THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

APRIL 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
CINDY TATARYN, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

The March 8th Zoom presentation, 'Gardening in Iceland. It Isn't As Icy As You Would Think' had to be postponed due to an emergency. The Zoom presentation has been rescheduled for Monday, April 3rd. Watch for your invitation. If you have not registered yet contact 1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com.

The BC Council of Garden Clubs Annual General Meeting and Floral Art Show is April 1st at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Ave, Burnaby, from 10:00 am to 3:00 am.

There is also a Floral Art Show on April 22nd at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2121 Cedar Hill Cross Road, Victoria. It is being put on by the Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs (CWAFAC). Their AGM starts at 10:00 am with the opening of the show following the meeting, approximately 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

The Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley are putting on a Floral Art Show in the Cottonwood Mall, Chilliwack, from May 25th to 27th.

The Fraser Pacific Rose Society Show, which includes a Floral Art Show, will be held June 24th to 25th at the Dogwood Pavilion, 1655 Winslow Avenue, Coquitlam.

BCCGC will be teaching flower arranging courses again. Have you ever looked at a flower arrangement and wondered how it was made? A perfect opportunity has been provided to do just that! BCCGC is offering floral design courses to help you learn floral terms and floral styles while receiving step-by-step guidance in their creation.

If you have a love of flowers and would like to learn how to make them into arrangements our Level 1 – Introduction to Traditional Designs was created just for you! It teaches flower arranging as a hobby to beginners. If you are interested in taking this course please contact me at 1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com.

It is plant sale time again! Please enter your club plant sale and other club events on the EVENTS page on our website. Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com and fill out the form online and hit the 'SUBMIT' button. It is that easy!

Stay happy, healthy, and happy gardening,
Cindy Tataryn
First Vice President, BCCGC

SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

BY PATTY MOLNAR, SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

Dear BC Council of Garden Clubs,

I wanted to personally thank you for awarding me with the BCCGC Horticultural Bursary as I pursue my final term at UBC's Master of Landscape Architecture program. This award goes a long way in easing the financial pressures of graduate school and has allowed me to really focus on my final project.

My work involves the design of outdoor spaces that improve the integrity of natural systems and resilience of communities. I believe that gardening and thoughtful engagement with the land can materialize into positive, tangible outcomes for both human and non-human communities. With this bursary coming from the BCGCC, I am further motivated to incorporate the guiding principles of this organization into my work for the conservation and horticulture in British Columbia.

I am incredibly grateful for the support and I look forward to staying connected in the future.

Sincerely,
Meredith Wilson

Join our $80 for 80 years celebration donation drive! 🎉

Join clubs across BC to celebrate the BCCGC and the Scholarship Fund by contributing $80 in 2023. Over $3000 has been collected to date!

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!

PLANET-FRIENDLY GARDENING

LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

I recently read an article online by the Royal Horticultural Society about some interesting and fun ways you can be more sustainable in your garden.

Richmond Garden Club has decided to adapt these ideas for our projects, events, and other activities this year.

Some of the ideas seem like common sense but are more focused on how they can make difference in our environment.

1. **Plant a tree.** Imagine if all gardeners in British Columbia planted and nurtured a medium-sized tree this year. Think of all the carbon we would store!

2. **Water the way nature intended.** Find ways to collect rain water and use that to water your gardens rather than out of a tap. Limiting soil erosion by using mulches, arborist's wood chips, and compost in your gardens will also minimize the amount of water we use.

3. **Pull up a paving slab.** I love this idea! Pull up one of your paving slabs in a walkway and plant pollinator-friendly perennial flowers in the space.

4. **Grow your own cut flowers.** According to the article, imported flowers have up to ten times the carbon footprint compared to home grown flowers.

5. **Electrify your garden power tools.** Gas-powered garden tools emit high levels of carbon (especially if not maintained properly), along with noise and air pollution.

