



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF
GARDEN CLUBS

JUNE 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

What a beautiful time of year! Rhododendrons and azaleas are blazing with colour in our gardens. Swallowtail butterflies have emerged from their cocoons and are drying their wings. Roses are almost ready to burst forth with vivid blooms and heady perfume.

I just realized the other day while sitting in my garden with my grand cat that hubby and I have created biodiversity in our gardens. We have a small space to grow our food and flowers. It is amazing how much we can get into our footprint!

Hubby grew up on a farm so has a passion for growing fruits and vegetables. In a small space right along a wall of our house — the only spot that gets continuous sun for at least six hours between 10 am and 4 pm. He loves to mix pollinator-friendly flowers into his raised beds for his edibles — marigolds, lupins, columbines, yarrow, borage, and some colourful annuals. He grows a very condensed garden that feeds us all summer and into the fall. He also has a dwarf peach tree, raspberries, and strawberries all tucked into nooks and crannies in that space.

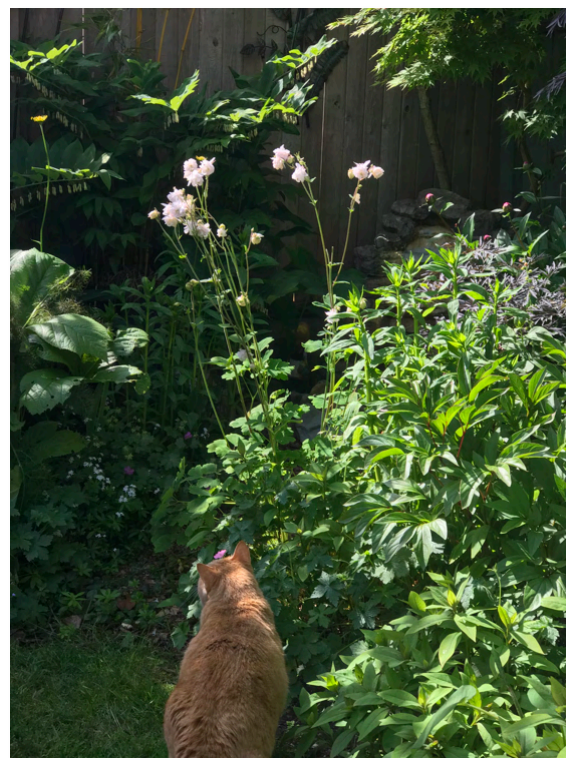
I inherited all the remaining spaces for my love of flower gardening. I have five separate garden beds all chock a block full of mostly pollinator-friendly plants, shrubs, and trees. I have (not sure how I did it) created layers of seasonal plantings — when one layer finishes for the season another layer is already popping up to replace. The gardens are so full, I do not deal with many weeds.

I also realized that a garden space needs water to create a healthy habitat for our wildlife and beneficial insects. Years ago we purchased a faux stone

waterfall from Costco. I have battled with that hardscape trying to make it feel like part of the garden rather than faux rocks made of fibreglass sitting in the corner of the garden.

I collected beautiful boulders from the West Kootenays that are filled with colour from all the local minerals and incorporated the rocks all around it and into the garden. I added a wood chip path to the wee fountain. I still felt like it wasn't part of the garden.

Then nature decided she could help me. She threw in some *Polygonatum*, Solomon's seal, all around the fountain and there was the answer — an architectural solution using nature.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

BETTY GIRARD, SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dear BC Council of Garden Clubs,

I would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting my studies at Okanagan College with this award. I put a lot of time and effort into my studies and I appreciate it has been noticed and highly marked by BC Council of Garden Clubs.

I have always been fascinated by wine production. For me, it goes without saying that knowing how to plant and grow healthy grapes in the vineyard is an ultimate part of this process. I am very happy I was able to attend the viticulture program at Okanagan College. I enjoyed it a lot knowing more about managing a vineyard, site selection, different factors influencing your choice (soil, weather, nutrients, grape varieties and many more).

I would like to express my respect and gratitude to the highly motivated and professional teachers and my fellow classmates.

