

THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

AUGUST 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

Just when we thought that we were in for a wet, dreary summer, along came a stretch of dry, hot weather. Last year's drought reminded us that water is not a renewable resource at certain times of the year.

Currently our area is in stage one of watering restrictions. Stage one includes lawn sprinkling restrictions that are in effect from May 15 to October 15. We can hand water at any time but are encouraged to be thoughtful about watering habits.

One of the hardest things to do is letting your lawn go "golden"! Leaving grass clippings on your lawn after you mow will act as a mulch. Once the rains return with flourish, lawns will return to green in no time.

As we stretch into the hottest month of the year and with little rain predicted ahead, it is important to continue to hand water your flowers, vegetable gardens, and especially your potted plants. Try to use grey water wherever possible in your flower gardens. Grey water consists of recycled water from your sinks, bathtubs and showers.

During this time of water shortage, grey water can be useful but it should be used with care.

Grey water varies in quality and may contain contaminants such as soap and detergents. Fortunately, soil and potting composts are effective at filtering them and the residues can sometimes act as a mild fertilizer.

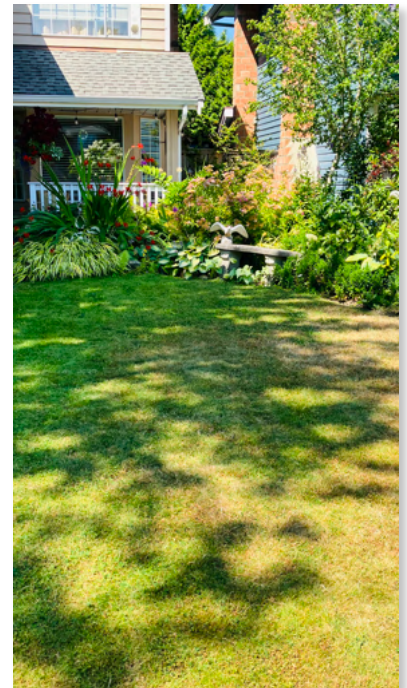
To minimize bacterial growth, grey water should only be saved for 24 hours.

Grey water should not be used on edible crops due to possible contamination by pathogens in the water. Softened tap water can damage soil due to the salts used in them. Use only in an emergency.

August is traditionally vacation time, so make sure you enlist the help of friends and family to look after your gardens while you are away. When you are at home, take time to prune summer-flowering shrubs.

Enjoy the last days of summer and continue all of your great efforts to conserve water while keeping your gardens bright and colourful with all the summer flowers and bountiful harvests!

My golden grass.



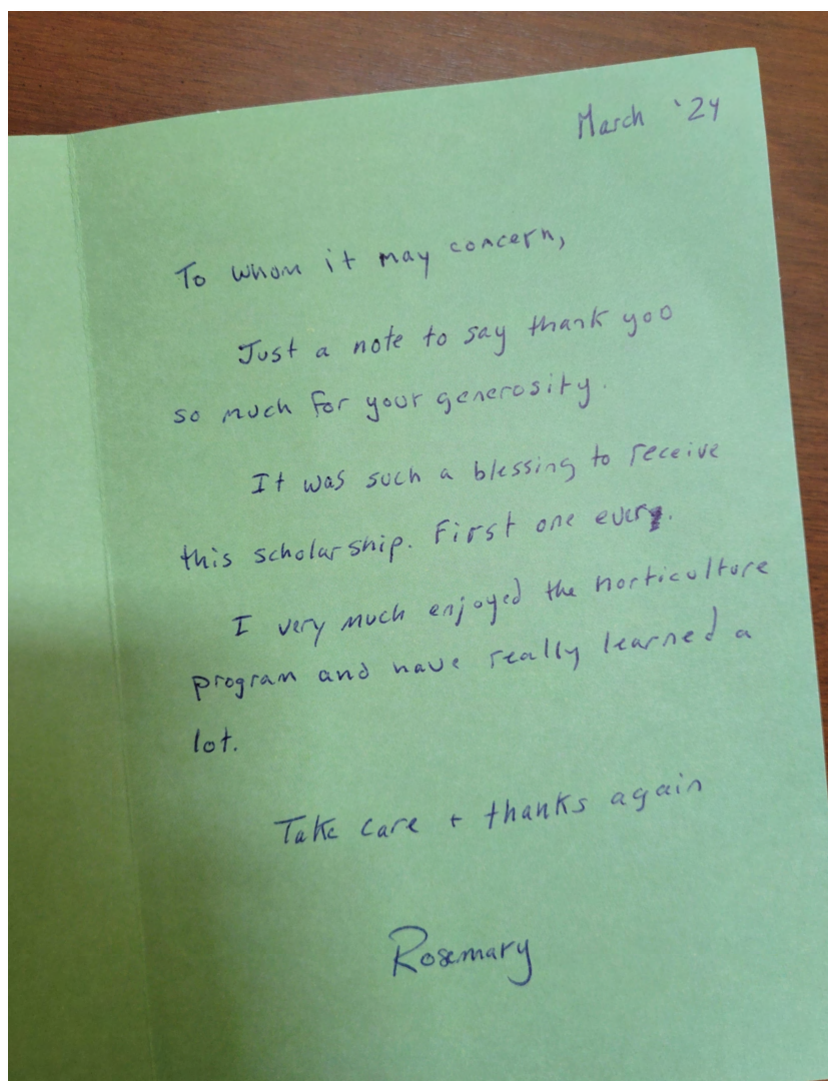
SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

