

Salal

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SUNSHINE COAST BOTANICAL
GARDEN SOCIETY

VOL 24, ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2026

- BIRDS OF VALLARTA
- GARRY OAK ECOSYSTEM
- TRIALS AND TIMING OF
PROPAGATION





COVER PHOTO:

By late winter, weary from the gray skies and the cold and wet, we seek out the smallest signs of life sprouting from the ground. The cheer and charm of the Crocus is an indicator that spring is not too far off.

PHOTO: HEATHER VINCE

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Sunshine Coast Botanical
Garden is located at:
5941 Mason Road, Sechelt
604-740-3969

Board of Directors

President: Cathy Hallam
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Joyce Gould, Douglas Justice,
Cheryl Phillips, Rosemary
Bates Terry

The Garden acknowledges its responsibilities as an occupant of this land in the swiya of the shishálh people. We pledge to treat this land with respect and welcome all to share in our journey of learning and knowledge sharing.

Spring Hours

Visit our website for
closures and updates

www.coastbotanicalgarden.org

Sunday	11 am - 4 pm
Monday	11 am - 4 pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	Closed
Friday	11 am - 4 pm
Saturday	11 am - 4 pm

Beginning May 1st, the Garden will be closed only on Wednesday & Thursdays.

Many thanks to **RBC Royal Bank - Gibsons & Sechelt** for their funding support, and the help of our wonderful volunteers to put on another magical *Solstice Celebration* for the community over the holidays.

The Veggie Garden group is grateful for the generous donations of seeds from both **West Coast Seeds** and **Northern Wildflowers**. Their support will help our volunteers to grow even more produce for the Food Bank and other food security initiatives this year.

Thank You



Though the seasonal weather continues to keep us guessing, one thing that remains unchanged is the speed of time. Spring is nearly here, which brings us to the first edition of yet another volume (24) of *Salal*.

If, like me, you are doing your best to make sense of the current state of our world, and you've got Sam Cooke's 'A Change is Gonna Come' on steady rotation for any semblance of hope, let us begin this issue with a gentle reminder: **Go play outside!**

There is a mountain of research confirming what we already know: there are benefits to our mental and physical health when we can get outdoors to enjoy the fresh air and to be inspired by the incredible resilience of the plants that thrive through environmental adversity. I'm reminded of the cheeky phrase, to 'go touch grass,' that emerged in the last decade as a prod to those who confined themselves indoors, shackled to their video games. Today, that would include *doomscrolling* on social media. It was a nudge to the disconnected to return to reality. And in a much kinder way, we invite you to come to the Garden to do the same.

And speaking of changes, you will likely have noticed that *Salal*, has taken a different approach over the last few issues, with respect to format, layout, and content. We want *Salal* to share the voices and contributions of Garden friends, partnering organizations and other knowledgeable folks in the botanical, sustainability and conservation spheres on and off the Coast. We have also made the decision to reduce



Salal to three issues from four, publishing in March, July, and November. *Salal* will continue to provide our members with insightful content and updates on happenings at the Garden during the pivotal times of the year.

Happy spring, we hope you enjoy this issue.
- **HV**

As many of you already know, I am retiring from my position at the Garden this June.

My involvement with the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society goes back to 2006, when I was first invited to join the Board. I served as a director under our founding President Glenn Lewis, and later as Vice President under Lori Pickering. It was during Lori's term that this exceptional property on Mason Road was discovered, and the entire Board knew immediately it would be the perfect place for the Garden. Following Lori's term, I was President from 2009 to 2011 and remained on the Board until June of 2012.

Our executive at the time included VP (later President) Paddy Wales, and Treasurer Heather Gordon. Not only were they excellent mentors, but they also became good friends. Our first big project, 'Ground Works,' began in 2009 and included the design and construction of our Garden Pavilion, along with the renovation of the two existing buildings in our Works Yard. Fencing was reinforced, drainage ditches were cleared of debris, and septic fields were put in. While the construction work was handled by the general contractor, countless volunteers pitched in to control invasive species, sell Christmas trees, offer tours, plant the Vegetable Garden, and tend plants for our annual Plant Sale.

