



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

AUGUST 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

Holy cow! I can't stop bringing in bouquets of flowers from my gardens.

My favourite bouquet consists of *Helianthus*, fennel flowers, and carrots "gone to seed" flowers. So wild and meadowy!

I also keep cutting the aromatic flowers of the sweet peas growing in hubby's vegetable garden. It flourishes when regularly groomed of blooms. The sweetness in the house is addictive.

Give me a bouquet of hydrangeas and I am gobsmacked at the formality of these beautiful blooms. They all stand at attention in the vase and last for quite sometime. I threw in some *Allium sphaerocephalon* and it lightened up the strict feel of the bouquet.

This is the peak time of year before our gardens start to show some fatigue. Gather your floral abundance and add some natural beauty to the inside of your home.

This is a great time of year to deadhead and add mulch or compost to your gardens to help our plants thrive during the last part of our summer.

As a reminder, resist the urge to divide and transplant any plants. They will have challenges to thrive in the drier, hotter part of our season.

Planting new plants can continue still which is great for our local nurseries who are pleading with us to come and shop!

When planting new plants, soak in a pail of water while digging the hole in the soil, then fill the hole with water and wait until it seeps through the soil. Add your plant and water generously on top once planted. For the first few days after planting continue to water daily.

Floral arrangement photo by
Lynda Pasacreta



To BC Council of Garden Clubs,

Thank you so much for choosing me as an award recipient. At first, I was struggling with Landscape Design, but the more I learnt about plants and garden principles the easier it became to think about design.

This award will help me draw up new plans and choose new plants for my in-laws front and backyard as I restore them.

Thank you so much!

Best,
Tina

Tina received the BCCGC Award of \$300 through the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific



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

10952 McAdam Road

North Delta, BC, V4C 3E8

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 an income tax receipt can be issued).

If you wish to donate online with a credit card:

Go to
www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca.

Click the "Funds" button on the top right side of the home page.

Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching "garden clubs" in the search bar.

Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

OR

Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com.

Go to the "Scholarship Fund" on the top bar and click on the "Donate" page below.

Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page.

Click on "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

Thank You!

Back from vacation? Remember to help fund our young aspiring horticulturists to continue to support our environment.

DONATE TODAY!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025, BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS FALL MEETING

Our in-person meeting will be held at Bonsor Recreation Complex. We are delighted to announce we have secured Dr. Elizabeth Elle, Professor, Community and Evolutionary Ecology, Simon Fraser University, as our keynote speaker.

We will also have a presentation from Balreet Mandair, Program Director, BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation. We will learn how this group is encouraging the next generation of gardeners and food growers in BC.

And as always, we have another inspiring student, Mikhayla Roht, the recipient of UBC/BC Council of Garden Clubs Horticultural Bursary, who will surely continue to impress us with the quality of upcoming horticulturists.

We will be passing two motions in the business part of the meeting – 1. Approval of the minutes from the Fall Meeting held October 26, 2024, and 2. Approval of the proposed 2026 Budget.



Floral arrangements photos by Lynda Pasacreata

FLORAL ART

CINDY TATRYN, CANADIAN WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FLORAL ART CLUBS

Floral art is a growing hobby that includes participants world-wide. It is fun, relaxing, and a nice way to enjoy flowers in your home, and learn from others who also enjoy flowers. Anyone can do it!

Floral art can be done for enjoyment. It can also be done for competition on an amateur (non-floristry) level. For the last several years, BCCGC has had floral art shows at the spring and fall meetings.

The winner of the October BCCGC Floral Art Show will qualify to compete to represent the Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs (CWAFAAC) in Sydney, Australia at the upcoming World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA) Show in 2027.

How cool is that? Our floral artists can show on the world stage!

In April 2026, the winners of the past three years of the spring and fall BCCGC shows and the winners of the past three years of the CWAFAAC shows will be invited to compete at the CWAFAAC – Annual Floral Art Show. The winner of that show will be eligible to represent CWAFAAC at WAFA – Australia in March 2027.