6. **Eat home grown or local produce.** It is also important to eat what is in season to help lower the greenhouse gas emissions from transporting fruits and vegetables. By growing your own food, you can eliminate the use of pesticides and add highly nutritious food to your table.

7. **Plant for pollinators.** Loss of habitat, especially in urban centres, has contributed to the decline of our many pollinators. In all Richmond Garden Club projects this year we are focusing on planting natives, non-natives, and some self-seeding annuals. We have created a wildflower garden in one of our projects, using plants that outcompete grass (inspired by Egan Davis's presentation on turf management at the BC Council of Garden Clubs General Meeting 2022). Along with a huge supply of wildflower seeds (that do not include aggressive or invasive plants), we are adding lupins, echinacea, yarrow, poppies, clover, bulbs such as camassia, and daffodils, and shrubs like flowering currant.

If you are ever visiting Richmond, we would be happy to take you on a tour of Paulik Neighbourhood Park. We have over 30 perennial garden beds with a focus on replacing aging and dying plants with pollinator-friendly only. Many of the hydrangeas in the park are at end of life. We are replacing them with the Gatsby Pink series of oak leaf hydrangeas, which are pollinator-friendly. Contact us at richmondgardenclub@gmail.com.

For more information on planet-friendly gardening visit https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardening-for-the-environment/planet-friendly-gardening-tips.

Camassia - photo by Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic, Richmond Garden Club

May 13 & 14, 2023 | 10am – 4pm

Your two-day pass grants exclusive access to Victoria's most enchanting gardens while enjoying music from Conservatory students and faculty

vcm.bc.ca/victoria-garden-tour

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PLANTS AND POLLINATING PARTNERS

SECHELT GARDEN CLUB

As a follow up to the 'Butterflies in the Garden' article in the **Coast Reporter**, Earth Day, April 22, 2022, and in response to an increased interest in pollinator gardening, a native plant list was compiled to help gardeners select host and nectar plants that attract birds, bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects to their backyard gardens.

Pollinators and flowers have a mutually beneficial, symbiotic relationship. Rooted in place, trees, plants, and crops need an agent to transfer pollen for them to thrive and reproduce. The great variety in colour, form, and scent we see in flowers is a result of their intimate association with pollinators. Flowering plants and food crops, critical in the functioning of ecosystems, cannot survive without the help of pollinators.

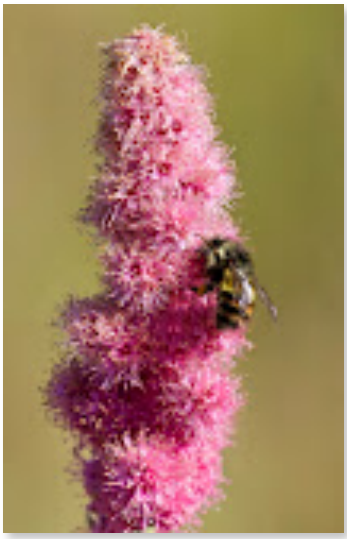
While butterflies and other pollinators drink the nectar from a variety of different flowers, not all blooms are created equal. Ornamental, cultivar, or hybrid plants do not provide the necessary quality or quantity of energy-rich nectar that pollinators need compared to native plant species. To increase your chance of pollinator abundance, native flower species are your best bet.

We know it's important to provide bright fragrant flowers to attract butterflies, but there's another important element that is often overlooked; the baby nursery. Supporting butterflies on their journey through complete metamorphosis requires more than just pretty flowers. Once mated, the female must find a place to lay her fertilized eggs. She seeks out the unique and necessary food plants that her species has co-evolved with over countless generations so that her young can start feeding immediately after they hatch; these are called larval host plants. To prevent your garden from looking like a half-eaten buffet table, place the host plants behind or amongst taller nectar plants.

To enhance and build resilience in the native pollinator populations, highways of habitat are more important than ever to grow in our communities. Pollinators will benefit from the fragrant bounty laid out before them and play a role supporting neighbourhood food gardens, biodiversity, and long-term sustainability.