A lot has changed since the early days. Climate change is finally getting the attention it deserves. I'm proud of the steps the Garden has taken to not only in



ABOVE: Taken in 2010, Mary is with the volunteer firefighters of Sechelt Fire Dept - this day remains to be the best day of her career at the Garden.

mitigation and adaptation to the change, but in our ability to share resources with others to do the same. Our amazing collection of native plants is constantly expanding to provide wonderful opportunities to learn what can naturally thrive in our area. Hundreds of school kids have visited and learned about pond life, seed dispersal, life cycles, and pollinators. The Vegetable Garden has donated thousands of pounds of fresh, healthy produce for the local Food Bank. Our annual Plant Sale continues to offer great plants and great value, as well as expert advice. The Garden is living up to its tagline: Where People and Plants Thrive!

It has been a huge honour to help shepherd the Garden through its early development to date, and I know that the future holds incredible possibilities. I am very grateful for the opportunities to learn and to share knowledge, and to the amazing staff and volunteers I've met along the way.

See you at the Garden! - **MB**



THERAPY DOGS AT THE GARDEN

As part of our effort to make the Garden available to the community as a tool to support mental wellbeing, our Board has made an amendment to the Garden's policy regarding the permittance of service animals to include 'therapy dogs.'

We are pleased to extend the invitation to registered counsellors and mental health practitioners to have working 'therapy dogs' accompany them to the Garden to support their clients during 'walk & talk' counselling sessions. Dogs must be pre-approved by the office and arrangements made with the office ahead of time of future visits. For further details, please reach out by email to: development@coastbotanicalgarden.org



NEW COLLABORATION: SUNSHINE COAST SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD

We are excited to announce a new collaboration with the artists of the Sunshine Coast Spinners & Weavers Guild! The Guild will create a demonstration Dye and Fibre Garden situated beside the Seniors' Garden beds. There, they will showcase and teach about plants that can be grown and harvested to create beautiful, sustainable textiles for use in fibre arts and clothing. We look forward to sharing updates and opportunities to learn from the Guild here at the Garden. Learn more about the Guild by visiting: <https://scswg.wordpress.com/>

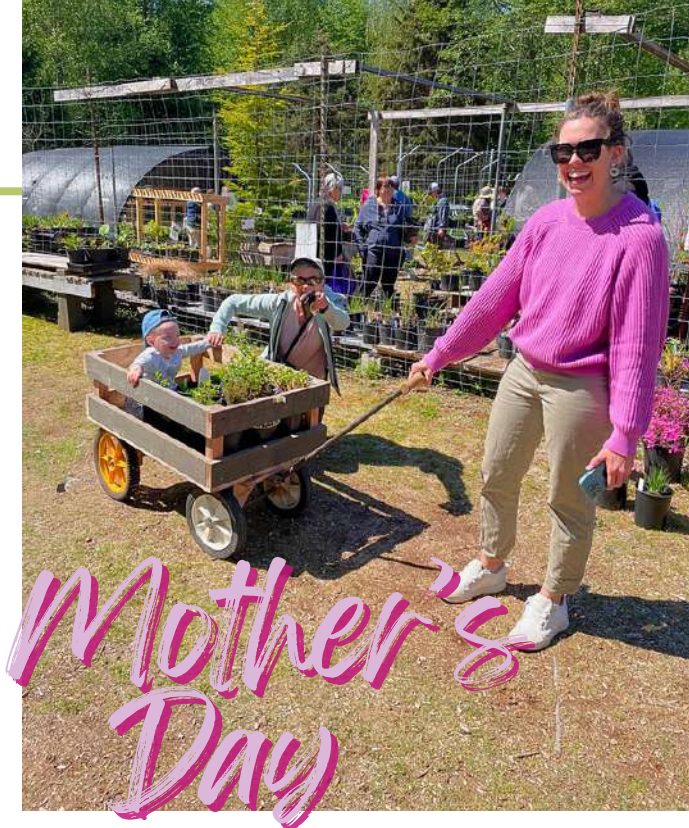


REIMAGINING SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Garden remains a popular destination for elementary school fieldtrips at springtime, especially when word gets out that amphibian egg sacs have turned up in the ponds!

To address the challenges of volunteer availability to facilitate these fieldtrips, our current School Program volunteers and retired educators have helped to restructure the delivery of the lesson plans. Now, the Garden will offer 'kits' that contain tools and equipment, literature and lesson plans to help teachers lead these sessions. An added bonus: these books and kits can be signed out by families to use during their visit to the Garden on the weekends and holidays. If you feel called to financially support the purchase of these learning kits, the Garden would welcome your donation.