(All costs associated with participation at WAFA – Australia are at the designers own expense including

travel, accommodation, food, and plant material. Assistance will be available for sourcing suitable plant material from Australian suppliers.)

Every three years WAFA has a World Show that includes an honorary (non-judged) member country display from each of its thirty member countries.

Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs (CWAFAAC) is an umbrella organization of floral art clubs and the Judges Society in BC. CWAFAAC is now a full voting member of the World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA). WAFA is an umbrella organization of floral artists from 30 member countries. Every three years WAFA holds a floral art show hosted by a different country.

The 2027 WAFA Show will be hosted in Sydney, Australia. All members of floral art clubs and the Judges Society that are members of CWAFAAC are eligible to compete in the WAFA Floral Art Show. The show schedule has not been released yet. If visiting Sydney, Australia, is on your ‘bucket list’ and you would like to see the Floral Art Show while you are there, save the date – March 18 to 22, 2027. The show will be at the Southee Pavilion, Olympic Park, Sydney, Australia.

Past shows have been hosted by:

Host country	Year	Host Country	Year
Bath, UK	1984	Japan	2005
Belgium	1987	Pakistan	2008
France	1990	Boston, USA	2011
Toronto, Canada	1993	Dublin, Ireland	2014
New Zealand	1996	Bridgetown, Barbados	2017
South Africa	1999	Jaipur, India	2020
United Kingdom	2002	Muscat, Oman	2024
		Sydney, Australia	2027

THE BEES OF YOUR BACKYARD: POLLINATOR-PROTECTING PRACTICES FOR YOUR GARDEN
DR. ELIZABETH ELLE, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY 🐝

We are delighted to introduce Dr. Elizabeth Elle who will be our keynote speaker at our fall meeting, Saturday, October 25, 2025.

Dr. Elizabeth Elle is a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University. Elizabeth and her students have been studying pollinators and pollination in farms, natural areas, habitat restorations, and gardens of BC for almost 25 years. She has been an invited participant in local, national, and international research collaborations and advisory boards focused on pollination, as well as an administrative leader (most recently Vice Provost) at SFU. An avid gardener, Elizabeth's current research links gardeners' attitudes and practices to the bees in their backyards. 🐝



40th
ANNIVERSARY

SOGETSU VANCOUVER

朝月

IKEBANA EXHIBITION & DEMONSTRATIONS



Saturday, September 20, 2025

10:00am to 3:00pm (*Donation is Appreciated*)

3 Ikebana Demonstrations: 11am, 12pm & 1pm

Floral Hall @ VanDusen Garden

5251 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada



www.sogetsuvancouver.com



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FRASER MONTHLY

I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH GREEN MANURES!










LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Every day gardening articles pop into my social media feeds from well-known horticulturalists across the pond.

Mark Diacono, a food writer, grower, photographer, and cook, from East Devon, England, contributed an article about the “unexpected pleasures of green manures” in Scribehound, a subscription-based app online.

I was hooked. Thank goodness, I have vast real estate in which to potentially add the beneficial plants to some gardens.

Green manures are workaholics for your soil. Diacono added a list of the “brilliant benefits” in his article:

-  suppressing weeds
-  retaining soil moisture
-  minimizing soil erosion and compaction
-  reducing nutrient leaching
-  rooting deeply, bringing nutrients low in the soil to the surface to enrich topsoil
-  breaking up and aerating heavy soil
-  taking nitrogen from the air, and making it available — via nodules on its roots — in the soil for other plants
-  attracting pollinators and winged pest predators
-  producing a wealth of green material for enriching compost

Can you see why I fell in love with green manures? My top choices of what I will be

adding into some of our many gardens will be *Phacelia* and crimson clover — both of these can be sowed in the gardens right now! With our West Coast climate we may have luck in overwintering both of these plants.

