

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Volume 1 Issue 7

www.vimga.org

September, 2022



Editor's Letter

The origin of the word "instability" according to the Cambridge Dictionary is "the condition of being likely to change, especially unexpectedly." While this definition is often equated with my feeble attempts at various yoga positions, let me venture into our next **Fall Into Gardening** (FIG) Conference where we will focus on "*Coping with Climate Instability*."



Jan Thorsen

We are very pleased to co-host FIG with Mt. Arrowsmith and Nanaimo Rhododendron Societies which will be held on Oct. 23 in Qualicum. A slight departure this year will be the amalgamation of our VIMGA AGM during the lunch hour.

Also if you haven't yet signed up, there is a Zoom opportunity for all Master Gardeners in BC on Oct. 2nd to gather and enjoy four excellent presentations during the annual general meeting. Sign up is easy and FREE!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcGpqDluGdwRtxs0ospi99i8SCqR2hoW>

We are very fortunate for the folks who contribute to this newsletter. Thank you to all who sent pictures, reports and articles. A big thanks to Beth Walrond (Korean Natural Farming) and Jo Canning (The Evolving Lawn-Scape) for their submissions. Now back to the tree pose.

- Jan

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President's Message

president@vimga.org



Mike O'Neill

Greetings VIMGA Members,

In our June newsletter we were looking at cold and wet weather but how quickly that all changed! We have also seen a complete return to clinics and events the way we are accustomed to and interacting with the public. Unfortunately I was not as mobile as usual and did not get around to all Districts to meet members.

There are a number of events coming up for us that I hope to see you all at:

MGABC Annual General Meeting – Zoom
October 2, 2022

Fall Into Gardening – Live Event
October 23, 2022 in Qualicum

VIMGA AGM – Live Event
October 23, 2022 in Qualicum

We are hosting the MGABC AGM this year and VIMGA members will be participating in the organization and presentations. A tremendous amount of work has gone into making this event outstanding for participants.

Fall into Gardening is a full day of education where we will also have a less than one hour AGM there during the lunch break. (amazing speed for sure) The **Fall into Gardening** poster has gone out and I look forward to seeing you all in person on October 23.

We have sent out Nomination forms for our **Silver Spade award 2022** and Karen Bennett is looking forward to getting your nominations!

Our board and committee positions are coming up and we have some vacancies that need to be filled! More information will be sent out this week but we need a Secretary. I hope we can count on having a member step forward for this crucial position on the board. If you are interested please contact me and I can answer any questions you might have that are holding you back!

In closing, you have until December 31, 2022 to get your hours and enter them into the system and I encourage you to get this done as soon as you can. It can certainly be daunting if you leave it all to the end.

I am always available, as are others, should you need any assistance entering or getting your hours so don't hesitate to ask!

Happy Fall Gardening!
Mike

The Library Project Report

Report and pictures submitted by Jo Canning



Jo Canning

Another stellar Year for the VIRL zoom seminars. This year we averaged 45 attendees, (a couple of them topped out over 50). UTube has logged 375 views in addition to the original attendees, and we still have 2 more seminars to go. Next month Richard Bernier will offer a seminar on indoor plants, and Dorothee will finish off our year speaking about her favourite vegetables. This means we will probably reach over 450 gardeners for 2022. Background for our new MGs and MGITs: since 2019, VIMGA has offered 21 seminars in partnership with VIRL. By the end of this season 17 appear on VIRL's UTube channel.

New for 2023

This year we tested the viability of traditional clinics in library branches. In a phrase, *Kowabunga successful!* We did 2 in Cow Valley (Ladysmith, Duncan), 1 in North (Cumberland), and 1 in far South (Sooke). If the last location is confusing, it was a request from April Ripley, our original library coordinator who began the project by her outreach to VIMGA in Nanaimo, and moved to the new Sooke branch. VIRL serves all of the Island, including Sooke and the Saanich peninsula, but not Victoria which has its own library system. Thus our project does steal any volunteer hours from VGM chapter.

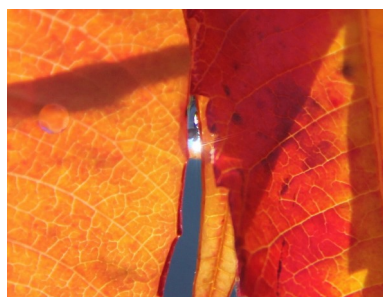
I will be consulting with VIMGA's DPs before the 2023 season begins to see how many VIRL clinics can serve their respective Districts, and will contact nearby library branches to set up communications between each DP and local adult education librarian. These clinics will then become part of each District's clinic offerings.