While it is best to choose native plants, when selecting any type of plant it is important to consider a few details:

- climate conditions (summer drought, winter rains)
- soil quality, garden size, and drainage
- beware of invasive species (ie: butterfly bush, blackberries)
- use FireSmart native trees & plants
- maintenance requirements
- aesthetic value
- seasonal plant availability
- budget



Bee on hardhack. Photo by Rand Rudland.

Suggested native plant species to get you started:

Nectar Plants:
Red Flowering Currant *(Ribes sanguineum)*
Canada Goldenrod *(Solidago lepida)*
Douglas Aster *(Symphyotrichum subspicatum)*
Woodland Strawberry *(Fragaria vesca)*
Kinnikinnick *(Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)*
Pearly Everlasting *(Anaphalis margaritacea)*
Western Yarrow *(Achillea millefolium)*
Woolly Sunflower *(Eriophyllum lanatum)*
Low Oregon Grape *(Berberis nervosa)*
Tall Oregon Grape *(Berberis aquifolium)*
Common Camas *(Camassia quamash)*
Sea Blush *(Plectritis congesta)*
Red Columbine *(Aquilegia formosa)*
Gumweed *(Grindelia stricta)*
Broadleaf Stonecrop *(Sedum spathulifolium)*
Mock Orange *(Philadelphus lewisii)*

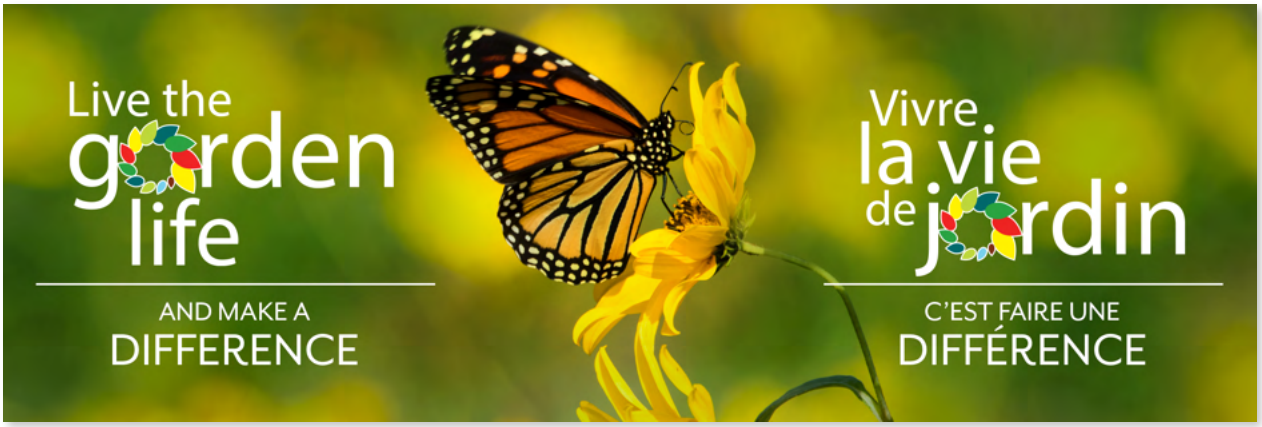
Host Plants:
Pacific Bleeding Heart *(Dicentra formosa)*
Ocean Spray *(Holodiscus discolor)*
Chokecherry *(Prunus virginiana)*
Pacific Ninebark *(Physocarpus capitatus)*
Cottonwood *(Populus trichocarpa)*
Stinging Nettle native *(Urtica dioica ssp gracilis)*
Saskatoon Serviceberry *(Amelanchier alnifolia)*
Hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii)*
Showy Milkweed *(Asclepias speciosa)*