I am finally thinking that I may have found a potential solution to my nemesis, ground elder, *Aegopodium podagraria*, that has spread throughout our 40-plus gardens in Paulik Park. It was our fault for the spread of this thug as we merrily divided and transplanted our plants to other locations in the park without root cleaning. Lessons learned, folks. Lessons learned.

Some other common green manures are agricultural lupins, buckwheat, white clover, red clover, yellow trefoil, and alfalfa. Diacono mixes the green manures in his plantings such as a mix of *Phacelia*, buckwheat, and white clover.

BC Council of Garden Clubs community garden members, you have to fall in love with green manures!



Phacelia tanacetifolia, lacy phacelia, and *Trifolium pratense*, red clover. Photos by Wikimedia Commons

BUTTERFLY DEMONSTRATION GARDEN, PAULIK PARK

LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Richmond Garden Club applied for an environmental grant from the City of Richmond and was successful in obtaining \$2,300.

Our grant awards always add to creating and protecting wildlife in the gardens in Paulik Park. Last year we planted a variety of trees and shrubs to feed birds all year round. The grant money included signage to educate the community about how we help shelter and take care of our birds through a natural environment.

This year it is all about the butterflies in the park and how we can support and grow the population right in the middle of an urban centre!

We started in February, digging out a massive area in the design of a giant butterfly. It took us until almost planting season to prepare the beds. We now have planted the entire garden with both host and nectar plants, focusing on six of the most common butterflies we have seen in the park. We have planted an abundance of types of milkweed also, with a thought to maybe convince other species to set up home in this beautiful park.

Surrounding our butterfly gardens are host trees such as cottonwood, hemlock, and many conifers. We have also planted a big crop of messy stinging nettle tucked in a garden away from our visitors.

We are so close to finishing our project. This is the challenging time for great gardeners but not so great graphic designers, structures to support art work, and signage. Help!

We found help. It is amazing where help can be hiding — a friend of a Richmond Garden Club member owns a custom ironworks shop (support for our art!). Social media connects us to people who are already inviting folks to their butterfly gardens — thank you Kootenay Native Plant Society — who have welcomed our group with open arms. They have the graphic design/signage expertise.

We also had a commercial photographer (son of one of our Richmond Garden Club members) take drone footage from 200 feet above the eight-acre Paulik Park showcasing this incredible “hotbed of pollinator plants” in the middle of suburban Richmond.

So stay tuned and watch us reach the finish line! There will be a butterfly party.

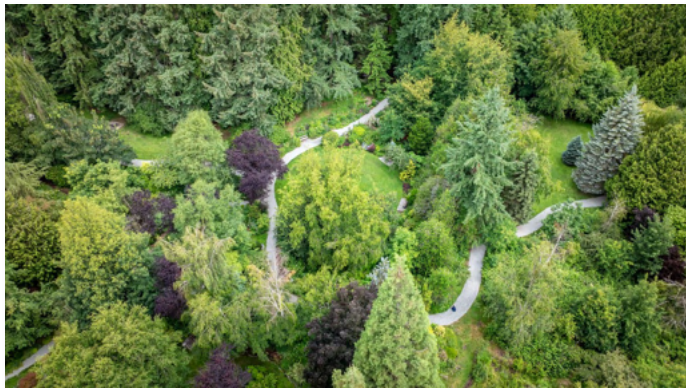
Hmmmm. What should we do next year?

(Drone photos of the butterfly garden in Paulik Park, courtesy of Chris Stanley, Amber Pacific Studios. To view all of the photos visit our website: www.richmondgardenclub.ca.)



DRONE PHOTOS OF PAULIK PARK

PHOTOS BY CHRIS STANLEY, AMBER PACIFIC STUDIOS



The butterfly garden, across from the children's playground, right side of the photo.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would **love** to feature your club or community garden in the newsletter.

Tell us about some of the projects your club or community garden is involved in.

You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos and name of author). 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 August 15 for September 1**. Submissions/ inquiries:

newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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