SAVE THE DATE | MAY 10



Join us on **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10th** for the **Garden's annual Plant Sale**. Admission is free this day, so treat mom—or your favourite person—to some new plants, and a walk around the Garden!



Browse a fantastic selection of **perennials, shrubs, small trees, grasses** and **edible plants** potted up by our skilled volunteers, ready for you to plant at home.

Experienced volunteers will be on hand to help select the best plants to suit your home garden, and **Master Gardeners** will be on hand to answer gardening questions.

We'll have bags of **fertilizer** for sale, too!

More details still to come. Visit:
<https://coastbotanicalgarden.org/plant-sale/>

WE WILL HAPPILY ACCEPT YOUR PLANT DONATIONS!

Donations can be dropped off at the Potting Shed on Tuesdays, at 1:00 PM. Enter through the Volunteer Parking lot off Mason Road. Can't make it on Tuesdays? The Garden is open Fri- Mon, 11 AM - 4 PM. Give us a call with any questions: 604-740-3969

Thank You!

GARRY OAK ECOSYSTEM | BEN STORMES,
CURATOR & HORTICULTURIST, UBC BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Garry Oak Meadows of British Columbia are worth getting to know.

The Garry oak meadows are a component of the local coast Douglas fir ecosystem that are largely restricted to south eastern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands. .

These meadows are characterized by an open deciduous canopy of *Quercus garryana*, with very sparse occurrences of *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Arbutus menziesii*, *Acer macrophyllum*, *Cornus nuttallii*, or other familiar regionally native trees. Indeed, some areas of meadow lack much canopy cover at all. Where soils are deep, the oaks can grow to a large stature and have hefty, rounded crowns supported by thick trunks and robust branching. Where soils are shallow,

Garry,
who?

continued next page

GARRY OAK ECOSYSTEM | CONTINUED

this same species grows as gnarled, stunted, seemingly contorted trees with thin canopies and a more weathered appearance. Both iterations of this species, and the meadows in which they grow, have a charm entirely different than the dense, dark conifer stands that dominate much of our region's lower elevation forests.

While these meadows are named for their oaks, they support a wide diversity of plant life, from dense and expansive colonies of mosses to a breathtaking diversity of ephemeral flowering plants. *Camassia quamash*, *Camassia leichtlinii*, and *Delphinium menziesii*'s purple blooms stand out among fields of pink *Plectritis congesta* and yellow *Lomatium utriculatum* and *Ranunculus occidentalis* in open areas. In wet locations with good sun *Erythranthe guttata* forms massive drifts accompanied by *Dodecatheon pulchellum* and *Micranthes occidentalis*. Hidden in the dappled shade provided by the occasional groves of *Quercus garryana* and other trees you might find the elegant *Erythronium oregonum*, *Fritillaria affinis*, and the occasional *Trillium ovatum* among a groundcover of *Achlys triphylla*, *Dicentra formosa*, and *Montia parvifolia*. Spring in these meadows is truly an exuberant display of diversity and abundance!

As striking as they are in bloom, these spring meadow scenes are fleeting. With soil profiles that are often shallow and a lack of shade-providing tree cover, the open meadows dry quickly as the rains cease.

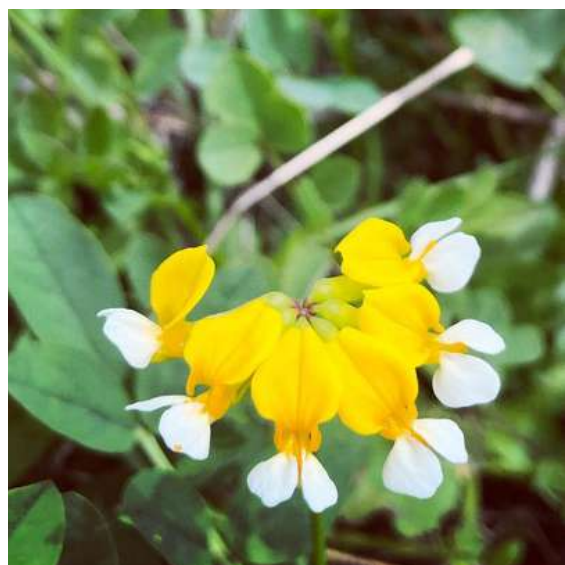
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TOP RIGHT: *Fritillaria affinis* (Chocolate Lily)