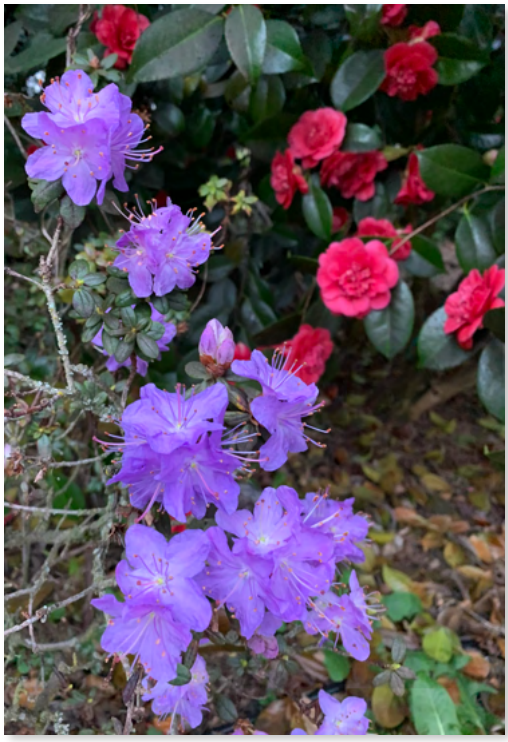
Pine White on Pearly Everlasting Dakota Bowl.
Photo by Rand Rudland

If you would like to learn more about "Butterflies of the Sunshine Coast, Native Host & Nectar Plants," please join our guest speaker, Rand Rudland, for a night of photo delight and suggestions on what type of plants are favoured by our local Sunshine Coast butterflies. Monday, September 26, 7:00 pm, Seaside Centre. For more information visit https://secheltgardenclub.com and click on monthly meetings.

For more information about BC native plants visit:
www.idomo.org/sechelt-water-raingarden-natives-1.htm Sunshine Coast native plants
https://bcinvasives.ca search "grow me instead guide"
https://www2.gov.bc.ca search "food for bees"
https://davidsuzuki.org search "pollinators"
https://firesmartbc.ca search "guides & manuals"

If you want to attract a specific local butterfly species check out:
http://sargbay.ca/index.php/flora-fauna/pollinators/ Plants for Sunshine Coast Butterflies



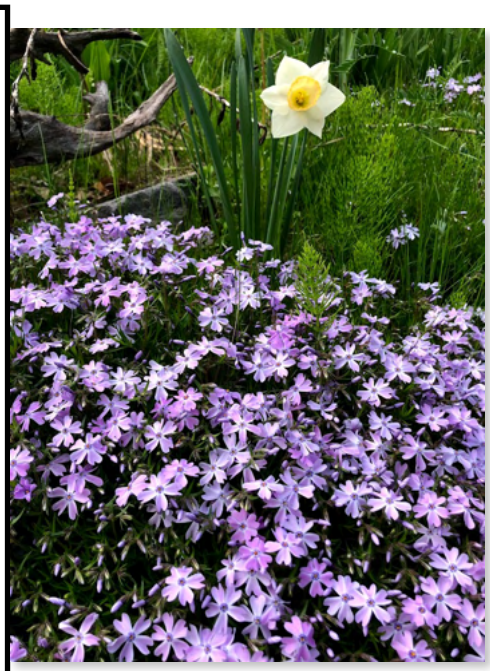


Hilda Stanger, Maple Ridge Garden Club and Fraser Pacific Rose Society

Gardening guru Brian Minter, Minter Nurseries, identified some key trends in 2023 gardening in the *Vancouver Sun* article, "New Gardening Trends Will Make for An Interesting Year Ahead". One of the trends, the 'backdoor revolution,' identifies the housing crisis faced by younger generations today. Many are being forced into smaller condominiums or rental apartments, minimizing access to garden spaces.

At a time where growing your own food helps our planet and our health, community garden spaces, small-space gardening, and other innovative planting techniques have become so important.

