

THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

OCTOBER 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

Back in June 2024 we asked our members to complete a survey for us as a temperature check on how we are doing and any ideas for moving forward.

We were pleased with the response.

There are things we are doing well and there are areas we can improve.

You told us why your organization belongs to the BC Council of Garden Clubs. The primary reason was the ability to share information amongst our members, followed secondly with having access to group insurance.

Our monthly newsletter, floral art training, and our contribution to horticulture students were deemed important by our members. The key message was the importance of being connected to the BC gardening community!

I also love the words and feelings that were expressed by our members — "it is very vibrant," "very outgoing organization," "provides great information," "terrific support system for gardening groups," "provides understanding that we are part of a bigger movement."

We received some great fundraising ideas, which have been passed on to our scholarship fund committee. You will be hearing more on their initiatives for supporting horticultural students this year. It is so important that we continue to financially support our upcoming horticultural students (whether through the BC Council of Garden Clubs scholarship fund, or donating to your local post-secondary schools, or both) to ensure that our sustainability, food security, and healthy environment

continue for future generations. Gardeners are a key component to creating and maintaining healthy environments in our communities.

Where we need to improve is with our communications with members. People want a quick reponse when having an issue (especially insurance related) so our executive team has taken the message seriously and is working hard to quickly answer any concerns. Sometimes we need to do some research to give a helpful answer but we will keep you informed during the process.

Our two in-person meetings are events that our membership would love to be able to attend, but with the challenging geography in our province, it makes it difficult for people to travel to the Lower Mainland. We have also investigated if we could use technology in some way to offer the in-person meetings via Zoom. We have some serious sound system problems in the complex where we hold our meetings, which have challenged even our most technical people!

At this point, we will continue to post our speakers presentations (where permission is granted) on our website after each meeting.

For those folks attending the meetings, there have been some issues with hearing questions from the audience so we will be having two microphones (one for the speaker and one for the folks asking questions) at our meetings going forward.

Stay tuned! More work is happening to make the BC Council of Garden Clubs better!

SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

DEBBIE MELLENGER, SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

Dear Scholarship Fund Committee of the BC Council of Garden Clubs,

It is with much gratitude that I write to you to let you and your committee members know that I am deeply grateful and honoured to have been chosen as the recipient of an award from your esteemed organization. Your financial and psychological support has been invaluable and will significantly contribute to my personal and professional growth as I navigate through the dynamic field of horticulture.

From a very young age, I have always had an appreciation of and fascination for the world of plants and their many benefits. Through the Horticultural Foundations program at VIU, I have found that this has only grown deeper and more nuanced as I learn more about the many intersections of sustainability, health, and therapeutic benefits of plants and the role horticulturalists play in perpetuating these facets. As I am originally from the Okanagan Valley of BC, a considerable part of my childhood memories include summers filled with the season's abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables. From cherries, peaches, and apples to a wide assortment of local vegetables, each phase of the harvest season brought the bounties of nature that appeared to my young mind as a certainty every year but is something we increasingly cannot take for granted. After graduating from the University of British Columbia, I stumbled into a lifelong passion in the local wine industry, where I found sharing the experience of the Okanagan's premium wines coupled with educating the public on the many facets of grape growing and wine production very fulfilling. However, it has been heartbreaking to see all of the struggles faced by local producers in recent years with the extremes of climate conditions coupled with the pressures of wildfires and compounding economic hardships.

Pursuing further education via a Red Seal in Horticulture will offer me a unique position to carve a dynamic career and be a part of the progressive solution-based system of the future. I am thrilled to see where this journey will take me!

I am so incredibly grateful to receive the support of the BC Council of Garden Clubs. It means the world to me. Truly, thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping my horizons in horticulture grow!

Sincerely,
Amber Rae Bouchard
Vancouver Island University, Student of Horticulture



Okanagan vineyards. Photo Wikimedia Commons

SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$80 FOR 80 YEARS CAMPAIGN

ANITA IRANI, SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIR

In January 2023, we launched our 80 for 80 campaign to commemorate our 80th anniversary. Member clubs were requested to donate \$80 so we could substantially grow the BCCGC Scholarship Fund, in order to continue supporting students enrolled in a diverse range of horticulture programs across the province.

We asked — and you responded.

