



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

JULY 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

After years of leading Richmond Garden Club in my role as president, I finally made the tough decision to step down at our annual general meeting in November. It was a hard decision as the feeling of responsibility to my group took over my thought process.

Volunteer turnover is a common challenge in any organization. We hear from many garden clubs that getting people to lead committees and step up to executive roles is very challenging and concerning. We all have many helpers but not a lot of chiefs!

It is so important to create succession planning in your clubs and community gardens. A seamless transition of responsibilities from one volunteer leader to another is crucial.

I had a tete-a-tete with my tribe (my core group of "take charge" kind of people) to identify potential leaders within our club. We came up with a few names and will approach them to begin the process.

In the meantime, in our monthly newsletter we have announced (softly) that I will be stepping down. The message will be driven home at our last meeting before our summer break.

Succession planning ensures the continuity of your club's operations, future plans, and goals. It is best to give plenty of notice (six months for me) to give time to encourage future successors to the role and give ample training without interrupting the membership.

Over the years as president, I have gained an incredible amount of knowledge of the membership, institutional knowledge, key contacts, and lessons

learned. Six months should be plenty of time to pass on my knowledge.

With my announcement, it is a good time to look at all the volunteer positions in our club to determine where we should be requiring succession planning.

At this point my tribe and I have asked the "what if" questions to look at the worst case scenarios and determine some solutions.

Next year, I am really looking forward to sitting in the audience at our monthly meetings with a smile on my face knowing that new energy, new beginnings, and new ideas are all part of a healthy organization for future success.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

DEBBIE MELLENGER, SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dear BC Council of Garden Clubs,

I wanted to write a letter to thank you for your profound generosity with the BC Council of Garden Clubs Rose Bancroft Scholarship for \$1400.

I came to UBC from Calgary, Alberta back in 2019 to start the Applied Biology program here in LFS. At the time, I was wanting to pursue a career in architecture, hopefully designing homes for people. During my first year, I slowly fell in love with the Applied Biology program and decided to wait to transfer in another year. In 2020 I had my first soil science course, APBI 200, which started a passion for sustainable agriculture. From there, I took APBI 260 in 2021, which truly inspired a love for horticulture, keeping me securely in the faculty. I am excited to be graduating this semester from the Sustainable Agriculture program, and to then start a masters in Soil Science in the fall of this year.

This extremely generous award was a very pleasant surprise, and almost a sign to me that the path I am on is the one to take —to continue to learn more about soil, and agriculture, and to help protect the environment, and to share that knowledge with others. The \$1400 award will be used to help pay tuition fees in the fall this year for the start of my master's degree.

After I graduate from UBC, I hope to apply all the knowledge I have gained to help individuals, communities, and beyond to more sustainably work with the environments that they are in — to potentially work with farmers to protect their soil, and the organic matter within it, to help foresters with restoring the lands that have been impacted by the Albertan oil sands, to understand the impact that climate change will have on the northern cryosols (permafrosts) of Canada.

I greatly appreciate this award, and awards like this. They provide a simultaneous boost to the level of financial security that students have and encourage them to pursue their work to even higher levels than they might otherwise think is possible.

I am incredibly grateful for the BC Council of Garden Clubs Rose Bancroft Scholarship that you have given to me.

Sincerely, Amy Wells





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!

Continue to support students like Amy Wells who is learning how to take care of our soil, share her knowledge with others, and protect our environment! DONATE TODAY!

OUTDOOR CATS AND OUR WILDLIFE

LYNDA PASACRETA

I owe you all an apology! I write passionately about protecting our environment and our wildlife. In the meantime, in our June issue of the newsletter, I show a photo of my grand cat in my garden.

Thank you to Sheila Weaver, Gibsons Garden Club, who reminded me about our bird population which is under threat with outdoor cats on the hunt. Cats are the number one source of bird deaths in Canada. It is estimated that cats kill up to 100 million to 350 million birds in Canada. Unowned and feral cats cause the most damage. Conservationists are saying that keeping cats indoors could help save 200 million birds in Canada. Cats also prey on insects, butterflies, and worms.

Sheila strongly recommends keeping cats indoors or you can create a fenced outdoor space for these agile and skillful predators.

I must let you all know that hubby and I are taking care of our daughter's cat for a few more months until she and her wee family return from their two-year stint in Costa Rica. Our grand cat has been allowed into our back garden with full supervision from hubby or I. She is an indoor cat and until the weather improved has only had a sniff of the outdoors. Sheila's timely reminder of the impact of free-range cats has humbled me immensely.