At the same time, I was always inclined to support my community in the Fraser Valley. We don't have many wineries and vineyards over here. I am very happy that I was able to join one of them as a cellar and vineyard team member. I currently work at Chaberton Estate Winery — with over 40 acres of our own vineyards. I am very excited to bring my new knowledge and skills to support the winery as well as to learn from them.

My future plan is to get the winemaking and Viticulture diploma from the UC Davis University of California as I would love to continue my professional growth.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for making that happen.

Best Regards,

Anna Maksimova





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!

YTD 2024 \$6,826 vs YTD 2023 \$7,600

Keep those donations coming!

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEMBER SURVEY

LYNDA PASACRETA

In this issue of the newsletter we are including a link to a survey and we would really appreciate your group's response.

It is so important for any organization to do regular temperature checks to make that we understand how best we can be of service.

Some organizations may be too frightened to ask because you will get negative comments in with the positive. All feedback, good or not so good, will help improve and even add benefits that were never thought of before.

It is always important to ask your own members how you are doing. Word gets around town that you are an organization that listens and provides great customer service!

Back in the day when I was teaching customer service, I was working with staff of a well-known hotel, mostly offering a refresher to an industry that achieves success with top-notch customer service.

I asked the teams if they surveyed their guests after a stay in the hotel, especially when they were checking out. The majority of the staff adamantly said that they did not ask because they were worried any problems that were mentioned by their guests would not be handled well on the management level. You can see that the "head in the sand" approach in a customer service industry can significantly affect the health of the business.

So your BC Council of Garden Clubs team has their heads out of the sand and would love to hear what we are doing well, where we can improve, and some new ideas to add more value to your membership!

The membership survey can be done online. Please complete the survey by June 15, 2024. We thank you kindly!

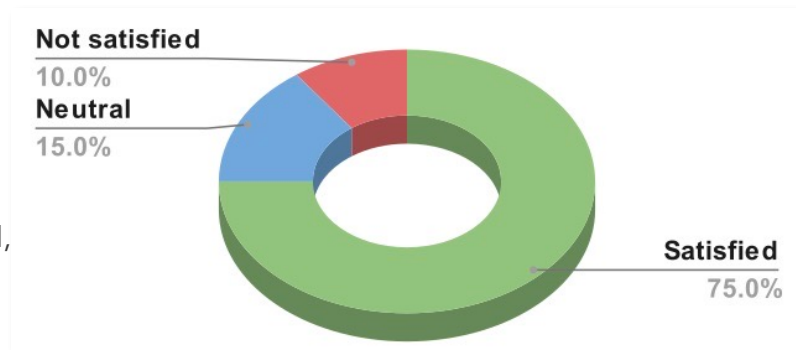


Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Reminder! Lorna Herchenson, BC Council of Garden Clubs Membership Services, would like to remind all of the members to check their group's entry on the BC Council of Garden Clubs website, bcgardenclubs.com. Go to **Membership** and then **Directory**. If there are any errors please contact Lorna at membership@bcgardenclubs.com and she will help you out.

SOUTH SURREY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE RECAP

JANE GOUNDREY AND JOANIE WEBSTER, PLANT SALE CO-CHAIRS

On Saturday, May 4, the South Surrey Garden Club held our annual plant sale – which has been an annual tradition for more than 30 years. Normally it would be a week later, on Mother’s Day weekend, but our usual venue was unavailable this year.

Nonetheless our propagation team was able to get an early start in March and pot up more than 1,000 plants from plant material dug up and donated by members. Members were also encouraged to start seeds and pot up their own plants at home, which yielded another 1,000 or so plants for the sale.

Besides perennial bedding plants, we also sold beautiful hanging baskets, garden gloves, Sea Soil, and donated tools and treasures, as well as inexpensive Mother’s Day gifts just for kids.

Our SSGC members are always excited to help with the plant sale, and this year, more than 120 volunteers filled 160 volunteer positions over the course of the planning, preparation, and sale. The day before the plant sale, the church was a frenzy of activity with thousands of plants delivered, sorted, and placed out on the tables, before 50 volunteers sat down together for a potluck feast.