ANITA IRANI, SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIR

We are delighted to announce that Rosemary Bergen is the 2024 recipient of the BCCGC scholarship at Thompson Rivers University.

The horticultural program at Thompson Rivers University is a comprehensive program that requires students to receive instruction in all aspects of horticulture, including landscape maintenance techniques, irrigation hydraulics, pest management, operation of equipment, and landscape design. Students must complete a practicum on completion of the program and are prepared for a variety of positions in the industry, including landscaping, retail and wholesale nurseries, orchards, golf courses, municipal parks, and so forth.

Congratulations Rosemary!





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 Rosemary Bergen, who is learning how to take care of our gardens, share her knowledge with others, and protect our environment!
DONATE TODAY!**

THE UBC BOTANICAL GARDEN APPLE FESTIVAL

MARTHA BASSETT, FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN

The UBC Apple Festival was started by the Friends of the Garden (the FOGs) in 1991 as a community festival to educate families about the diversity of apples, to celebrate our local B.C. orchardists and farmers, and to welcome the public to the UBC Botanical Garden. In that first year we sold 3,700 pounds of apples.

Although our purposes remain the same, the Apple Festival has grown into a valued fundraiser for the UBC Botanical Garden and an anticipated, annual family event. In 2023, celebrating 32 years, we sold over 32,000 lbs of apples (with over 50 different varieties) and 183 apple trees (comprising 48 different varieties), and more than 2,000 visitors sampled more than 50 varieties of apples in our tasting tent. Our festival now welcomes between 12,000 and 15,000 people over a weekend in October. In addition to more than 100 FOGs, the Apple Festival is also grateful for the support of over 450 enthusiastic volunteers.

The FOGs are resilient and have had to pivot with the times. In 2020 and 2021, during Covid restrictions, the FOGs hosted a drive thru apple market, selling approximately 10,000 lbs of apples and 140 apple trees each year. In 2021 a drive thru apple market rather than a full-blown festival was almost a blessing because it wasn't just wet, it was a deluge for three days on an epic scale! And then in 2022, when we could finally welcome large numbers of visitors back to the garden, we sold tickets online for the first time to better manage crowd control in a post-Covid world.

This is what our Apple Festival is now: we not only sell the freshest of apples with many heritage varieties, a wonderful collection of apple trees, select apple juices, and cider, but also the best apple pies in the lower mainland! More than 20 different food vendors are scattered throughout the garden. We also have a children's area with a leaf pile large enough to tempt children and their parents to jump, a much-loved tasting tent, two separate entertainment tents,

and a curated apple display and identification, managed by the BC Fruit Testers.

Come and join us **October 19-20, 2024!** The Apple Festival has grown into a community family event for all ages. Fall weekends are often wet and we are an outdoor festival. But we will continue to celebrate, rain or shine, in the middle of October because local apples will just have been harvested, and all will have been sourced from local BC orchards. Expect to dance on the lawn with the Morris dancers while wild geese fly in formation over the garden. In the fall, even in wet weather, the Apple Festival is a magical place to be, and Vancouver is at its best.



FOGs Apple Fest 2023. Photos: Diane Donaldson, FOGs

WILDLIFE IN OUR GARDENS!



Photo: Lynda Pasacreta,
Richmond Garden Club



Photo: Celia Owen, View Royal Garden Club



Photo: Ann Kirman, Squamish Garden Club



Photo: Lorna Cloutier, New Westminster Horticultural Society

WILDLIFE IN OUR GARDENS, CONT'D



Photo: Carol Mould, Maple Ridge Garden Club

We are very blessed in the City of Richmond with the opportunity to apply for an **environmental enhancement grant** each year.

This year we applied for a grant to enhance the habitat in Paulik Park, a signature project of Richmond Garden Club, adopted by us in 2008.

Over the 16 years we have maintained Paulik Park, we have improved soil, removed invasive species, added pollinator-friendly and drought-resistant plants, added paths to better engage visitors into the different gardens, and created meadow gardens that outcompete grass.