MIDDLE: Locally endangered *Hosackia pinnata* (Meadow bird's-foot trefoil)

BOTTOM RIGHT: *Delphinium menziesii* (Menzie's Larkspur)

(Photos provided by Ben Stormes)



GARRY OAK ECOSYSTEM | CONTINUED

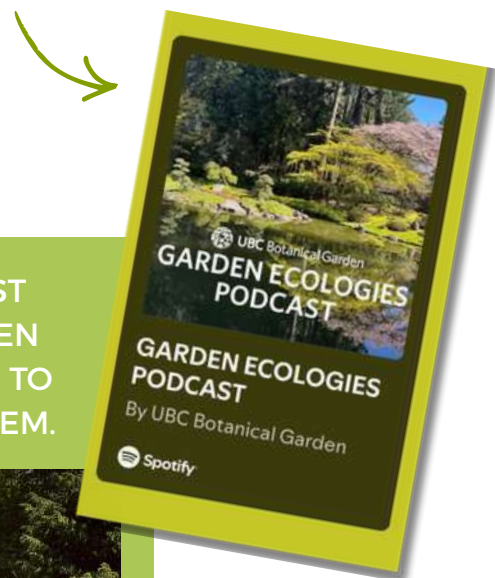
With the onset of summer drought the vibrant colours fade to a largely uniform golden brown, and most herbaceous vegetation enters a state of dormancy. Yet the oaks, cloaked in their thick, deep green leaves stand out like island oases in the landscape, offering refuge from the intensifying summer sun.

The Garry oak meadows in British Columbia are limited in their distribution, occupying coastal and near-coastal sites from Victoria north to Comox and adjacent islands. Relentless pressures from development, agriculture, invasive species, and habitat degradation have further reduced their hold. It is estimated that only 5% of British Columbia's original Garry oak meadows remain, and within this a number of locally rare and provincially endangered species can also be found. Thankfully, there are passionate individuals learning about the unique nature of the Garry oak ecosystems, organizations working to protect and rehabilitate them, and cultural shifts in understanding the important role indigenous stewardship practices have on these meadows. May this brief article inspire to you join the cause to learn more! - **BS**



ABOVE: Wandering these dry meadows in mid-summer one might mistakenly presume they are relatively devoid of life, and it takes a keen eye to recognize the lingering signs of great richness that shone only months, maybe weeks, before.

Listen to Ben speak about cultivating the Garry Oak ecosystem in episode #4 of UBC Botanical Garden's Garden Ecologies podcast:



THE GARRY OAK MEADOWS AT THE SUNSHINE COAST BOTANICAL GARDEN WILL BE IN PEAK BLOOM BETWEEN APRIL-MAY. USE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND VISIT OFTEN TO WITNESS THE LIFECYCLE OF THIS IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEM.





BIRDING
at the
*Vallarta
Botanical
Garden*

The Vallarta Botanical Garden was the first stop on my 9-day bird watching tour through northwest Mexico this past January, and it proved to be a very productive three hours in terms of the number of species of birds (and butterflies) we saw.

The garden has made a real effort to appeal to serious plant people and keen birders, as well as casual tourists. Like any botanical garden, their plantings are designed to be visually appealing but also useful in attracting birds with their flowers and fruit.

The Vallarta garden maintains a feeding platform near their main 'hacienda' (containing a restaurant and gift shop) and at 1 pm each day a staff member fills it with sliced fruit, peanuts and seeds. The feeder brings in colourful birds, which can be easily viewed and photographed. I didn't notice any hummingbird feeders but they would be unnecessary with so many native and exotic flowering plants in the garden.

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VALLARTA BOTANICAL GARDEN | CONTINUED

The garden has further catered to birders by producing posters of the birds you'll likely see while strolling the formal walkways, the river path and jungle trails. A page on the garden's website encourages birding visitors to link their observations to the eBird and iNaturalist apps.



The Vallarta Botanical Garden looks after the 120-hectare nature reserve around the Los Horcones River, which runs through the property and provides a home to endangered species such as the Military Macaw and the Ocelot. Every three or four years, the garden makes another land purchase to increase the size of the reserve. Donations for this purpose are part of the garden's regular fundraising.