There’s always a lineup before the sale opens, but this year was exceptional. Almost 600 customers waited in a line that stretched all the way out to the road. Being included in Brian Minter’s list of plant sales in the *Vancouver Sun*, a feature story in the local *Peace Arch News*, and our listing on the BC Council’s website all helped attract customers. Plus no rain! The sale is our club’s primary fundraiser, and will support our monthly speaker series, garden tours, workshops, and other activities in the coming year.

However, more important than the funds we raise are the benefits to our club’s community. When we

come together with a common purpose, friendships – old and new – are built along the way. From the first planning meeting in October through the late-winter propagation sessions to the sale in May, there is an infectiousness of good will among the members. We have a lot of fun.

If you picked out the SSGC plant sale gift certificate from the raffle table at the BC Council’s Spring AGM on April 6, and were unable to use it, please contact us at southsurreygardenclub@gmail.com.



The propagation team hard at work on a chilly March afternoon. Photo: Joanie Webster



Tables loaded with plants, waiting for shoppers.
Photo: Phil Knight



Our plant sale volunteers are known for their fancy hats. Photo: Phil Knight

'PIN THE MAP' CHALLENGE FOR THE CANADIAN HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK INITIATIVE (HNPI) — WE ARE GROWING!

LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Richmond Garden Club recently threw out a challenge to all BC Council of Garden Club's members.

The David Suzuki Foundation has now partnered with the US version of the initiative first launched by professor and ecology author Doug Tallamy — *Pollinators' Best Hope: A New Approach to Pollinator Habitat that Starts in Your Yard* — available on YouTube.

Here in BC, we have added 92 gardens (up from 82 in May) so keep adding your biodiverse gardens to the map. It is really easy to do. Just getting started on any of the suggestions listed below can help:

- 🌻 Shrink the lawn.
- 🌻 Remove invasive species from your yard.
- 🌻 Add some keystone plants (start with at least one this year) — google "keystone plants by your ecoregion."
- 🌻 Reduce light pollution (switch to yellow bulbs or turn off outdoor lights when you go in at night).
- 🌻 Adopt caterpillar-friendly maintenance routines.

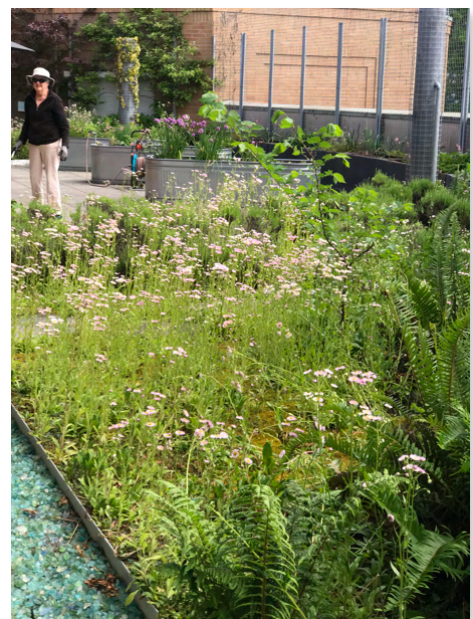
Thank you to those folks who have stepped up to the challenge and have pinned the map with their gardens.

On the map, gardens are pinned in Prince George, Chilcotin Forest (Callanan Lake), Cache Creek, Ashcroft, 90 Mile House, Kamloops, Merritt, Golden, Castlegar, Nelson, Kelowna, Lower Mainland,

Vancouver Island, and Roberts Creek on the Sunshine Coast! Wow!

Ontario is still beating British Columbia with a total of 483 gardens pinned. We can catch up!

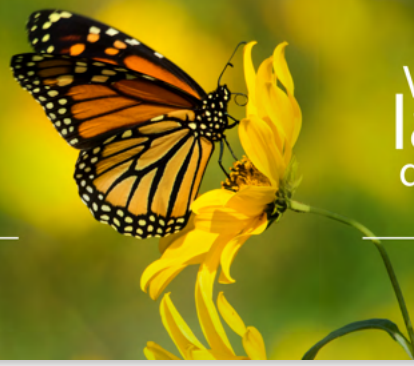
To get on the map go to [Homegrown National Park Map](#) and click on British Columbia.



