



# THE BULLETIN

BRITISHCOLUMBIACOUNCILOFGARDENCLUBS

DECEMBER 2020

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO ALL YOUR CLUB MEMBERS – THANK YOU!)

BY CINDY TATARYN

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

FOR ERIC HEES, PRESIDENT

**MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH, SEASONS GREETINGS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

However you celebrate this time of year, I wish you and your family all the best!

At the BC Council of Garden Clubs, we have added a new member to our family. I would like to welcome Lynda Pasacreta to our newsletter committee. She is going to put out a shorter newsletter each month instead of a large quarterly newsletter as was done in the past.

As well as any pertinent BC Council business, the newsletter will be featuring our member clubs, native plants, and gardening-related articles

Please join me in welcoming Lynda to the BCCGC team. If she contacts your club looking for an article to include in the BCCGC newsletter, please do your best to help her by sending an article about your club or an activity your club has been involved with, or share an article from your own newsletter.

If you have a passion for pollinators, butterflies or native plants and would like to write articles for the BCCGC newsletter please contact Lynda Pasacreta at [lyndap@shaw.ca](mailto:lyndap@shaw.ca).

I would like to thank all of you who attended our October 24th zoom Fall General Meeting. We had 105 people attend from over 40 clubs around the province. It is nice that clubs from outside the Lower Mainland can attend on zoom that could never have attended otherwise.

I guess there are some good things that have come out of these restrictions after all!

We conducted a vote on the Proposed Budget for 2021 and a change to the By-Laws Article 7 (2) Finance. Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to our questions.

The results are in:

Proposed Budget for 2021: 66 YES, 0 No, 3 Abstain. Motion has Passed 95.65%.

By-Law 7(2) Finance: 65 YES, 1 No, 2 Abstain. Motion has Passed 95.59%.

Article 7 (2) Finance will now read:

## Article 7 (2) – FINANCE

The annual accounts and financial statements of the Council shall be subject to financial review either by a qualified independent accountant or by at least one member appointed by the ACM's at the general meeting.

No member of the present or elected Executive shall be appointed to review the financial records of the Council.

The accountant's or the reviewer's report, as the case may be, shall be presented at the AGM with copies available for all ACM's in attendance or by request later.

Now that the 'paperwork' is done it is time to get back to decorating the tree!

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Stay safe! Stay healthy! Stay engaged and keep on gardening

# NATIVES IN OUR GARDENS

## Lynda Pasacreta

I grew up in Castlegar, located in the West Kootenays. Castlegar is surrounded by the Purcell and Selkirk mountain ranges and is abundant in native plant life.

On our regular treks (before COVID) heading east from the Lower Mainland, we are very quickly immersed in all types of butterflies, bees and other insects surrounding our foot falls and flitting around our heads just a couple of hours outside of our city.

Urban environments have not been very supportive of our pollinators and wildlife in general. There is a movement toward increasing our native plant varieties by municipalities and home gardeners.

I joined David Suzuki Foundation Butterflyway Rangers in 2017. Our mission was to plant native wildflowers, or Butterflyways, in schoolyards, parks and streets to attract butterflies and bees into our neighbourhoods.

We received training from experts on the science behind providing healthy environments for bees and butterflies. To attract butterflies to your home garden, you need to ensure that you have both host

plants and nectar plants. Butterflies lay their eggs on particular plants and look for close proximity of nectar plants for when the eggs hatch.

Butterflies love to have access to a healthy water source, a sunny spot and close proximity to native trees and shrubs. Many butterflies hibernate in tree bark or cavities, where they can feed on tree sap in the spring.

Some great native plant choices for your butterfly garden are *Asclepias speciosa* (showy milkweed), *Symphotrichum subspicatum* (Douglas aster), *Anaphalis margaritacea* (pearly everlasting), *Clarkia amoena* (godetia), and *Coreopsis tinctoria* (plains coreopsis). Add some shrubs like *Ribes sanguineam* (flowering current), and a nice *Acer circinatum* (vine maple) tree and enjoy!



Tiger Swallowtail, Paulik Park  
Richmond, BC. Photo: Dan Pasacreta-

# CREATING BEAUTIFUL WINTER CONTAINERS

Lynda Pasacreta

We had a challenge in our cul-de-sac neighbourhood back in November: to brighten our days with early holiday decorations. Lights went up, and wreaths and garlands were attached to front doors.

Richmond Garden Club decided to inspire our members to create beautiful winter containers and add some holiday greenery to the design.

We have been creating YouTube videos in partnership with Richmond Library for their online education series. (YouTube, "Gardening with Richmond Garden Club.")