The next time you're in Puerto Vallarta, I encourage you to take the short bus or taxi ride south to the garden for an immersive visit in Mexico's natural heritage. - HH —

MORE INFO HERE:
[WWW.VBGARDENS.ORG/
BIRD-WATCHING](http://WWW.VBGARDENS.ORG/BIRD-WATCHING)



the Waiting Game

THE TRIALS OF
TIMING AND
TESTING FOR
PROPAGATION

Thanks to seeds collected by Sean and a group of volunteers, the garden staff were able to propagate 36 species that staff and visitors alike have come to know and love.

Some of these species included *Cornus nuttallii* (Pacific dogwood), *Valeriana congesta* (Sea blush), *Ribes sanguineum* (Red-flowering current), and *Sidalcea oregana* (Oregon checker-mallow).



When propagating the seeds, the garden staff researched each individual species and were able to share knowledge not only about the role of the plants in the garden, but throughout their native distributions. By cultivating and caring for a diverse range of species across ecosystem types and geographic ranges, the garden fosters biodiversity, something that has gained more attention for its significant role in the wellbeing of humans and nature alike over recent years. By propagating these plant species, the garden is benefitting both the human and non-human organisms on the coast and providing a haven for some of the remarkable flora here on this planet we share.

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NOTES FROM THE GARDENERS | CONTINUED

The diversity of the garden's propagation efforts didn't end at the species level; they also extended to propagation methods themselves. By researching the needs and life history of each individual species, the garden staff employed a variety of propagation techniques.

For example, the garden staff propagated *Acer circinatum* (Vine maple) by 1) direct sowing whole seeds, 2) direct sowing whole seeds that had been soaked for 72 hours, and 3) direct sowing split seeds that had been soaked for 72 hours. These methods differentiated the timing and speed at which the seeds break dormancy. All three trays were covered in leaf mulch, which was unanimously recommended across credible sources and mirrored natural conditions that *Acer circinatum* seedlings would find across their native range. Timing is also important in propagation, and since this species (and many that the garden staff propagated) require cold stratification, the garden staff finished propagation projects in November.

*Now that the seeds
have been sown, all
that's left to do is wait
until they show.*

Some of the species will take longer than others (trees, for instance, like to take their time), so updates will be staggered.



PHOTO: NEMOPHILA MACULATA BY DREAMMOOSE

ABOVE: Early growth of *Nemophila maculata* (Fivespot), a native wildflower that grows in the higher elevations of California coastal ranges. This annual

will be planted into the beds of our Cascadia Garden for visitors and pollinators to enjoy.

The first signs of life have started to show with the *Ribes sanguineum* cuttings and the Shogun tulip bulbs, which are unfurling new leaves and sprouting as we speak. We can't wait to share more with you as this project takes root and grows to its full potential.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the volunteers who helped make propagation possible this year. The seeds collected were invaluable. Thank you as well to Sean who personally sought out species on his own time to bring to the garden and enhance its collection. - **PL**



Greens to Try

Many leafy vegetables like cool weather, but with climate change, spring and autumn planting timings are getting challenging.

In particular, we have had problems with pak choi; over the past few years, we have had pak choi bolt while in the flats, or bolt soon after planting, or get attacked by cabbage moths or flea beetles before reaching harvest size.

So, we are always trying different greens and assessing them, both for the hot and the cold months.

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NOTES FROM THE VEGGIE GARDEN | CONTINUED

Today we'd like to highlight two: perpetual spinach (for its high yield) and shungiku (for its high nutritive qualities).

Perpetual spinach is not a true spinach. A relative of the beets, which is itself a relative of swiss chard, the plant looks and tastes like spinach when young and small, and if you let it get bigger, it looks and tastes like swiss chard. A Twofer!

Perpetual spinach is a biennial so once you plant in the spring of one year, you can go on harvesting through summer, autumn, winter and next spring, until they bolt in summer. In 2024, we harvested 54lb, and 120lb in 2025, both in a 50 sq. ft. (approx.) bed. Both years' poundage were measured from spring to winter within the same year. For the 2024 planting, we had to clear them before any spring harvest in the following year in order to build raise beds; for the 2025 planting, we will still be harvesting them when we start again in Spring.

Shungiku, (aka Tung Oh) or crown daisy/chrysanthemum greens, is a highly nutritious, leafy green, aromatic, and slightly bitter.

Shungiku is a staple in East Asian cuisine, particularly in hot pots. It can also be used in salads, stir-fries, and soups. →



ABOVE: This perpetual spinach was planted in 2024 in our old beds. Compare this growth to the image at the start of the article - perpetual spinach planted in 2025 in the new raised beds.