Richmond Cultural Centre rooftop garden maintained by Richmond Garden Club. Photos: Lynda Pasacreta

Live the
garden
life

AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE



Vivre
la vie
de jardin

C'EST FAIRE UNE
DIFFÉRENCE

Our legacy won't be how pretty
our gardens looked; our legacy
will be how gardens and other
managed spaces woke us to a
revolution of belonging in this
world, and a renaissance of
ethical thinking that helped us
evolve into our fullest potential
as stewards of life and as
gardeners of our own hearts.

A New Garden Ethic | Benjamin Vogt
monarchgard.com

Growers Delight is now a member of COTA, the Canada Organic Trade Association. Check us out: <https://organicdirtsupplements.ca/>. Use code BCCG12 for special discounts.

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Photos: Wikimedia Commons

PIN THE MAP — KEYSTONE PLANT

Hawthorn, *Crataegus*, is native across the northern hemisphere of North America. Hawthorns are in the rose family and consist of both tree and shrub forms. In some areas of BC, hawthorns are in bloom now and have a pungent sweet aroma that attract many pollinators. In the fall, hawthorns produce small red pome fruits, often referred to as "haws". The fruit is similar to crabapple and is great to have in your biodiverse garden to feed wildlife through the fall and winter season. Zone 4 to 8!



Fraser Pacific Rose Society

presents our Annual **Rose Show**

Only One Earth for Roses



Saturday, June 22, 2024 1 – 4:30 pm

Sunday, June 23, 2024 9 am – 3 pm

Dogwood Centennial Pavilion

INSIDE

1655 Winslow Avenue
Coquitlam

Free Admission

PALE SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY

CINDY TATARYN, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS

Pale swallowtail, *Papilionidae eurymedon*

Range: The pale swallowtail is widespread, fairly uncommon. It can be seen throughout the province in sunny, open areas, along woodland streams and river valleys, on hilltops with nectar flowers, and in gardens and parks.

Pale swallowtails occur throughout southern BC, in low-to mid-elevation forest openings and riparian habitats as well as on dry *Ceanothus* slopes in the interior.

Larval Food Plants: The pale swallowtail larvae can be found on red alder and California lilacs (*Ceanothus*). The known larval food plants in BC are cultivated apple, red alder (*Alnus rubra*), Saskatoon serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), birch (*Betula*), redstem ceanothus (*Ceanothus sanguineus*), ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), and bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*).

Adult Food Source: The adult pale swallowtail will feed on the nectar of California wild lilac (*Ceanothus*), lilac (*Syringa*), dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), sage (*Salvia* ssp), coneflower (*Rudbeckia* ssp), Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), and dogbane (*Apocynum*).

Time of Flight: The adults are seen flying from May to July.

Life Cycle: They often congregate on hilltops to mate. The females lay eggs on host plant leaves and may mate more than once. The eggs hatch in a week or so, and the larvae spend the summer feeding.

In late summer, mature larvae seek out a suitable pupation site, often in the leaf litter beneath the host tree. It can sometimes be seen crawling through the garden. They pupate and overwinter as chrysalids, emerging as adults the following spring.

Description:

Larvae: The eggs are yellow-green, smooth and hemispherical. A pink tinge develops around the side of the egg. They are laid singly on the upper surface of the leaf. In nine to ten days, just before hatching, the egg turns green-brown with a black head capsule showing through

the top. The first instar lasts about five days, and the larvae mature in five to six weeks. Early instars look like bird droppings.

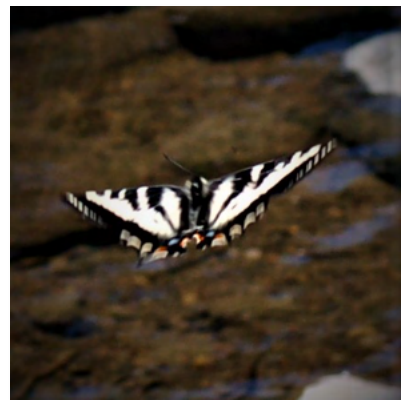
More mature stages are green with rows of tiny black dots on its body, and a thin yellow line at the thorax, with yellow eyespots.

