



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

December 2021



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Cindy Tataryn

(Please forward this newsletter to all your club members!)

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH

SEASONS GREETINGS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

However you celebrate this time of year, I wish you and your family all the best!

Our next Annual General Meeting is April 9, 2022. Please **'Save the Date'** and mark your calendars! As at all AGMs there will be an election for Executive positions.

The Executive positions coming up for election for two-year terms are:

- **First Vice President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Communications Coordinator**

We also have a **Scholarship Trust Fund Trustee** position coming vacant, which is a three-year term.

Also, we are still looking for someone to be our leader. We need a **President!**

If you are interested in any of these positions please contact First Vice President Cindy Tataryn, email 1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com.

Now that the 'paperwork' is done, it is time to get back to decorating the house!

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Stay safe!

Stay healthy!

Stay engaged and

Keep on gardening!

Cindy Tataryn

First Vice President, BCCGC

1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com



Scholarship Fund News

By Patty Molnar, Scholarship Committee

My name is Angela Cardenas, and I am the recipient of a scholarship from the BC Council of Garden Clubs. Earlier this year I took the Viticulture Certificate Program through Okanagan College where students learned the process of growing *Vitis Vinifera*, the primary grape vine used in winemaking. From propagating to pruning and the everything in between, the course was enlightening in how the interactions that occur within the vine and environment affect the whole life and structure of the vine. Although I am not an expert on plant life, the course taught me to appreciate the intricacies of plants, and the processes that take place within its lifespan. Learning about soil structure and climate, among other things, was very interesting as well.



As the Viticulture program was done online this year, it benefitted me and other students who might not have had the opportunity to take this program as it normally takes place in Penticton and would have required a re-location to the campus there. Classes were primarily streamed online, and students had the opportunity to ask questions via chat or microphone. Although hands on experience was minimal in many respects, there was opportunity for an in-person practicum outdoors where we were able to get some experience working with the vines. My practicum was done at Bella Wines in Naramata, where Jay and Wendy were wonderful hosts full of knowledge, experience, and kindness. A couple other students and I were taught how to prune vines of various ages and needs, as well as several trellising systems used in training the grape vines. We were also shown different soils and aspects of land that could affect the life of the vine.

It seems like many years ago now that I went on a backpacking trip to Australia where I had the opportunity to work at various farms that grew different fruits and vegetables including pumpkins, peppers, tomatoes, and grape vines. During this time, I discovered that I enjoyed working with the earth and find it to be a grounding experience. As of now, I do not have much opportunity to work with a garden or vineyard but hope to be able to do so in the future.

Currently one of my jobs is as cellar hand at Maan Farms in Abbotsford, BC, where I am helping create fruit wine. It is an exciting and growing industry with great potential. It also lends a hand in showcasing that quality fruit can be grown in the Fraser Valley, and that it can also be used to make wonderful wine. Recently Maan Farms' Raspberry Table wine won a prestigious Platinum medal at the BC Lieutenant Governors Wine Awards, the first fruit winery to win such an award. Maan Farms also makes grape table wine such as Siegerebe and Rose, which also helps highlight the diversity of agriculture the Fraser Valley and British Columbia have to offer.

Working and living in the Fraser Valley provides a great opportunity to be surrounded by beautiful land and fertile soil. It is amazing that we can grow so many types of fruits and vegetables in our own back yard, including *Vitis Vinifera*. Learning about the cycle of life of *Vitis Vinifera* in the Viticulture program gave me a greater understanding and appreciation for grape vines and their life cycle. Getting hands on experience was very rewarding and it was a nice chance to go to the Okanagan where so much of our fruit and wine come from. I greatly appreciate the generosity from the members of the BC Council of Garden Clubs in helping students achieve success in education and other endeavours.*

*Our scholarship trustee, Patty Molnar, followed up with Angela because of the flooding in the Fraser Valley. She was pleased to find that the Mann Farms in Abbotsford had not been affected. Here is a note from Angela.

“Hi Patty, thanks so much for reaching out. It has certainly been a rainy two weeks, and scary for many people as well. Fortunately, I have not been too affected, apart from having to find various routes to get to work because of road closures due to flooding. The farm is up on a hill, thankfully, so we haven't had it too bad, although down the hill several kilometres away is where a lot of the major flooding is. Unfortunately we are expecting another storm today or tomorrow, and some people are on evacuation order still or again.”

Hopefully all of this will subside soon. This event makes you realize how interconnected we are with supply chains and transport as well as communities near and far. I hope you are doing well and not too affected by the impact of the floods.