BELOW: This photo of Shungiku, was taken at the Veggie Garden on Jan 2026.



NOTES FROM THE VEGGIE GARDEN | CONTINUED...

Chrysanthemum leaves contain an extremely high content of vitamin A and vitamin K compared to other vegetables. To get the most out of these nutritional benefits, it is good to eat with fats and oils, and as chrysanthemum leaves contain water-soluble vitamins, which are sensitive to heat, it is best to cook them only for a short time. The flowers can be made into a pickle, eaten raw as a garnish, or used as a tea.

The plant does bolt over summer, but as the flowers are edible, keep up with harvesting over summer, cutting out the flower buds. Due to our mild winters, this vegetable was still growing strongly when I checked it in January. As with other vegetables, keep harvesting over winter till they get “bald” and in spring, they will come back again.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Don't forget: Bring your membership card with you to local garden centres to receive a discount on your plant purchases!

See the last page of this issue for participating retailers.

Interested in a raised Sproutbox Garden bed for your garden at home?



Did you know?

Chrysanthemum leaves are rich in dietary fiber, potassium, calcium, iron, beta-carotene, vitamin K, vitamins B1, B2, B6, folic acid, and vitamin C.

This makes them useful for maintaining healthy eyesight, bones, blood, and skin.

The unique aroma of chrysanthemum leaves is formed by alpha-pinene and perillaldehyde, which have the effect of promoting gastrointestinal function.

As you plan your garden this year, I hope you will allocate some space to these new greens.- VC



Garden members receive **15% off** their purchase plus free shipping in B.C.! Contact the Garden office for your discount code: 604-740-3969

NOTES FROM THE HIVE | CAROL HARRIS

Beekeepers are enjoying a bit of down time as our bees are still huddled in their hives keeping warm and well fed. We are all looking forward to spring, which is just around the corner.

As beekeepers this is the time to be sure that we have all our bee equipment and supplies ready for the upcoming season. As the weather warms around the end of February, it's time to do the first inspection of the hives. We look for bee brood, pollen, and food resources. By March, we will likely need to give them some food as their reserves could be getting low. At this time of the year there will be very little nectar available to them. When the bees start flying, we will inspect for mites and any diseases that may be present in the hive, and act accordingly.

March is also the time to add new packages of bees to expand our colonies. These packages contain

a laying queen and approximately 2-3 pounds of bees (8,000 to 10,000 worker bees).



Preparing for the Honeybees' Return

We prepare a new hive box with drawn comb from the previous season. There is usually a frame or two of honey. We will add a syrup mixture to feed and entice the bees to stay in their new home. Once the hive is ready, we gently shake the new bees into their new home along with the queen, who is in a separate 'queen cage' to protect her. The worker bees will release her by chewing through a plug at the end of the cage over the next few days.

continued next page

NOTES FROM THE HIVE |
CONTINUED...

*Our hope is that
the bees will accept
their new home.*

At our upcoming club meetings, we will be making decisions on workshop dates and topics as well as putting details together for a Beginners Introductory Workshop for anyone interested in bees and bee keeping.

MASTER GARDENERS |
ADAM RATTRAY

THE DEEP WINTER
*Green
House*

Spring is soon approaching -
is *now* the time to start
preparing for gardening
next winter?

Here on the West Coast of British Columbia, winter is rarely defined by deep snow or bitter cold. Instead, it is the long stretch of grey skies and steady rain that slows the



PHOTOS: provided by Carol Harris

For information on our club or its activities feel free to contact me by email at seaharris101@gmail.com or by phone 604-740-6513.- **CH**



PHOTO: Conservatory Craftsmen

garden down. Beds become saturated, growth stalls, and many of us simply wait for March. That is exactly why the deep winter dreenhouse is such an exciting idea for coastal gardeners - it transforms the quiet season into one of steady production.

The Deep Winter Greenhouse concept was developed and refined by researchers at the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Building Research.

continued next page

MASTER GARDENERS | ADAM RATTRAY

Their approach combined passive solar design, heavy insulation, and thermal storage to allow crops to grow through harsh northern winters. The University of Minnesota has published plans and guides, making it possible for gardeners and builders to adapt the concept to their own climates.