Mature larvae are cylindrical, tapered toward the back. They are apple green except for the whitish underside. They have eyespots similar to those of the Western tiger swallowtail, but the blue central spot is smaller, about .5 mm. Behind the eyespot, the two segments are separated by a yellow band followed by a black band. The osmeterium are bright orange (extrusible Y-shaped glands on the top of the thorax that produce defensive chemicals in response to attack).

Pupal larvae turn brown, with bright orange eyespots with black centres. The pupae are cylindrical, with their greatest diameter near the middle, tapering slightly toward the head and rapidly backwards. The pupae are usually brown, streaked with black and brown, with a dark brown band along each side. Some pupae are green.

Adult: The pale swallowtail is distinguishable from above by its much paler ground colour but heavier black markings. The male is white with heavy black markings, and the hind wing has a black tail. The female is pale yellow with black markings. They can have a small orange crescent at the base of the dorsal hindwing tail.

It is not common, only thriving on the edges of development although its larval food plant, red alder, is widespread.



PALE SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY, CONT'D

Native Plant: Red alder (*Alnus rubra*)

This is a deciduous tree growing to 25 metres tall. It has thin grey bark that is smooth, often with white patches of lichens growing on it. The bark becomes scaly at the base with age. The wood and inner bark turn rusty-red when cut.

The leaves are alternate, deciduous, broadly elliptic, and sharp-pointed at the base and tip. It is dull green and smooth above and rust coloured and hairy on the underside. The margins are wavy, slightly rolled under, with coarse, blunt teeth.

The tree has male and female catkins on the same tree. The cones are small brownish cones about 2 cm long, which remain on the tree during the winter.

Red alder prefers moist woods, stream banks, flood plains, slide tracks, and recently cleared land. It is a pioneer species on cleared sites and is often used as a reclamation species in poor wet soil. It is an aggressive, fast growing but short lived hardwood tree. It fixes atmospheric nitrogen into the soil.

Red alder is an excellent wildlife tree, it attracts many insects and birds throughout the year, especially in winter. It provides seeds, sap and shelter, roosting places, and food for wildlife.

Sources:

Garden Bugs of British Columbia, Gardening to Attract, Repel, and Control, by Janice Elmhirst, Ken Fry & Doug Macaulay (2008, Lone Pine Publishing).

Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening in the Pacific Northwest, by Mary Kate Woodward (2005, Whitecap Books).

The Butterfly Garden: Creating Beautiful Gardens to Attract Butterflies, by Thomas C. Emmel, (1997, Cavendish Books).

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Native Plants in the Coastal Garden: A Guide for Gardeners in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest, by April Pettinger with Brenda Costanzo (2002, Whitecap Books).

Plants of Coastal British Columbia including Washington, Oregon & Alaska, by Jim Pojar & Andy Mackinnon (2014, BC Ministry of Forests, Partners Publishing and Lone Pine).

E-Fauna BC: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia [efauna.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Brian Klinkenberg, 2020/2021.

E-Flora BC: Electronic Atlas of the Plants of British Columbia [eflora.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Brian Klinkenberg, 2020/2021.



Photos: Wikimedia Commons

WELCOME WILDLIFE TO YOUR GARDEN!

Thank you to Linda Hagen, *Garden Design*, who creates a wonderful newsletter each week that is very applicable to our part of the world. One of her topics caught my eye in late May, *Garden with Purpose: Welcome Wildlife to Your Garden*.

She provides excellent tips on how to create a peaceful woodland garden that looks great but also attracts wildlife into your garden.

She has given us permission to provide a link to the article and also encourages you to subscribe to her newsletter on your own. I am always delighted with the content of her newsletters. You can register for some great webinars also.

For a link to *Garden with Purpose: Welcome Wildlife to Your Garden* — <https://gardendesign.cmail19.com/t/i-e-auditly-tuurdhlg-jk/>.