Municipalities and even nurseries should be encouraged to offer solutions for helping gardens to continue to flourish no matter what size space is available to gardeners. For the full article: https://vancouversun.com/homes/gardening/brian-minter-new-gardening-trends-will-make-for-an-interesting-year-ahead



Jenny Hayes, Gibsons 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.

HOW AND WHEN TO FERTILIZE HOUSEPLANTS

LYNDA PASACRETA

A rule of thumb is to only fertilize houseplants when they start showing signs of new growth. Fertilizing when they are dormant can burn their foliage or even kill them.

My houseplants have woken up so I have started to add fertilizer into my watering schedule. Since all houseplants can be different, it is best to research the best fertilizer to use and the recommended feeding. Make sure to use an organic fertilizer. I have the Growers Delight product so now that my houseplants are awake I am using one teaspoon to one tablespoon, depending on the size of the plant, sprinkled on top of the soil and then watered.

Add a nice misting and away they grow!

Alison Hamlyn, Gibsons Garden Club

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GREY HAIRSTREAK, COMMON HAIRSTREAK, *STRYMON MELINUS*

BY CINDY TATARYN, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS

Range: The grey hairstreak butterfly is widespread and fairly common. It prefers open meadows and fields. The grey hairstreak male is very territorial darting from cover after intruding males or pursuing females. It can be found from sea level to the higher mountains in open areas. It is also found in the understory of mature pine or douglas fir stands.

Larval Food Plants: The larvae feed on sweet clover (*Melilotus*), clover (*Trifolium*), and members of the pea family and the mallow families (*Malva* species), vetch (*Vicia* species), hollyhock, rose of Sharon, and hibiscus.

It can also be found on corn, mint, oak, hawthorn, strawberry and hops, alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), beans (*Phaseolus* species), lupine (*Lupinus* species), sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*), milk vetch (*astragalus)*, buckwheat species, cassia, citrus, tick clover (*Desmodium*), dock (*Rumex* species), lantana, legumes, wild rose, rhododendron, and salvia.

Adult Food Source: The adult grey hairstreak feeds on the nectar from sweet clover (*Melilotus*), goldenrod (*Solidago* species), plumbago, mint (*Mentha* species), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota* var. *carota*), and milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). It can also be found on ageratum (*Ageratum houstonianum*), aster (*Aster* species), beggar-ticks (*Bidens alba* and other species), daisy (chrysanthemum species), fleabane (*Aster* species), heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*), lupine *(Lupinus* species), privet (*Ligustrum* species), purple coneflower (*Echinacea* species), rudbeckia (*Rudbeckia* species, especially black-eyed Susan, (*Rudbeckia hirta*), sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*), thistle (*Cirsium* species), winter cress (*Barbarea* species), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*), and citrus — lemon and other citrus trees.

Time of Flight: May to August.

Life Cycle: The grey hairstreak has two broods per year. It overwinters as a pupa.The larvae feed on a variety of native herbaceous plants, legumes, native clover, and garden beans.

Description:

Larva – The egg is pea green and the mature larva is a dingy, velvety brown with no markings. It is covered with long hairs. The mature larva is 6.8 mm long and the grey hairstreak overwinters as a pupa that is 9.0 mm long.

Adult – The grey hairstreak is the only hairstreak in BC that has a 'tail' and grey-coloured upper side of its wings. The underside of the spring generation is grey, the underside of the wing of the summer generation is chalky white. Both generations have a line of contrasting black spots on the underside of both wings.

Native Plant: Springbank clover (*Trifolium wormskjoldii*).

Springbank clover is a perennial herb with a creeping rhizome. It has branching stems and grows prostrate to the ground with its tips turning upwards. The leaves are compound, three-foliate with pointed tips, and are finely toothed.

The flowers are red to purple and are often tipped with white. They flower in dense round heads of 2 to 60 flowers, approximately three centimetres across. It has an 'involucre' or a cluster of bracts under the flowering head.

Springbank clover grows in moist to wet soil, in meadows, tidal marshes, and stream banks, in open places from low to middle elevations.

