



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

SEPTEMBER 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

Every month my brain kicks in as to what will I talk about in my next newsletter.

I love reading so that is extremely helpful when looking for relevant garden-related topics to add to the BC Council of Garden Clubs newsletter, *The Bulletin*.

What I have to remember is to remind our 200-plus members to contribute stories from their communities and neighbourhoods every month.

The last page of *The Bulletin* asks each month for contributions from you all. Sometimes I have a flurry of articles but some months all you will get is a lot of happenings in Richmond Garden Club. I can hear the 'yawns' right now.

I am sure there is so much happening in the different communities throughout our province. Seasonal successes, challenges, events in your community, successful partnerships that help your garden club, community gardens getting recognition from the community, and so on.

Richmond Garden Club has a very strong relationship with the City of Richmond. They are happy to send business our way!

As gardeners we do like to visit other gardens in our community and abroad.

Hubby and I love to visit VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver at least once a month. Gardens never stay the same!

We also love to visit Terra Nova Sharing Farm in our community, showcasing how allotment gardens are so individual and delightful!

During harvest time we make many trips to our local country farms specializing in corn on the cob, local berries and other fruits, and magnificent produce! We can hardly open our freezer because it is filled to the brim with local blueberries.

You will love Carol Wozencroft's article this month about poking around a beautiful garden in Summerland this summer. Kamloops Garden Club thoroughly enjoyed their time spent in the Okanagan.

So yes, please. Send me your news, your ideas, your pride and joys, and your challenges. (Email: newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com.)

Thank you!



WHERE HAS THE SUMMER GONE?

BETTY GIRARD, SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIR

The academic school year is about to begin, and there are several scholarships that will be awarded in September.

We would like to thank Darlene Kalawsky, Castlegar Garden Club, for her work on the committee since April. Thank you Darlene! Unfortunately, Darlene has had to step away and Anita Irani, Richmond Garden Club, has graciously stepped in on an interim basis. This leaves us with a vacancy on the Scholarship Fund Committee for the remainder of Darlene's three-year term. Please consider joining us! We meet by zoom so no travel is necessary.



Cecil Beaton Photographs. Women's Horticultural College, Waterperry House, Oxfordshire, 1943. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

DEBBIE MELLENGER, SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

To the BCCGC,

I would like to thank the BCCGC for awarding me with the Horticultural Training Program Award. Over the last nine months, I have spent my time at the UBC Botanical Garden completing the first two years of study for the landscape horticulture Red Seal developing skills in a wide range of subjects, including landscape construction, water and soil management, and plant sciences. Horticulture is truly my passion, and this award both affirms and helps drive my decision to pursue continued education in related fields.

Ultimately, I would not be where I am today if it were not for the staff and volunteers of the UBC Botanical Garden. They have shown me how rewarding and enriching horticulture can truly be.

This excitement has helped drive me towards seeking avenues for promoting sustainable horticulture, conservation, and biodiversity initiatives. Whether it is in my previous fields of work in nurseries and arboriculture or onto something new, I am excited to continue building on the foundation of knowledge and experience that I gained from this program.

Thank you,





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.

We are now 80% towards our goal!
Students are back to school so remember
to support our aspiring horticultural
students. DONATE TODAY!

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!





vancouver/master
gardeners

JOIN US!

The Master Gardener Basic Training program is for everyone with an interest in gardening, from backyard and community gardeners, to garden designers and landscapers. Our program is science-based with instructors from local universities and colleges, as well as ministry specialists, growers and other professionals.

✉ basic_training@vancouvermastergardeners.org

🌐 www.mgabc.org

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GASP! BLOBS ARE TAKING OVER OUR GARDENS

LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Chris Young, landscape designer, author and editor of *Royal Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Garden Design* in Britain contributed an article for Scribehound about why we should have blobs in our garden.

Blobs, in his article, would be compared to structural planting in the past — like fastigate yew, or even *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' grasses.

Young encourages us to consider a more blobby approach. Don't you love that term? He claims that blobs are in! Blobs in the garden are controlled but are much softer, curvier, and yet supporting. He feels that blobs in a garden shout at visitors to look at the blob but also look at all that is around the blob.

His description of a blob is any plant that has been pruned or clipped into some kind of curved, soft-sided shape. They can be planted alone or as part of collection (that some people call a 'blobbery'!).

Blobs in a garden is really just another type of topiary — as a support to other plantings — but softer, more relaxed, and informal.

At this point when we are struggling with boxwood blight in our gardens, it may be a time to add a

gentler approach to structure or borders in the garden.

Blobs are most successful in a garden when there is a mix of perennial plantings around it. You use the curve of the blob to let other plants 'shout, swing, and do their thing'.

Once or twice a year clipping with handheld shears is pretty much the only maintenance required to keep your blobby shape.

Young provides some suggestions of blobs to add to your garden:

☀ *Osmanthus x burkwoodii*

☀ *Taxus baccata*

☀ *Fagus sylvatica*: especially the purple-leaved form.