At its core, a Deep Winter Greenhouse features a steep south-facing glazed wall that captures low winter sunlight. On the Coast, where daylight can be limited in December and January, that solar gain is critical. The north wall and roof are heavily insulated to prevent heat loss. Many designs include an underground thermal mass system, sometimes called an earth battery. Perforated pipes buried beneath planting beds circulate warm daytime air into the soil, where heat is stored and slowly released overnight.

The potential rewards are impressive. Cold-tolerant greens such as kale, arugula, spinach, and mustard thrive in these cool but protected conditions. With thoughtful design, you can also experiment with tomatoes or even tropical plants. Because the structure relies primarily on solar energy and insulation rather than constant heating, operating costs can remain modest. Adding rooftop solar panels to power fans or supplemental lighting further increases efficiency.

If you want inspiration, search YouTube for “Deep Winter Greenhouse Saskatchewan build” or “Alberta passive solar greenhouse tour.” Prairie growers share detailed



walkthroughs of framing, ventilation systems, and winter harvests. Watching someone harvest greens and banana trees in minus thirty degrees weather makes our coastal conditions seem especially promising.

The Coast’s moderate winters are an advantage. We rarely experience prolonged deep freezes, so insulation demands and heating costs are lower than in prairie climates. What we do face is high humidity. Good ventilation and air circulation are essential to manage condensation and prevent mold.

There are trade-offs. A Deep Winter Greenhouse requires an upfront investment in glazing, framing, and insulation. It is not a simple weekend project. However, creative builders can reduce costs with recycled windows, materials from Restore, or culled lumber from local suppliers.

To read more, visit: <https://coastbotanicalgarden.org/blog/dwg-adam-rattray/>

When it comes to compost you really do get out what you put in. Clean input = clean output; this goes a long way in helping to produce the best possible compost to go back onto the land.

We believe there's something special about the entire community of the Sunshine Coast participating in a green waste program: All of us contributing organic materials that are made into soil. Besides the ferries, it may be the one thing that connects us. Each of us in the community is part of the beautiful circularity that is composting. We give boundless thanks to those who are diligent about what they put into the green bin.

WHAT GOES IN / WHAT STAYS OUT:

- **Biodegradable ≠ Compostable!**

The difference is the timescale.

“Compostable” products must be able to breakdown within ~3 months whereas “biodegradable” may take years.

- **Please use ONLY BPI® certified compostable bags (and other products).**

We are currently testing 9 different types of compostable bags under our conditions and will report on our favourite bags! (For us, no bag is best, but we understand people want to keep the process clean at home).

- **Most dog poop bags are not compostable** (including the ones available at many parks on the coast). Please double-check.
- **Please remove any packaging from food** before placing it into the green bin or bag.
- Taking the stickers off your fruit DOES help.



good to know...

Keeping your compost in the freezer not only helps reduce odors in your home, but it helps speed up the decomposition process! Freezing water expands inside the cells, breaking the cell wall, which degrades the food and makes it easier for microorganisms to start doing their thing.

WHAT'S ON AT THE GARDEN



Coming up!

MARCH 8, 15

APRIL 12, 19

MAY 3

9:00 AM



Learn to Bird - 5 week course

Are you a casual 'birder,' who is ready to move beyond your backyard and get serious about birdwatching? Do you want to learn how you can contribute scientific data to help shape legislation for the protection of birds and their habitats?

The Garden has partnered with the **Sunshine Coast Natural History Society** to conduct a new Citizen Science project, and we need your help!

In exchange for your commitment to support year-round monitoring of bird activity at the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden, we will teach you the different methods of identifying bird species among the different habitats and how to capture your findings using the eBird app on your smartphone.

MARCH 22

1:00 PM



iNaturalist with Sarah Ritter

iNaturalist is a fascinating and free tool that has united nature enthusiasts the world over! Using crowdsourced data, species once believed to be extirpated have been re-discovered, and endangered ecosystems can now be monitored.

Join us to learn from **Sarah Ritter**, a recent Biology graduate, on how to use iNaturalist to document plant findings, discover new-to-you species, how to take photos and enter in observations details to make your entry 'research quality.' Like eBird, information gathered can be used to support research efforts that can go a long way to preserving and protecting sensitive and endangered habitat.

To register for either or both workshops, please email: development@coastbotanicalgarden.org

MARCH 29

12 - 2:30 PM



Filmscreening: 'Food is My Teacher'



*In collaboration with One Straw Society:
a special invitation for our members*

One Straw Society's new monthly member meet-ups kicks off at the Garden with a screening of 'Food is My Teacher' and a discussion with filmmaker, Dr. Tammara Soma. Garden members are invited to attend. Registration is required - more details to come!