Thimble clover (*Trifolium microdon*) is native to BC and also has involucres. It has white to pinky-rose flowers with heads to eight millimetres in diameter.

GREY HAIRSTREAK, CONT'D

Non-Native:

White clover (*Trifolium repens*) is an introduced perennial from Europe.

Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) is an introduced perennial from Europe.

Alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*) is a hybrid between the white and red clover introduced from Europe.

White sweet clover (*Melilotus alba)* was introduced from Eurasia.

Yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) was introduced from the Mediterranean.

Grey Hairstreak

Source: Wikipedia Commons

Sources:

The Butterfly Garden: Creating Beautiful Gardens to Attract Butterflies, by Jerry Sedenko (1991, Villard Books).

Butterfly Gardening: Creating a Butterfly Haven in Your Garden, by Thomas C. Emmel (1997, Cavendish 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. https://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/efauna

Springbank clover

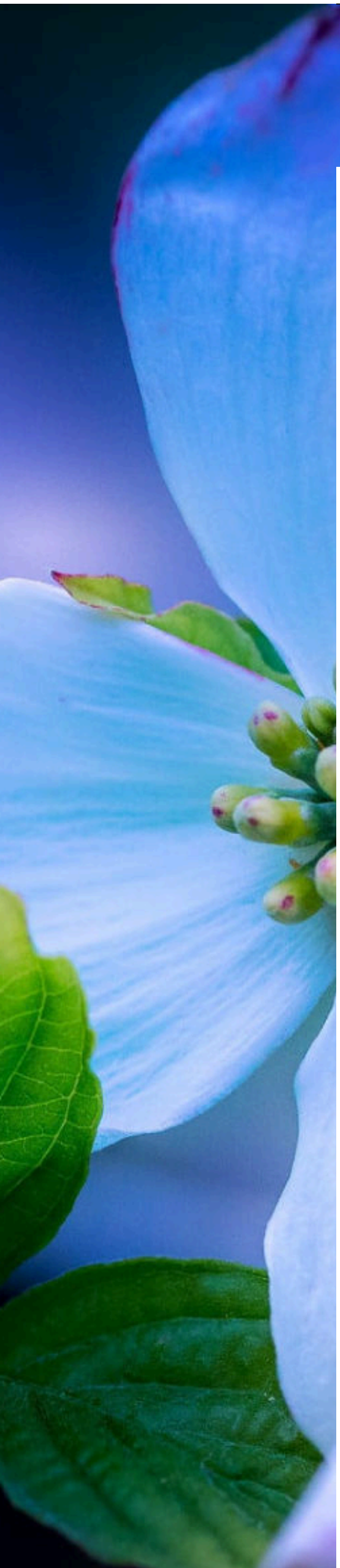
Source: Wikipedia Commons

PEACHLAND SOWERS AND GROWERS, ROSE SHOW AND TEA

PHYLLIS PAPINEAU

The theme for the 2023 Rose Show and Tea is **Young at Heart**. Keeping this in mind, the Peachland Elementary School has been asked to provide the art work. Since its inception, the show has featured art to add colour to the event as we are also members of the Peachland Community Arts Council. Wendy Briggs, principal of the school, has enthusiastically endorsed the concept and we anticipate up to 150 children will participate. It was gratifying that a number of members volunteered to help with this major Sowers and Growers event. The jobs include: set/takedown, entry clerks, tea hostesses, tea tables, kitchen, children's art display, publicity, and greeters.

The 11th Annual Rose Show and Tea will be held in the 50-plus activity centre Saturday, June 17. Entries will be accepted Saturday morning from 7:30 to 9:15 am, after which the judging takes place. The doors open to the public at 11:00 am. Trophies and ribbons are handed out at 3:30 PM and the show closes at 4:00 pm. It is amazing how quickly everything is put away when everyone pitches in!



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 April 15 for May 1**. Submissions/inquiries: newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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