To subscribe to her weekly newsletter, *Garden Design* — <https://www.gardendesign.com/newsletter.html>



Creating a woodland meadow garden in Paulik Park using blueberry bush trimmings as a wattle fence.
Photo: Visjna Gasparic Vojvodic, Richmond Garden Club

DENMAN ISLAND HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

Step into a world of natural beauty and architectural wonders during the 2024 Denman Island Home & Garden Tour (June 15–16, 9:20 am to 4 pm), a cherished tradition since 1992. This year's biennial event promises an extraordinary journey through 12 unique homes and gardens, each telling a story of conservation and creativity.

By purchasing a ticket, visitors will be supporting the work of the Denman Conservancy Association (DCA). Over the last two decades, the tour has helped finance the protection of over 800 acres of awesomely beautiful and environmentally precious land, safeguarding the island's ecological integrity, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the homeowners graciously opening their doors to showcase their exquisite homes. Their generosity and passion for their properties not only enriches our experience but also play a pivotal role in making the tour a success.

See further descriptions on the interactive map and purchase tickets at: denmanconservancy.org/tour.

Begin your adventure with a leisurely stroll through Terry Lynn and John Hemmerling's beachfront property. Admire the timeless elegance of their cottage, renovated with care to preserve its original wood. Continue onwards to Tish and Mike Scott's west-coast home, a masterpiece by designer Etienne de Villiers, showcasing ocean views and coastal mountains, with designer lighting and an infinity pool amidst native plants.

Experience the innovative design of C-Rea and Steve Aberle's 2022-built home, featuring ORCA steel framing and marine-themed art, and a backyard where fruit trees and roses mingle with pergolas and a fire pit. Enter the post-and-beam porch and admire the red cedar chair and yellow cedar bench crafted at Rick Strong's family home, where meticulous craftsmanship meets eco-friendly living. Immerse yourself in West Coast living at Mary and Peter Spurr's contemporary home. Wander through the garden adorned with fruit trees and ornamental shrubs, then relax on the beachfront deck overlooking the ocean. Venture into the picturesque hobby farm of Joan and David Scruton, with unique touches like Denman scenes on their bed's foot and headboard.

Revisit the legendary botanical haven of Sandy and Des Kennedy, revered in numerous television broadcasts, literary works, and periodicals. Also commemorated in print is "Mossy Hollow," the home of Bee Balm, featured in Lloyd Kahn's book *Builders of the Pacific Coast*. Pay homage to Robbie Newton's legacy as you explore the hillside cabin.

Experience the harmonious blend of home and garden at Val Hammell and Bob Albrecht's stunning property and enjoy the

cascading ponds and breathtaking views of Baynes Sound and the Beaufort Range. Return to downtown Denman with an eye for its heritage craftsmanship. Explore the museum, general store, arts centre, and Anglican church, each offering a glimpse into the island's rich history and vibrant community. End your tour at the picturesque eyrie of Ann and Rick Paisley, perched atop the ferry hill, with its beautiful gardens, pond, and designer home.

Further previews can be found at denmanconservancy.org/tour. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at denmanconservancytour@gmail.com or at various venues: GardenWorks (Courtenay), Denman Hardware (Denman Island), Hornby Gas Bar (Hornby Island), Ken-Door (Qualicum), Cultivate (Parksville), Weinberg's (Buckley Bay), Blue Heron Books (Comox).

Cyclists: Organizers would like to see cyclists take over the island during this event, so as an incentive, there will be a free draw for those riding on the tour, to win a basket of prizes. In the past, we've had over 100 cyclists. To enter the cyclists' draw, simply enter your name at the Denman Arts Centre in downtown Denman Island.

JOIN US...

Purchase Tickets Online also available (cash only) at:
Garden Works (Courtenay)
Denman Hardware (Denman Island)
Hornby Gas Bar (Hornby Island)
KenDoor (Qualicum)
Cultivate (Parksville)
Weinberg's (Buckley Bay)
Blue Heron Books (Comox)

DENMAN ISLAND HOME AND GARDEN TOUR
JUNE 15 & 16

STEP INTO THE HOMES AND GARDENS BEHIND DENMAN'S UNIQUE ISLAND CHARM
2024

Tour Open from 9:20am to 4pm

Support the Denman Conservancy

BC Ferries

\$25

BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT: DENMANCONSERVANCY.ORG/TOUR



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 June 15 for July 1**. Submissions/inquiries: newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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