Yellow swallowtail in Paulik Park. Photo:
Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic, Richmond
Garden Club

PHOTO CALL!

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

As a reminder how important our gardening efforts are to the environment, send us a photo of a beneficial insect, bird, or other wildlife in your garden. Please choose only one photo that is your favourite.

We will then add our collection of bugs, bees, butterflies, and all things wild in amongst our flowers on to our website for your continued enjoyment!

July and August newsletters will showcase some of the photos. (In September we will be celebrating the 2024 Pantone colour of the year — “peach fuzz” — and will ask for photos of your favourite plants at the end of this summer.)

So send in your bugs to communications@bcgardenclubs.com and help celebrate the success of our biodiverse gardens! Remember to tell us what club or community garden you belong to and who took the photo.



Bee chilling in Autumn Joy sedum. Photo:
Lynda Pasacreata, Richmond Garden Club

The Victoria Lily Society presents

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- Wheelchair accessible
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HAVE A WATER-WISE SUMMER!

LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Now that we have left “January” behind with all of its wet and cooler temperatures, it is a great time to assess your garden for its ability to deal with heat and less water as we get into the summer months.

Well-known horticulturalist Thomas Hobbs reminded us recently that we have two growing seasons — spring and fall. July and August are when we maintain our landscapes so they arrive healthy and strong into the fall season.

Maintenance involves proper watering techniques, deadheading to increase bloom time, and removal of weeds. It is also a great time to plan your fall garden.

As you assess your garden right now look for water hogs — plants that need a lot of water to survive. Over time replace those plants with drought-resistant ones such as sedums, lavender, *nepeta*, *echinacea*, daylilies, *coreopsis*, lamb’s ear, globe thistle, blue false indigo, *artemisia*. Remember that new plantings will become drought-tolerant only after their roots have been established, which can take a year of growth.

Water early in the morning to minimize water loss due to evaporation and wind. Water directly on the soil level rather than at the top of the plant.

Trees are struggling with the rapidly changing climate. Stand back and take a look at trees and shrubs that may have been affected by last summer’s drought and this past winter’s arctic freeze. Here in Richmond, we have lost some types of maple trees, *Thuja plicata*, (Western red cedars), *Tsuga heterophylla*, (Western hemlocks), *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, (Katsura trees),

Stewartia pseudocamellia (Japanese stewartia), and some of our magnolias are also struggling! It is worth the time to investigate the types of trees that are no longer suitable to your climate before planting new trees.

Trees need deep watering to the entire root system area until the top 6 to 9 inches of soil are moist. Apply water slow and low so the soil becomes saturated and does not run off into the surrounding ground.

Spend some time in Okanagan Xeriscape Association’s website (www.okanaganxeriscape.org) for some great ideas of drought-tolerant plants, best planting techniques for a water-wise garden, and ways to conserve water in your garden.



Photo: Okanagan Xeriscape Association

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.

Growers Delight

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WATER-WISE HANGING BASKETS?

We still have some time to plant up a water-wise hanging basket. Keeping plants supplied with ample water and nutrients is a challenge with any container planting, especially baskets and window boxes. Hanging baskets are an extreme environment for many plants. Baskets will dry out quickly on a hot, sunny summer day. A downpour of rain very rarely is enough water to sustain them.

Hanging baskets need to be watered almost daily especially in the heat of the summer. Watering reduces nutrients so you also need to feed your baskets regularly. Growers Delight is a great choice to help keep the plants healthy.

Why not try to create a hanging basket with drought tolerant plants. Some great plants like succulents (*Portulaca* or *Sedums*) can absorb and store water when it is available so can go a long time without additional watering.

Other good plant choices include
For sun: *Pelargoniums* (ivy or scented geraniums),

Lantana, *Tradescantia*, *Plectranthus*, *Dichondra*, *Euphorbia*, *Agastache*, *Artemesia*, *Salvia*, and many herbs.

For part sun or shade: *Begonias*, *Coleus*, *Verbena*, *Oxalis*, *Alyssum*, and sun-tolerant ferns.