The second chapter-wide project is doing book reviews for VIRL. I'm lobbying the Executive for 3 volunteer hours, total. It would include 2 hours for reading the book, and 1 hour for posting a review of about 200 words. (That is about 11 type-written lines.) No additional admin hours earned at present, but the Executive will make the final decision.

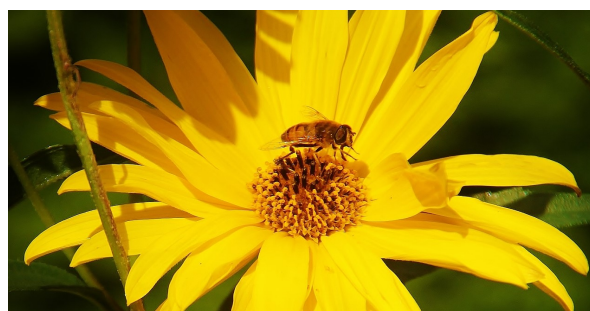
The membership profile continues to evolve so it may appeal to the following members: you are temporarily house-bound from illness or surgery; you have new care-giver responsibilities that have caused last minute cancelling of volunteer venues; you are a snow bird who reads gardening books on kindle while out of the country until spring.

I will create a style guide and a series of questions a reviewer can ask themselves to help keep their review relevant and focused, and the protocols to follow re volunteer responsibilities. [The RPC will have a copy when you need one. Like an in-person speaking engagement this will be an independently driven venue.](#) Because I have professional editorial experience, I will be happy to help a member if they feel unsure of the quality of their review.

Finally, please welcome Richard Bernier as our new VIRL Seminar Project Co-coordinator beginning in 2023. It is time for this old bird to hand this tasty worm off to a younger MG with a stronger beak.



Sumac leaves



Perennial sunflower

Korean Natural Farming

by Beth Walrond

(originally published in Island Farm and Garden Magazine, August 15, 2022)



Beth Walrond

One of the great things about the volunteer work I do as a Certified Master Gardener is meeting other gardeners and farmers, who often introduce me to new ideas. This past summer I was on duty at Cedar Farmers Market and in the booth around the corner sat Dave McIntyre from Coombs. He bought a 10-acre farm so that he could grow healthy food for his family. On his table at the Farmer's Market, were large white buckets with small labels. The product for sale was fermented fish fertilizer and after listening to how he made it and used it, I bought a bucket. When I was walking back to my booth he said, "You should look up KNF?" I drew a blank and he explained the acronym, "It stands for Korean Natural Farming."

I had never heard of this. Organic farming, regenerative farming, no till, no dig farming, and permaculture. Yes, I had heard of all of these and have practiced organic gardening for decades. So, what's the deal about Korean Natural Farming (KNF)? I have been doing some research and am very impressed with what I have found out so far. I will share just a bit. I hope you get a glimmer of the idea about this old/new method of gardening and farming.

In the late 1960's Dr. Cho Han Kyu of Suwon, South Korea became alarmed at the increase use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. He researched alternatives and experimented until he came up with Natural Korean Farming. (Jesse Frost) This method is a closed loop system and it compliments regenerative agricultural practices. Basically, cultures are made from indigenous micro-organisms, bacteria, and fungi. This is done by capturing them in a nearby forest setting, with cooked rice in a protected box. It is left for 3 to 7 days until mold grows. That is IMO 1, which is taken and mixed with sugar to stabilize the molds. This is IMO 2. There are a few more steps, until you have a mixture that can be mixed with water and applied to crops, chicken coops, pig pens, where it reduces smells or compost piles, where it speeds decomposition. The application to soil is referred to as an inoculation because beneficial bugs grow in the soil and help to make nutrients more available to plants. There are many more details to learn about these methods, I am just touching on the basic starting point of KNF.

Other benefits of the IMO are disease prevention, increased fertility, correct aeration, water retention and fewer weeds. Used as foliar spray it improves general health of the crops.

This method of making your own IMO is a bit time consuming but it is also incredibly cost effective. You use what is naturally available in your area, so you are not buying outside. This is the closed loop. The IMO's that are native to your micro climate and so much better adjusted to work in your environment. The driving idea in KNF is to work with nature. Working with nature seems to be on a spectrum from very little interference in what is growing, to managing growing beds with a more intensive approach. For example, one video I watched on this method, the farm looked very wild, weeds were growing beside the cultivated crops.