Over 75 member clubs and individuals donated to our campaign and in 2023 alone, we raised almost \$15,000, which is the highest amount raised in the past ten years. More than 25% of our members responded to our call in 2023 and we continued to receive donations earlier this year as well. Consequently, we were able to disburse 13,200 in scholarships this year.

As we close the chapter on the 80 for 80 campaign, we want to express our deepest gratitude to all contributors. Each and every donation is appreciated and is instrumental in providing support to our students pursuing horticulture; a profession that is so vitally important in our world today as we face environmental challenges and food insecurity.

We invite you read to about the programs we support, including viticulture, pest management, forest and ecology management, and more, on our website ([Education](#)).

Our work continues and we still need your help! We look forward to your continued support. At the Fall meeting, we hope to share some exciting news about a new initiative for 2025. Stay tuned!

"Let us not forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of humanity." — Daniel Webster





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!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! This just in! We just received a generous donation of \$5,000, which has put us over our 2023 total!

DONATE TODAY!



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
- 📘 vancouver master gardeners

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SPEAKERS LIST, BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS WEBSITE

RON OUWERKERK, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Another area that received both praise and concerns in our recent survey was our speakers list.

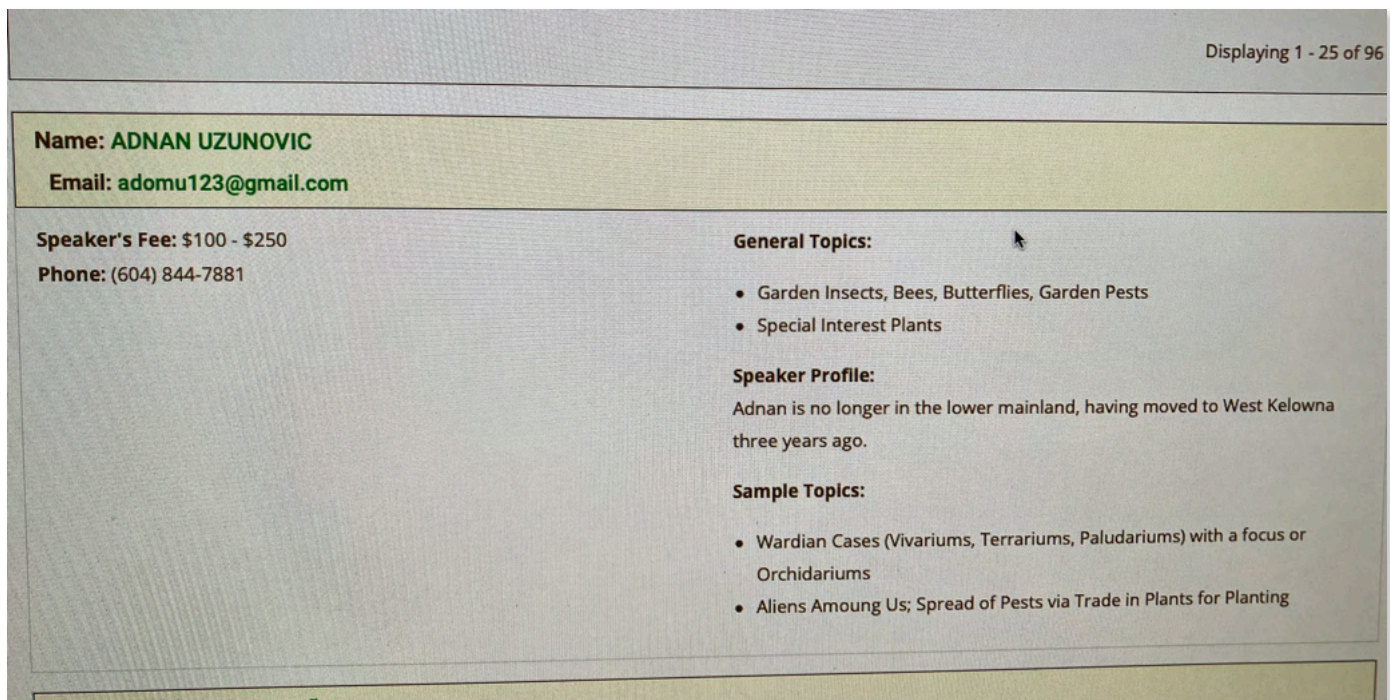
We know from analysis done on our most visited areas in our website (Events section is right at the top of most visited) that the speakers list is well-used. But some of our members found it challenging to navigate.