This year our goal is to add trees, shrubs, and plants that feed birds through all seasons.

We added fruit-bearing trees and shrubs such as hawthorn, crabapple, Indian plum, chokecherry, highbush cranberry, *Greville victoriae*, and some gorgeous viburnums.

We have added laminated signs identifying the trees and shrubs that will feed the birds to hopefully deter

visitors to the park from bringing in people food or bird seed. We also will have an event this summer that will host an expert in birds in nature to help teach the community about how important it is to create a healthy habitat in our own gardens!



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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PHILADELPHUS 'BELLE ETOILE'

LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Over the years we have had some wonderful varieties of plants, shrubs, and trees donated to the gardens in Paulik Park.

Paulik Park, located in Richmond, BC, is home to over three acres of perennial garden beds created in the 1930s by family matriarch Mrs. Paulik. Richmond Garden Club adopted the maintenance of the gardens in 2008.

Last year we received a couple of small mock orange shrubs from a friend of the park. The two shrubs sat in soil in our compost area until we thought of a special location for them.

We found the perfect spot. One of our volunteers created a lovely trellis for us. We planted the shrubs on either side of the trellis with purpose of training the mock orange to trail over the top of the trellis as it matures.

When the shrubs began to bloom we realized we had a very special variety of mock orange — *Philadelphus 'Belle Etoile'*! The single blossoms were white with

burgundy centres and looked like hibiscus. The fragrance was heavenly! No serious gardener should be without this beauty.

The trellis became a favourite photo stop for visitors to the gardens. People lingered under the trellis taking in the sweetly fragrant flowers.



SPRING AZURE BUTTERFLY

CINDY TATARYN, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS

Palaearctic species:

- **Spring Azure**, *Celastrina argiolus*
- **Western Spring Azure**, *Celastina echo* - found in lower elevations

Nearctic species: *Celastrina ladon*

- **Boreal Spring Azure**, *Celastrina lucia*

Range: Spring azure is widespread and common. You can find it near native bush, ravines, riparian areas, open meadows, sheltered woodland in the boreal forest, or aspen parkland.

Larval Food Plants: The spring azure larvae can be found on dogwood (*Cornus*), cranberries, bunchberries, blueberries, and other low shrubs. Also on California wild lilac (*Ceanothus*), Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), spirea, Hawthorn, apple (*Malus*), lupine (*Lupinus*), winter cress (*Barbarea*), and wild rose (*Rosa*).

Adult Food Source: The adult spring azure are nectar feeders and enjoy a garden full of nectar-producing flowers such as spirea (*Spirea douglasii*), *Prunus ageratum*, aster, beggar-ticks (*Bidens alba*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), California wild lilac (*Ceanothus*), dogbane (*Apocynum*), goldenrod (*Solidago*), Heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*), locoweed (*Oxytropis*), lupine (*Lupinus*), mallow (*Malva*), privet (*Ligustrum*), violet (*Viola*), Winter cress (*Barbarea*), and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

Time of Flight: The adult spring azure can be seen in flight from April to July.

Life Cycle: The boreal spring azure has one generation per year in BC. The western spring azure has two generations. The eggs are a white flattened sphere. The mature larvae has a black head with either an all-green or purplish dorsal and green ventral body.

Description:

Larvae: Young larvae feed on leaves, gradually moving to flowers and seeds of the host plant. They change colour according to the colour of plant material they are feeding on, e.g. green when feeding on leaves and pink if feeding on spirea. They overwinter as a pupa. 15-20 mm.

Adult: The male spring azure is bright blue, the female has a diffused dark band around the outer borders of the wings and is less colourful than the male. They have small black spots. 20-32 mm

The male western spring azure are violet blue with a narrow white margin. The underside is chalk white with dark spots. The female is similar to the male except the dorsal forewing has a wide black margin and the dorsal hindwing has a row of black marginal spots. 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*.

Native Plant:

Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*)

Oceanspray is a shrub with several main stems growing to 4 m tall. The young stems are ridged, the older stems are brownish, with peeling bark. The stems are usually arched.

They have alternate, deciduous leaves that are dull green, hairy, broadly egg-shaped to triangular, 3-6 cm in length, and lobed or coarsely toothed. They are reddish tinged in autumn.

The flowers are white to cream, small at 5 mm across in dense terminal pyramidal, lilac-like clusters, 10-17 cm long. Oceanspray flowers in mid-summer, and the flower clusters turn brown and remain on the plants over winter.

Commonly called ironwood, it can be found in dry to moist open sites, meadows, open dry woods, clearings, thickets, logged areas, ravine edges, and coastal bluffs.

Mostly at low to mid elevations.

SPRING AZURE BUTTERFLY, CONT'D



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

newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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