If your hanging basket dries out, take the basket down, move it to a shady place, and set the entire basket into a larger, waterproof container. Let the basket sit in the container water while the soil hydrates (you will see bubbles as the air leaves the dry soil). Trim all wilted flowers, and any leaves or stems that have turned brown. Feed with fertilizer to replace lost nutrients. Keep your basket in partial shade for a few days until it has recovered.



Tradescantia. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

MARGINED WHITE BUTTERFLY

CINDY TATARYN, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS

Margined white, *Pieris marginalis*

Range: Its range is diminishing. The margined white is now found in a few locations where its habitat is comparatively unaltered by development.

Margined whites can be found in southern BC to central BC, and north to Atlin. At low elevation they prefer damp deciduous forest areas with shade and cool temperatures. They can be found in mid-elevation willow and alder scrub, river floodplains, and avalanche chutes. At higher elevations they prefer cool damp subalpine meadows.

Their habitats are cool, moist, and usually have regularly occurring low to moderate disturbances that expose patches of soil to allow their short-lived cruciferous food plants to constantly produce new plants from seed.

Larval Food Plants: Margined white larvae feed on the mustard family — native *Brassicaceae* such as *Arabis* and *Dentaria* species that grow in open forest or subalpine meadows. Cultivated *Brassicaceae* are also used when grown in their habitat.

Time of Flight: Margined whites are one of the earliest butterflies to emerge in the spring. They can be seen flying from early April to September.

Description:

Larvae: Margined white eggs are pale yellow to yellow-green, conical, and have 12 vertical ribs. They are laid singly on leaves or flowers of the mustard family.

The first instar larvae are yellow when newly hatched, turning to pale green. The mature larvae of some subspecies are green without markings. It can have a lateral line of stiff, shiny hairs.

Pupae have well-developed rounded apical and dorsal projections, and are pale tan to dark green with dark markings. It is held against a stem or other vertical surface with a girdle.

Adult: There are several subspecies of margined whites in BC. Their wing patterns are variable between subspecies, sexes, regions, and seasonal forms, making them very difficult and confusing to identify.

Southern BC has *Pieris rapae*, which has a black spot in the middle of the ventral forewing. This spot is lacking on all other BC *Pieris*.

In central and northern BC, margined whites occur with mustard whites, which have strongly defined narrow green vein borders on the ventral hind wings in the spring form.

In northern BC, margined whites also occur with Arctic whites, which have strongly defined dark grey vein borders on the ventral hind wings, with the vein borders narrowing strongly towards the wing margin.

In contrast, in central and northern BC, the hindwing vein borders in margined whites are wide and show little or no narrowing towards the wing margin.

In southern BC populations the vein borders are not sharply defined and narrow only slightly towards the wing margin.

In some subspecies the females are commonly yellow, and the upper side of the forewing has relatively undeveloped dark pattern elements. In another subspecies the females are almost always white, rarely yellow, and have strongly developed dark pattern elements.

The summer, low-elevation generation of two southern subspecies have only traces of ventral vein borders. The dark vein borders on the dorsal forewing of females are wider near the wing apex than near the discal cell. The vein borders on the dorsal hindwing are narrower and more faded towards the outer edge of the wings. The discal cell spots, when present, usually contrast strongly with the ground colour. The dorsal cell is usually less than half filled with dark grey scale dusting. Females are white to clear pale yellow.

The two northern subspecies usually have the vein borders on the ventral hindwing equally wide from wing base to outer margin. The vein borders are well defined in the summer generation. The forewing outer margin is relatively straight and the hindwing is less round than in southern subspecies. Females of these two subspecies have dark vein borders on the dorsal forewing, and usually on the dorsal hindwing, all of even width from wing base to outer margin. The discal cell spots are usually present, faded and emerging into the ground colour. The dorsal cell is usually mostly filled with dark grey scale dusting. Females are white to brownish yellow.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

MARGINED WHITE BUTTERFLY, CONT'D

Native Plant: Marsh Yellow Cress (*Rorippa palustris*)

This member of the mustard family can be an annual or biennial herb and grows erect to one metre tall from a slender taproot.

It has large oblong leaves, up to 20 cm long, that grow alternately up the stem. The lower leaves are finely divided while the upper leaves are simply toothed or lobed. They are glabrous or stiff-haired.

The flowers are light yellow with four petals in a cluster at the end of the stem or in leaf axils.

The marsh yellow cress likes wet, open areas such as meadows, boggy areas, lakeshores, swamps, and roadside ditches, at low to middle elevations.

Sources:

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





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

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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