We chose a beautiful sunny day, picked the best location in front of a fiery yellow hued maple and put together our video.

It is actually simple to create a stunning winter container. Choose a frost-free pot with good drainage, add organic potting soil and then follow the container recipe of successful plant design: thriller, spiller and filler.

In this video, Jill Wright, a member of the club, demonstrated how to plant. For her thriller she chose a beautiful little *Chamaecyparis* (false cypress), carex grasses for her spiller and hellebore, heuchera, euphorbia and bergenia for fillers.

Greenery from nature can be added to existing containers to boost holiday spirit. Jill added holly, dogwood twigs, sprigs of coniferous trees and skimmia. So simple yet so beautiful!



## PROFILE OF A SCHOLAR RECIPIENT

Lee Fish, the 2020 award recipient at Vancouver Island University, tells us of some of the modifications to the Horticulture Technician Foundation Program due to Covid-19.

(Photo: Lee in September, checking the roots on one of the poinsettia crops)

BC Council of Garden Clubs,

August 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

I would like to thank you for your generous award. I am very grateful for your support of my education, especially in these uncertain times.

I have just started the second and final semester of my program in horticulture at VIU. It looks different than I expected my education to look like but I am excited that we are able to continue at all. We are meeting in person at the greenhouse one day a week and the other four days we are doing distance learning online. In support of the distance learning we were all provided with grow tents and a small number of poinsettia plants from our main poinsettia crop in the greenhouse, this was we can observe our plants daily and also compare a modest home-growing set-up with our small-scale commercial crop at the greenhouse.

I didn't grow up with gardening, but I have always liked eating fresh blackberries. The desire to grow my own fruit and not just pick what I find growing in forgotten places has been a major factor in getting me into studying horticulture. Now I am pursuing my studies with an interest in local food security, ecosystem services, and permaculture. As a summer placement I was managing a greenhouse attached to an onshore fish farm; the greenhouse is growing lettuce from the fish waste in an aquaponic system and the farm is using a built wetland to treat its wastewater which it reclaims and re-circulates in the farm.

In the next couple of years I plan to keep working or volunteering in the horticultural field; I hope to finish earning my red seal as a horticultural technician, and find jobs that satisfy my curiosity in regards to the natural world of plants. And I will keep picking blackberries – this year I've made nearly two gallons of brandy!

I hope this letter finds your members well; that they are all healthy and safe, and that their gardens were bountiful this season.

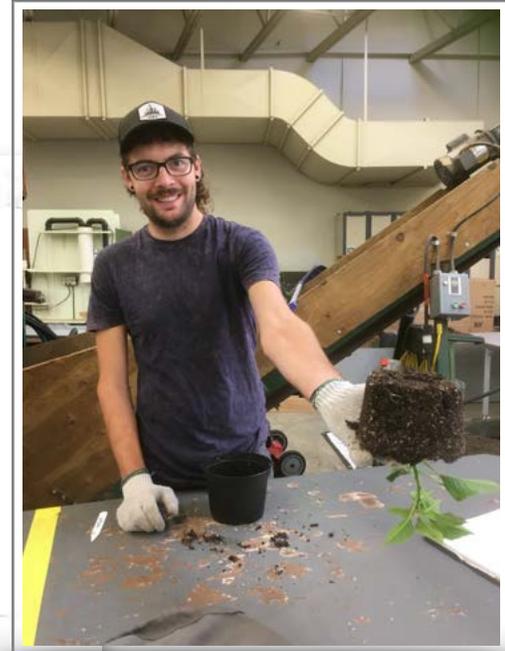
Thanks again,



Lee Fish

P.S.

My sincere apologies for the tardiness of this letter.



## BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Trust Fund

### 50 Years and Counting....

#### Brenda Woosnam, Chair, Scholarship Trust Fund

In the October issue of *The Bulletin* we celebrated 50 years since the initiation of the BCCGC Scholarship Fund in November 1970. The first awards were made in 1971 to UBC and BCIT students following a horticultural path. As the Fund grew other programs have been added to the list of those supported by the Council. Two programs, the Landscape Horticulture programs at BCIT and Capilano College, closed down but were replaced by others such as the University of the Fraser Valley two-year Agricultural Technology Diploma and the Landscape Horticulture Certificate at Pacific Horticulture College in Victoria.

Over the years the Fund has included 14 programs at 12 colleges and universities. Today there are 12 annual awards made at 10 institutions throughout the province. A total of 344 scholarships, bursaries and awards have been distributed. Each of those awards represents a student who has received financial assistance with their education in the field of horticulture. The total sum of those awards over the 50 years is \$245,177 and the average amount of an award is \$713. In 2020 the Scholarship Trust Fund distributed \$11,700 with an average award of \$975. This is a very modest amount given tuition fees and living costs faced by students.

