more! Do you know someone who loves to create adventures? These gardens are playtime options that explore creative expression. We begin with a garden walk for inspiration to begin our adventure together. Using hardy plants and natural materials these mini gardens each become unique and suited to playtime. Want to join a child for this workshop? Register yourself and make your own garden to take away. All materials are provided.

Date & Time: October 21 - 1:30 - 3:00 pm

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

Lantern Making with Pressed Flowers

Treasure each petal, leaf and flower in your garden as an art form with this lantern making

workshop using pressed flowers. Together we will explore how to collect botanicals, press them, and the steps of making a paper lantern using pressed flowers. Each participant will make their own lantern to take away.

Date & Time: November 4 - 9:30 - 11:30 am

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

Wreath Making for Families

Join us for this annual gathering to prepare a wreath for your home this holiday season. Using a selection of greenery along with friendly guidance,

create a unique wreath to enjoy or gift! These small sized workshops offer a slower and easier pace for small hands to lend assistance with. All materials are provided.

Date & Times: [December 1 - 10:00 am](#), [December 2 - 10:30 am](#), [December 2 - 1:30 pm](#), [December 3 - 10:00 am](#), [December 3 - 1:30 pm](#)

Register: Online by selecting the date and time or call 250-479-6162

Nature Centrepiece Workshop

Using our gardens and natural spaces for inspiration, we will explore designs and a variety of materials to create a beautiful centrepiece for your holiday season. All materials are provided.

Date & Time: December 9 - 10:00 - 11:30 am

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

Holiday Gift Making

Touch someone this holiday season with handmade gifts inspired by the garden! We will explore a variety of easy and unique gifts made with local materials that will be a delight to give and receive.

Date & Time: December 9 - 1:30 - 3:30 pm

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

Please contact youthprograms@hcp.ca to discuss the suitability for your child if you like.

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

RECEIPT

TOTAL

COUNTRY GROCER GIFT CARD

ARE YOU A...

COMMUNITY GROUP
NOT FOR PROFIT
SPORTS TEAM
SCHOOL

JOIN ONLINE

COUNTRYGROCER/COMMUNITY/SAVEATAPE

Thanks to our wonderful volunteer Bev for bringing this fundraising opportunity to us! We have collected almost \$15,000 in receipts so far!

Please drop off your Country Grocer receipts at the Front Desk, it's as easy as that to support our Volunteer cookie program!

Thanks again everyone!

Deborah



Events at HCP



Our 2024 wedding bookings are open, and we've still got some room in the summer! August 2024 is almost full for the weekends, but we've still got some room for July & September.

Please reach out to me at events@hcp.ca with any questions or inquiries! I'm happy to connect and make sure your special day will be perfect!

Have you booked your Christmas Party? Our pavilion is the perfect location!

We are always booking our pavilion throughout the year for corporate events, meetings, memorials, workshops, birthdays, and more! We are always excited to hear what event you'd like to hold at our beautiful Gardens.



Pic from last year's Harvest Festival!

Don't miss it on October 28th!



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



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

**Reciprocal
Admissions
Program**

2023

member garden



Thank You, Tree

Illustrated by Fiona Lee, Text by Hannah Fries

To celebrate the beginning of the HCP Library's brand-new children's collection, today we're sharing our first book donation, *Thank You, Tree* by Fiona Lee and Hannah Fries.

In this lovely board book gratitude is expressed for the gifts of trees. Throughout the seasons diverse children describe what they appreciate about trees (branches to swing and climb on, shade on a hot day etc). Lovely illustrations and simple text make this book suitable for youngest children. Searching for the sometimes-elusive chipmunk on each page adds a dimension of play. Plus, the guide to tree species at the back with an invitation

to find each throughout the book adds another element for slightly older children.

You can share the love of nature with young readers in your life by borrowing this new book from the HCP Library. And to contribute to growing that love throughout the community, consider making a donation to our new children's collection. Our online [Wish List](#) has suggestions of books you can give. And you can contact us at library@hcp.ca to discuss the details of your gift. Thank you for your support!

And to see other books new to the library check out our [Recent Acquisitions](#).



Library Hours

Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 10am to 1pm

Contact us at library@hcp.ca

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



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