Well, we have a very talented team. We have been working hard on cleaning up the speakers list on our website.

Changes have been made. One of the changes we think you will be very pleased with was changing the list to a card view of the speakers. So each speaker is listed in alphabetical order by their first name with information on topics, contact information, and fees. Spend some time on our website, www.bcgardenclubs.com. Great resources are available and are updated regularly. Of note is the Events section where the BC Council of Garden Clubs members can add events happening in their community. Remember this is the most visited area on the website.

The Bulletin, our monthly newsletter, is added to our website at the beginning of each month. And if any of your members wants to subscribe to *The Bulletin* directly they can request that on our home page.

We hope you like the changes to the website and that navigation to the different areas is easy and informative. Let us know where we can improve! Send your comments or questions to communications@bcgardenclubs.com and we will respond quickly.



Card view of an available speaker on the website

**VICTORIA FLORAL ARTISTS' GUILD
2024 SHOW**

FLORAL ART PASSION

Celebrating 55 Years of Floral Art

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall
4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria**

**Saturday, October 26, 2024
10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Set Up - Friday, October 25 from 1:00 - 8:00 pm

Take Down - Saturday, October 26 at 4:30 pm



Photo by Victoria Floral Artists' Guild

2024 PANTONE COLOUR, PEACH FUZZ

PHOTOS WANTED!

Canadian Garden Council and Communities in Bloom, Plants You Love announced at the beginning of the year that the 2024 Pantone colour of the year was 'peach fuzz.' We were invited to plant orange in honour of our Indigenous communities to celebrate all the ways plants love us!

We are now asking for your photos of orange-coloured plants, flowers, vegetables, fruits, and so much more. We will put together a PowerPoint presentation, which will be shown to the BC Council of Garden Club members via Zoom before the end of this year. We will also post the beautiful orange colours on our website for all to view.

Send your orange-coloured bounty to communications@bcgardenclubs.com. Remember to tell us the organization you belong to and your name.

We are hoping to see orange from all over the province. We can't wait!

A sea of dahlias at the Richmond Country Farms dahlia event. Photo by Lynda Pasacreata, Richmond Garden Club



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

Granular Soil Activator

NEW ORGANIC HOUSE BLEND 4-2-2 with HUMIC

Growers Delight is a soil activator enriched with organically sourced materials. Along with NPK plus CA, also includes many other trace elements. Improves soil structure and activates the soil's fertility naturally.



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www.organicdirtsupplements.ca

WELCOME NATURE INTO THE GARDEN

LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

In the August issue of *The Bulletin*, I talked about the environmental grant we received this year for the work we do in Paulik Park, where we maintain three acres of perennial garden beds.

For the grant this year, we focused on increasing plants, shrubs, and trees to feed our birds all year round, especially during the winter months.

We added fruit-bearing plantings such as hawthorne, chokecherry, crabapple, viburnum, Indian plum, and highbush cranberry to an already fruitful habitat.

One element we realized we were missing was access to fresh water. All wildlife benefit from a water source in a habitat. We purchased one half of an oak barrel (used to make wine so you can imagine the waft of alcohol that greeted us in the garden for a bit), placed a couple of large boulders that would rest above the water line, and then added a solar-powered gurgler that keeps the water moving. Gasp! It is delightful!



Photo by Lynda Pasacreta.

CONGRATULATIONS VIEW ROYAL GARDEN CLUB

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!

View Royal Garden Club

Join us in Celebrating
75 Years
Guest Speakers



Jeff de Jong
University of Victoria
Instructor of Landscape Design

Gary Lewis
Phoenix Perennials
Author of:
The Complete Book of Ground Covers

OCTOBER 5, 2024
2:00 – 4:30 PM
VICTORIA SCOTTISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
1803 ADMIRALS ROAD

See Eventbrite for more information
Registration \$25.00



To register for this event go to: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/view-royal-garden-club-75th-anniversary-celebration-tickets-923875024067?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>

Congratulations again to View Royal Garden Club from the BC Council of Garden Clubs!