WHAT'S ON AT THE GARDEN



Spring Pruning with Cheryl Topping

MARCH 21 1:00 PM \$10/Members; \$15/Non-members

The Coast's favourite arborist is back with us again! Cheryl will cover off what in your home garden needs to be pruned in the spring season, the different pruning methods for trees/shrubs, and what tools to use. This class is perfect for those who are new to pruning, or even if you just need a refresher.

Bring your questions and a pen and paper to take notes.

Seating is limited, admission by cash at the door.

SUSTAINABLE

Floral
art with

LESLEY CUMING

Kokedama

MARCH 28 1 - 4 PM \$75/Members; \$85/Non-members

There are no limits to the imagination when it comes to creating Kokedama - Japanese moss balls! This understated moss sculpture can be simplistic and elegant on its own, suspended in front of a window, or grouped in multiples to create a spectacular tablescape or planter display.

Floral designer Lesley Cuming will guide participants through the basics of this centuries-old garden art form. Participants are welcome to bring their own bonsai planter or display vessel.

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE.

Hypertufa Planter

JUNE 13/20 11 AM - 2 PM

\$85/Members; \$95/Non-members

Learn how to create a unique hypertufa planter for your indoor or outdoor garden displays! This special technique offers a rustic look of old stone but is lightweight and allows for drainage. This creative workshop, led by floral artist, Lesley Cuming will spread out over two days to allow time for curing and finishing touches. Each participant will go home with a hypertufa planter, plus their own form to create additional planters in their own space.

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE.

To register for
Lesley's
workshops,
please phone
our office at
604-740-3969



VEGGIE GARDEN

SHIFTS:

TUES, THURS, SUN

Mornings 9 am – 11 am
or 10 am – 12 pm

To sign up or learn about other opportunities to get involved, please reach out by phone at 604-740-3969 or email us: info@coastbotanicalgarden.org

CLEAN TEAM

SHIFTS:

**THURSDAYS, weekly
or as needed**

Afternoons, 1 pm - 3 pm



DID YOU KNOW? All the food grown in the Veggie Garden, except the garlic, goes directly to the Sunshine Coast Community Services' Food Bank and Affordable Food Market. The garlic is grown for sale as a fundraiser for the Garden at our annual Labour Day weekend Harvest Festival.

The Veggie Garden group is perfect for those new to vegetable gardening or with little experience, as volunteers will learn on the job. It's a great opportunity to discover what grows--or doesn't-- in our Sunshine Coast climate. Volunteering in the Veggie Garden is a fun and worthwhile way to give back to your community, meet new people, and get your hands in the soil.

Tuesdays are harvest days, where volunteers harvest and weigh the produce, record the weight of the yield, and deliver the produce directly to the coordinators at the Food Bank in Sechelt. *WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE TUESDAY HELPERS.*

Thursdays are planting days. Volunteers prepare the garden beds for planting, then weed and plant the garden.

Sundays are watering and maintenance days, keeping the garden beds irrigated and as free from weeds and pests as possible.

DID YOU KNOW?: Rental revenues generated from Pavilion bookings help cover operational costs for the Garden. Every year, the Pavilion plays host to weddings, celebration of life services, birthday parties, anniversaries, art shows, high school graduation parties, and pretty much anything else you can think of!

Our Clean Team volunteers gather weekly during the busy seasons (late spring/summer/holidays) to keep the Pavilion sparkling. But, here's a secret: It's not sweeping floors or cleaning windows that bring this crew together, it's the social time they enjoy afterwards. And, this team has become friends over the years. It's true that many hands make light work, and cleaning is much less arduous when more are involved. So, our Clean Team would welcome a few more hands to help, enjoy good company and share libations afterwards.

Volunteer with us!

These Sunshine Coast businesses offer a discount to Botanical Garden members!

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Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden

WINTER HOURS
(October to April)
Friday to Monday ~ 11 am - 4 pm
Closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

SUMMER HOURS
(May to September)
Friday to Tuesday ~ 11 am - 4 pm
Closed Wednesday & Thursday

5941 Mason Road, Sechelt
• 604-740-3969 •
www.coastbotanicalgarden.org
info@coastbotanicalgarden.org