*Sincerely,
Angela*

How to Help Flood Victims of the Devastating Storms in BC

How can we as a gardening organization help flood victims of the recent atmospheric storms? We encourage you to send ideas. One idea that one of our members suggested was collecting and saving seeds to offer to the folks to help rebuild their gardens. Send your ideas to newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com.

This is a time that scammers come out of the woodwork to take away your hard-earned money. Some reliable organizations have been set up to receive donations such as Canadian Red Cross (www.donate.redcross.ca) through the British Columbia Extreme Weather Appeal.

Other organizations include:

The BC Agricultural Council (www.bcac.ca), which has established a fund to help the farmers affected by the floods.

The Salvation Army (www.fundraise.salvationarmy.ca) who has dispatched its emergency units to six of the hardest hit communities in the province. It is asking for funds to support flood relief this year.

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:

1. Go to www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca

2. Click the "Funds" button on the top right side of the home page
3. Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching "garden clubs" in the search bar
4. Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click "Give to this Fund" and complete the form

OR

1. Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com
2. Go to the "Scholarship Fund" on the top bar and click on the "Donate" page below
3. Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Trust Fund page
4. Click on "Give to this Fund" and complete the form

Thank You!

Dahlias During Covid

Peter Krueger, President, Vancouver Dahlia Society

It was in March of 2020 that the first closures to protect people against Covid 19 were announced. The Vancouver Dahlia Society was in the process of planning their activities for the year, starting with a general meeting in March followed by the annual tuber sale in April. All the plans came to a screeching halt after VanDusen Botanical Garden, whose floral hall we use for meetings, cancelled all activities.

The time for our tuber sale was fast approaching so an alternative plan was devised. We tapped into the computer expertise of some of our members and held a virtual sale. Sellers were invited to advertise on the VDS website. Private arrangements could be made for pick up of the tubers. Sellers are traditionally expected to share half of their proceeds with the club but, as there was no way to monitor this, sellers were not required to do that at this time. Nevertheless, many sellers were very generous in donating some of their proceeds to the club and so we did not suffer financially.

For many months there were no monthly general meetings. (We meet on the third Wednesday of each month except November, December, January, and February). Eventually it was suggested we meet over Zoom. These Zoom meetings were immediately successful and we had great participation. The average attendance was between 20 to 25 with an all time high of 40 participants. Visitors included people from all over the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley, the Interior and Vancouver Island. We even had two dahlia enthusiasts from a club near Chicago join us. The format usually includes a small club business section, a discussion on how to care for dahlias at certain times of the year and an opportunity for the members to ask questions. This format was especially helpful to new growers and we had many join us that had not been involved with dahlias before. The Zoom format also allowed us to show our blooms to other members.

Not having a venue for our annual show again forced us to go virtual. Members were encouraged to send pictures of their blooms and these were formatted on the website in show fashion: different sizes and categories grouped together. A winner was chosen by a random draw and a prize of \$100 was awarded.

When the year 2021 began, there was still no prospect of in-person meetings so the virtual tuber sale was repeated. As the time neared for the annual show, venues had begun to open but with restrictions. We decided to hold a members-only show in the backyard of one of our members. This was held on the Saturday that we would normally hold our show (Labour Day weekend). Opportunity was given for members to enter blooms in two categories: novice and experienced. Two \$100 prizes were awarded in each category, one for best bloom and one for "eye candy" or the one that attracted the most attention. Opportunity was given to hybridizers to present their seedlings to the judges to be evaluated. This was an ADS (American Dahlia Society) sanctioned event and the results would be official. This meant that any seedling that passed would be registered. Participants from Victoria joined us. It was such a joy to see so many blooms, interact



with fellow dahlia enthusiasts, and finally meet people that we had only seen on zoom before. Pictures of the show can be seen on the VDS website.

By September of 2021, VanDusen again opened the floral hall for our use. We held in-person meetings in September and October.

Plans are underway for in-person meetings starting in March of 2022. At the moment, our tuber sale is scheduled for **Saturday, April 2**. It would be great to see many of you there but be sure to check the VDS website before coming to be in case the date has been changed. (Vancouver Dahlia Society website, www.vancouverdahliasociety.org).





Wreath Making 101

Kristin Crouch, South Delta Garden Club, Public Speaker, Garden Writer

www.thatbloominggarden.com

Making your own wreath can seem daunting to many people but it's actually very easy once you have the right tools. Think about what kind of elements you want on your wreath. What colours do you like? Is the traditional red and gold what you want or do you want something more untraditional such as pink and silver? Whatever you choose, have fun.

Let's look at what you will need to get started.