Manii Sidhu:

Manii Sidhu works at Arts Nursery in Port Kells, Surrey. She manages the perennial and production areas, and is also in charge of new product ordering.

Manii also has a small landscaping business that keeps her busy on days off. She also has completed her Horticultural Diploma from Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Manii loves perennials! She also won a scholarship from South Surrey Garden Club.

Manii will have a presentation on xeriscaping — drought resistant planting. She will also show the new products that are coming in for spring for your xeriscape garden.



Amanda Smith:

Amanda Smith is the Agriculture Stewardship Coordinator at the Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS). While with LEPS, she works with local farmers on best management practices, and with her local school district on outdoor education.

Amanda is chair of the Langley Farmers Institute and outgoing executive director of the Langley Community Farmers Market. Amanda started out in the agricultural industry over 15 years ago, where she started a farm.

She also enjoys her one day a week at Arts Nursery, along with Manii, but still loves to grow her own vegetables!

Amanda’s presentation will cover winter gardening with a particular focus on soil.



COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2025

Many of us are probably wondering what the Communities in Bloom (CIB) Colour of the Year for 2025 will be. CIB will be unveiling a new twist at their National Symposium and Awards Ceremonies in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, October 17–20. Instead of a Colour of the Year, they will be unveiling a **Theme of the Year**.

Stay tuned for the big announcement.



IDEAS ON HOW TO GET AND RETAIN MEMBERS

LYNDA PASACRETA

Attracting new members and retaining your existing members is an essential component of any organization. A suggestion came up in our survey asking if our 200+ BC Council of Garden Clubs members could share ideas on how they attract new members and how they hang on to their existing members.

I spent the majority of my career in sales and teaching customer service so this is a topic close to my heart.

The question on how to get people to come into your door is a good one. Some suggestions I am happy to offer are as follows:

💡 Create a referral program — reward your members who bring in new members.

💡 Host an open house. Advertise through social media, your local newspaper, and events on the BC Council of Garden Clubs website.

💡 Host a community event. If you have a community garden or garden project, have a special event to attract new members.

Once you have attracted your new members, you need to find ways to keep them in their seats, and keep them coming to your meetings. Here are some suggestions:

💡 Engage your members through contests on social media, newsletters. Keeping members informed and learning helps keep them in their seats.

💡 Volunteering for different projects — for example, working on community garden projects, adding art to community gardens.

💡 Reach out and touch your members through recognition (thank you notes, for example). Get to know their names and use their names. Have your membership committee work on membership renewal.

Send us your experience on what has worked well for your clubs and community gardens and we will be happy to share your knowledge with your fellow members!

Send your ideas to communications@bcgardenclubs.com.

CLODIUS PARNASSIAN BUTTERFLY

CINDY TATARYN, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS

Clodius parnassian, *Parnassian clodius*

Range: *Clodius parnassian* is found locally at higher elevations, where it is fairly common. It can be found on Vancouver Island, across the southern coastal range, and northern Cascades, to the southern Okanagan Valley, with a few populations in subalpine habitats of the southern Selkirk mountains.

Populations on the coast occur in moist riparian habitats along low-elevation streams.

Logging frequently temporarily increases population size by increasing breeding habitat, but it may adversely affect populations if the second-growth forest lacks the riparian openings present in old-growth forests, or if herbicides or broadcast burning after harvesting eliminate foodplants or isolated populations of adults.

Wet subalpine meadows and subalpine riparian habitats are used at higher elevations.

Larval Food Plants: On the BC coast the larvae food plant is the Pacific bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*).

Time of Flight: The *clodius parnassian* can be seen in flight from late May at low elevations to early August at higher elevations, with 4–6 week flight periods.

Life Cycle: The eggs are laid singly in the vicinity of the larvae food plant, the eggs are white to pale coffee brown, round with a flattened top and bottom with close-set round pits over the surface. The embryos develop into fully formed larvae within a month but remain dormant within the egg chorion until early the following spring.

The larvae spend much of their time hidden under debris on the ground or basking in the sun on the ground. Ten to twelve weeks after the egg hatches, the pupa is formed within a strong cocoon placed in loose debris on the ground. The pupal period is about three weeks.

Description:

Larvae: The mature larvae are normally black with a stripe of elongated yellow spots down each side. They are smooth aside from fine black hairs. The pupae are dark red-brown, oval, and smooth, and are formed within a sturdy cocoon.