☀ *Ilex crenata*: we have replaced our diseased boxwood with Japanese holly in Paulik Park.

I am going blob shopping!

Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'. Photo by Wikimedia Commons.



SUMMER GARDENS IN KAMLOOPS

CAROL WOZENCROFT, PRESIDENT, KAMLOOPS GARDEN CLUB

Kamloops continues to be a hot spot in BC but has not slowed down gardening activities through the summer.

The month of June is for celebrating roses. Kamloops Garden Club held its Rose and Flower Show and Tea. Tea was served of course, on fine china, along with many yummy treats. Ribbons were won and prizes were handed out, thanks to the judges, Cathy and Leanne.

Door prizes for the event were kindly donated by Bylands Nursery, West Kelowna, and member quilter extraordinaire Loretta, who donated one of her quilts.

In July the Kamloops Garden Club hopped on a bus and toured the Summerland Ornamental Gardens — a 15-acre, 109-year-old garden that

was a treasure to behold. We recommend this garden should be on everyone's bucket list. Make sure to allot plenty of time for your visit. Friends of the Garden Summerland were fantastic hosts.

The tour then carried on to Bylands Nursery, West Kelowna, to fulfill our shopping needs. Thank you to the Byland family and employees for making our day complete.

Now our club members are enjoying our weekly garden tours throughout the summer to mid-September.

From Kamloops Garden Club to fellow BC Council of Garden Clubs members, remember gardening is relaxing, gardening is meditative, and gardening is good for the soul!



COURSE: Green Roofs 101

Saturday, Sept. 6, 13, and 20 (9 am - 4 pm)

The Green Roof Infrastructure Network of BC (GRIN) is pleased to collaborate with **VanDusen Botanical Garden** to deliver **Green Roofs 101** in September.

Delivered over three Saturdays by a number of subject matter experts, the 18-hour course provides students with a thorough understanding about green roofs as multi-functional tools that can support biodiversity, while also capturing stormwater runoff at source, insulating buildings, protecting the building envelope, cooling the urban heat island, and suppressing fire.

The course is evidence-based and draws from current research and case studies. Through a combination of lectures and discussions, students will integrate theoretical knowledge with practical hands-on design experience.

Register [here](#).

Christine Thuring, PhD, MSc, GRP
Founder and Executive Director, GRIN | grinbc.org
hello@grinbc.com | (604) 725-4964



40th
ANNIVERSARY

SOGETSU VANCOUVER

草月

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



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月刊 ふれいざー
FRASER MONTHLY

BUDDLEJA DAVIDII, A WELL-TRAVELLED INVASIVE PLANT

LYNDA PASACRETA

Many nurseries and garden stores continue to sell *Buddleja davidii*, butterfly bush.

This plant is native to Sichuan and Hubei provinces in central China, and also Japan.

This plant is highly invasive, spreading aggressively from gardens into natural areas. They do provide a nectar source for adult butterflies, but they are not a host plant for our butterflies — meaning they don't support the next generation of butterflies.

Seeds from the butterfly bush are wind-dispersed and can travel many miles.






Recently, hubby and I enjoyed a road trip from Vancouver to Squamish. I noticed a huge butterfly bush hanging over a residential property along the highway in West Vancouver.

All along the highway, *Buddleja davidii* was growing on both sides of the road. In amongst the plants were native species like yarrow working hard to get some real estate. Unfortunately, all that was present all the way to Squamish was the butterfly bush in all its glory.

Sadly, it would be impossible for our very important pollinators to create the next generation of butterflies.

If you have a *Buddleja davidii* you can remove it by cutting the plant at the base and then dig up the rootstock and cover it with a thick plastic bag. Remove any new shoots that may come up on the rootstock. Let it turn into mulch.

The butterfly population is declining in British Columbia. Choose non-invasive plants instead of the butterfly bush:

-  Blue elderberry
-  California lilac
-  Lewis's mock orange
-  Meyer lilac
-  Red-flowering currant

Buddleja davidii. Photo from Wikimedia Commons.



We are looking forward to seeing you all at our fall meeting. As mentioned in our August newsletter we are delighted to announce Dr. Elizabeth Elle, Professor, Community and Evolutionary Ecology, Simon Fraser University, as our keynote speaker. We heard that she is fond of bees!!

We will also enjoy a presentation from Balreet Mandair, Program Director, BC Agriculture in the Classroom, and UBC student Mikhayla Roht.

Before our presentations, we will have a short business meeting to approve the BC Council of Garden Clubs 2026 budget.

We would also love to have a roundtable discussion on a couple of topics that are important to our members — garden clubs and community gardens —

so please pass on any suggestions to us before the meeting (email: president@bcgardenclubs.com).

We are making it easy this year. Download the BC Council of Garden Clubs fall meeting registration form [here](#).

Bees and anemones! Photo by Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic, Richmond Garden Club.





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 September 15 for October 1**. Submissions/ inquiries:

newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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