One 12" wire wreath form or grapevine wreath.

One paddle of 20-gauge floral wire

Wire cutters

Scissors

Hand pruners

Greenery such as cedar, spruce, fir or eucalyptus

Red twigs or berries, pinecones

Dried flowers and grasses of your choice

Once you have your supplies, try to set up a table outside as wreath making is messy. When cutting greenery I usually fill a large box as you will use lots as the base for each bundle on your wreath. I cut 12" long branches if I can. I love using cedar as the base for my bundles as it lasts for months on the wreath. If you don't have dried flowers on hand, add some sedum 'Autumn Joy' flowers, stems from grasses with their pretty seed heads, dusty miller, skimmia flowers, or the soft buds of magnolia. If using pinecones be sure to wind about six inches of floral wire around the base of the pinecone and pull the excess down so you have a wire stem to go in your bundle.

I keep talking about bundles. What is a bundle? The first step in making a wreath is creating bundles using greenery and flowers, kind of like a small bouquet. Cut a 5-6" length of greenery such as cedar and add a few more on top to create fullness. Next you want to add any silver



foliage and flowers. I like to stagger the heights of each item as they're placed. Just remember that each bundle will overlap the other on the wreath. Keep creating bundles repeating the colours in each bundle. I find that I usually need sixteen bundles to complete a 12" wreath. Once your bundles are complete you are ready to assemble your wreath.

To get started, lay your wreath form on the table. Take the paddle wire and attach it firmly to the top of your wreath form. If you want you can leave a bit of extra wire at the end to form a loop for hanging. Do not cut the wire from the paddle as you will use the paddle to wrap your bundles on to the wreath. Grab your first bundle of greenery and place it on the wreath form with it facing a bit to the outside. Grab your paddle and wrap the wire around the base of the bundle and the wreath form three times pulling firmly as you go. The second bundle is placed so its overlapping the first one to hide the stem ends. The second bundle should face a bit towards the inside of the wreath. If you find your bundles a bit long trim the ends a bit. Keep repeating your bundles all the way around the wreath and pulling the wire around each bundle to keep them in place. When you get to the last bundle lift the top of the first bundle carefully and tuck the ends of the final one underneath. Once all your bundles are in place you can tie the wire firmly to the back of the wreath form. Congratulations! Your wreath is ready to hang up.



Now you are ready to hang up your wreath!



Top Trends in Garden Design 2022

There are so many great articles available to gardeners on social media. *Garden Design*, a free newsletter, (www.gardendesign.com) has a great article on some top gardening trends to look for next year.

Even in British Columbia, we have noticed an increase in including tropics in the garden. Most of us have to take the plants in for the winter but for the vibrant colours it is well worth it.

Here are some ideas I've seen here and elsewhere online.

Some suggestions of tropical plants to include in your garden are canna lilies (*Canna x generalis*), zone 7 to 11, for its gorgeous blooms and foliage, New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenet*) Zone 9 to 11, offering bold, often colourful foliage, making a dramatic statement.



Photo: Graham Smyth's tropical garden, Victoria.
For more on his tropical garden design,
www.gardenista.com

Another trend that has been prevalent in Pacific Northwest gardens is blurring the lines between inside and outside. Filling patios with vibrant blooms, trailing vines, comfortable patio furniture with shelter added to protect from the rain and elements creates an extension to your living area.

Keeping the connection to the natural world during the cooler seasons can be done by bringing the outside in. The article suggests adding a small herb garden in a kitchen window, adding grow lights to plants indoors that do not get enough natural light.

Another trend that we are already loving is designing with dark foliage. *Heucharas* such as the shiny, black foliage of 'Black Pearl' coral bells placed in amongst chartreuse plants makes such a dramatic statement.

Photo by Proven Winners



Simple Table Centrepieces: Holiday Designs

Richmond Garden Club

Richmond Garden Club has developed YouTube videos through 2020 and 2021 as one alternative to meeting in person. We shared these videos with Richmond Library as part of their ongoing educational series.

You can follow the series on YouTube under “Gardening with Richmond Garden Club”. Enjoy the video below about creating tabletop centrepieces! Click on the photo or go to YouTube.com.



Year of the Garden 2022

The BC Council of Garden Clubs has partnered with the Canadian Garden Council to help celebrated Year of the Garden 2022. Stay tuned for some fun activities and ways we can promote Year of the Garden within our own communities.

For more information on Year of the Garden visit www.yearofthegarden.ca



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 are involved in. You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos). 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 December 15 for January 1.** Submissions/inquiries: newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com.

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor
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