Adult: *Clodius* are white with dark markings. The ventral hindwing seins are light brown at the base, and there are red spots on the hindwings.

Subspecies *claudianus* from Washington, BC, and Vancouver Island occurs on the south coast of BC including Vancouver Island, from sea level to subalpine areas without change in wing colouration. Adults are large and white. The band of grey chevrons on the outer part of the hindwings is usually absent or poorly developed in males but well developed in females. The anal spot on the central hindwings is distinct in both sexes.

Subspecies *pseudogallatinus* occurs in the coast range from elevation 100 m to subalpine habitats. Adults are generally small and grey but are highly variable.

Populations in the Kootenays are the subspecies *altaurus*. Males lack the hindwing chevron band and anal spot band, but these are present in females.

Native Plant:

Pacific Bleeding heart (*Dicentra Formosa*)

The only larvae foodplant of the *Clodius parnassian* is the Pacific bleeding heart. This plant is a hairless, soft, juicy perennial which grows from slender brittle rhizomes. The flowering stems are leafless, upright, 15–50 cm tall.

The leaves are all basal, numerous, long stalked, only slightly shorter than the flowering stems. They are fern-like, much divided into narrowly oblong ultimate segments.

The flowers are pinkish-purple, heart shaped at the base and drooping. It has four petals, the outer two each has a short sac-like spur and spreading tip. 5–15 in clusters atop the stem.

The Pacific bleeding heart inhabits moist forest, ravines, and stream banks, from low to middle elevations and is quite common south of Bella Coola. It is found in the understory of deciduous, broadleaf forests.

It is common in southwestern BC, infrequent eastward in Southeastern BC.

CLODIUS PARNASSIAN, CONT'D

Sources:

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 Jerry Sedenko (1991, Villard Books).

Native Plant 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 Publishing).

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 by Wikimedia Commons



If you're yearning for an in-person, deep dive into Living Soil, Composting, Compost Extracts and Teas, join Jo Tobias at Burnaby Community and Continuing Education from **November 16th to December 7th**.

WHEN: November 16th, 23rd, 30th, December 7th 2024 (Saturdays) 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WHERE: Burnaby Community and Continuing Education - Riverway

- Learn practical techniques to **restore soil life** that **enhance plant growth**.
- Discover **real-world case studies of growers** who have adopted soil health principles.
- Understand how to make, apply and **leverage the benefits** of compost, compost extracts and teas.
- Explore the unseen world of soil under the microscope! We will have microscopes in class.

This four-day intensive is designed for ecologically-minded gardeners and landscape stewards committed to improving plant and animal health.

About Jo Tobias

Jo Tobias, the founder of [RootShoot Soils](#), is a Regenerative Soils & Living Compost Specialist passionate about helping land stewards improve soil health. She collaborates with farmers across different provinces in Canada to spread the knowledge on using biodiverse compost to regenerate degraded landscapes. Her expertise lies in meticulously tending to the composting process to create an ideal habitat for diverse microorganisms, promoting plant health. Jo's use of microscopy and practical strategies has helped numerous farmers restore soil life effectively.

Click here to register: <https://www.burnabyce.ca/courses/restoring-soil-health/>



2024 Fall into Gardening

"Planning for the Future"

MARS (Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society), **NRS** (Nanaimo Rhododendron Society), and **VIMGA** (Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association) are pleased to offer a day of education and enjoyment with internationally recognized gardening experts.

Tickets: \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door

See NRS website for details about how to register in September: <http://nanaimorhodos.ca/>

- Date: **Sunday, October 27, 2024**
- Location: Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
747 Jones St. Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1S7
- Time: 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Speakers:

Jeff de Jong: "A Garden Revival – Design for a Sustainable Landscape"

Steve Hootman: "Interesting New Rhododendron Species for Changing Gardens"

Nancy Moore: "Creating Microclimates and Appropriate Tree Selection for Small Gardens"

Daniel Mosquin: "Using Science to Inform Gardening Decisions"

Booths:

The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region
Regional District of Nanaimo's "Team WaterSmart"
The Nature Trust of BC
The Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society

Refreshments: coffee, tea, and treats will be provided. **Please bring your own bag lunch.**





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

newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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