For the presentation on the *History of the Scholarship Trust Fund* at the Fall Meeting I was able to calculate that donations to the Fund from 1982 to 2019 totalled \$194,696. The total amount of donations from 1982 to 1994 was approximately \$43,000. Applying that sum to the previous twelve years for which there was insufficient data we have a generous estimate of the total donations to the Fund of \$237,700 over a 50-year period.

We collected approximately \$238,000.

We paid out approximately \$250,000.

And yet the value of our Scholarship Fund at the end of 2019 was \$290,577.

We owe this to consistent donations from member clubs and individuals over time that have contributed to the capital of the Fund. As the capital grows there is more interest available to fund the awards. Your donations have more impact when they are combined with those of others. Together we are stronger.

A huge thank you to all those member clubs and individuals who have built the Scholarship Fund up to where it is today. You are leaving a legacy which we hope will continue to grow.

## How to Donate to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund

If you wish to make a donation by cheque please send it to:

BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund  
c/o: BC Council of Garden Clubs  
PO Box 16106 Lynn Valley  
North Vancouver, BC V7J 3S9

Please ensure that the cheques are made out to the “Vancity Community Foundation” and the memo field shows “BC Council of Garden Clubs.” If the person or organization that the donation is from does not clearly show on the cheque, please include a brief note with the cheque indicating who the donation is from and a return address (so that a tax receipt can be issued).

If you wish to donate online with a credit card:

1. Go to [www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca)
2. Click the “Funds” button on the top right side of the home page
3. Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching “garden clubs” in the search bar
4. Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click “Give to this Fund” and complete the form

OR

1. Go to [www.bcgardenclubs.com](http://www.bcgardenclubs.com)
2. Go to “Scholarship Fund” on the top bar and click on the “Donate” page below
3. Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page
4. Click on “Give to this Fund” and complete the form

Thank You!





## HELP NEEDED!

I'm looking for committee members to help with specific tasks. You've heard the old adage, 'Many hands make light work!' In order to lighten the load for everyone I'm looking for several people who can help the BCCGC Executive with the following tasks

1. **Mailchimp** – If you know how to use Mailchimp and have a couple hours a month to help distribute *The Bulletin*, E-Bulletins, and any other BCCGC communications to member clubs, we could use your help. We have other committee members who will be writing the communications, we just need someone who will do the actual distributing.
2. **SurveyMonkey** – Twice a year we send out SurveyMonkey in conjunction with our Spring AGM and Fall General Meeting to conduct votes on BCCGC issues. If you know how to use SurveyMonkey, make questions (as directed by the Executive), distribute the survey to the member clubs and report the results back to the Executive, we need your help.
3. **Eventbrite** – We use Eventbrite to register for our Spring AGM and Fall General Meeting. If you know how to use Eventbrite and have a few hours to spare prior to our AGM and GM we could use your help with this.
4. **Wordpress** – I know this is a 'Big Ask' but we need someone who is familiar with Wordpress and can update our website when needed. The Executive will give directions a few times a year with updates that are needed.
5. **Facebook** – If you have a few hours to spare and like to use Facebook, we need your help to update our Facebook page and keep it current.

If you have any of these skills and have a few hours to spare to help us out it would be greatly appreciated! Please contact me, Cindy Tataryn, at 604-585-6786 or email

[1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com).

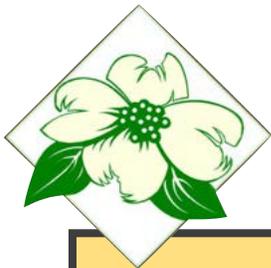
## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would love to feature your club in the newsletter. You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos). Photos should be high resolution and you should include the name of the photographer if possible. Articles should be in the range of 300–500 words. If you have an idea for a longer piece, connect with the newsletter editor in advance to discuss your idea.

Articles are due on the 15th of the month preceding publication. If they are submitted after that date, they will be held for the next issue. The next due date is December 15th for January 15th.

Submissions/inquiries: [newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com](mailto:newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com).

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor  
Pam Robertson, Copy Editor



### BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

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Lorna Fraser | Past President  
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2nd Vice President | vacant  
Pam Robertson | Secretary  
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Lorna Herchenson | Membership Committee  
Lynda Pasacreta | Newsletter Committee

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BC Council of Garden Clubs, PO Box 16106 Lynn Valley, North Vancouver, BC V71 3S9

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