After researching and thinking about KNF a few questions arose. I can see KNF working in home gardens and small farms easily enough but, could it be applicable to large farms? Dave recommended watching YouTube videos by Chris Trump, who is an almond farmer (large scale) in Hawaii. And the answer is yes. He has introduced KNF methods into his farm, first on a small area and then expanded to use the methods on his whole farm. He reduced his costs in fertilizers from thousands to \$27.00. He has developed/invented machinery to make and use the IMO's on his property and is actively in teaching others how to do this.

Jesse Frost, a KNF farmer in Kentucky, raises another interesting point in his article, An Introduction to Korean Natural Farming, and that is, many of the farmers who use KNF, live and work in tropical climates, so the plants they refer to are not readily available in North America. What to do? Jesse referred to Bryan O'Hara of Tobacco Road Farms, suggests to take clues from herbal medicine and use plants that grow locally. So, while KNF is well established in Korea, Japan and Hawaii it is quite new to North America. KNF is also in use locally by farmers like Dave McIntyre.

The idea of using what is naturally on hand to create a serum that can inoculate the soil and improve plant growth, increase resistance to disease and work with nature is not a big leap if you are already engaged in organic farming or its cousins like regenerative farming. Learning the specifics of the methods can be done with the online videos, books available and magazine articles. It does require a different mind set. Instead of "I'll pop to buy another container of ... to I'll put on my apron and capture micro-organisms for IMO's."



I asked Dave how his fermented fish fertilizer fits into the KNF. This is his response "There are many growth cycles of plants that utilize multiple aminos and minerals to properly be affected. Fierce Fish Fermented Fish Fertilizer helps to bridge some of these stages when time is limited and you cannot address them individually."

This KNF offers a way forward that can benefit our health and the health of the soil which supports us. I hope you will be excited to learn more.

References

An Introduction to Korean Natural Farming by Jesse Frost. [Growing for Market November 9, 2021](#)

Chris Trump: KNF, All About IMO. You Tube

IMO 3 with Chris Trump. Natural Farming on our Farm. You Tube

Large Scale Natural Farming. Chris Trump. You Tube

<https://en.wikipedia.org> >wiki>Korean_natural_farming

Dave McIntyre, Natural Health Influencer. Proprietor Fierce Fish, (fermented fish fertilizer) www.fierce.fish

Climate Change and the Evolving Lawn

By Jo Canning



The Evolving Lawn-Scape

Lawns get a bad rap. They are not – though a fashionable idea -- the worse environmental thing since humans invented the wood-burning fireplace. That said, do private and public lawns need to change? The short answer is Yes! The good news- it is easier than you think.

True and False, the main reasons for getting rid of a lawn are: polluting, noisy mowers and trimmers, toxic and high cost fertilizers, and the biggest reason - high water use. True. Some folks have gone to artificial turf for a quick solution. False! Artificial turf is the worse choice for climate change. The heat it creates sterilizes soil, scorches nearby plants, kills tree roots and worms, and some brands create toxic off-gasses. The run-off it creates is as fast as concrete.

Lawn Goodies

There are several reasons to keep at least some healthy lawn. They reduce urban noise. Their temperature is always lower than nearby concrete. Like trees, lawns lower carbon dioxide levels. They slow water run-off, provide blossoms for pollinators, browse for small animals, and protect tree roots. Finally, these calming green swards give us a place to play, to BBQ, to walk barefoot over, or loll on finding animal shapes in the passing clouds.

Getting Smart, Doing Less Work

The cost of replacing a lawn all at once with a mock-meadow or xeriscape is prohibitive. But you can quickly reduce or remove all lawns' negative aspects while you transform your whole yard into a space that can thrive and evolve with our changing climate.

1. *Change maintenance methods*

Stop fertilizing. In our climate they need only a mulching mower, and an autumn mulching with mower-shredded leaves.

Increase leaf height. Taller lawns tolerate heat and drought better, and have a profound shading effect on the soil surface. Mow to a minimum of 5 cm / 2 inches – to 9.4 cm / 3.75 inches. For the last mowing, leave the height at 5 cm / 2 inches to 7.5 cm / 3.0 inches where daytime highs drop to around 10C / 50F degrees.

Water smarter. Once a week for 1 hour until summer heat hits, then let grass go dormant and turn brown. Do not mow. Minimize heavy foot traffic to protect dormant roots. A lawn can stay healthy while dormant for about 4 weeks, so water once every 4 weeks during summer. When highs drop to about 15 C / 60 F, water again or wait for autumn rains. If patches have died during summer, scrape out to the dirt and seed with a turf alternative. Nanaimo has some very good brochures on smart watering techniques.

2. *Know Your Dirt*

Compacted soil stops water and oxygen penetration so grass roots never get enough nutrients. These lawns need aeration each spring. Sandy soil is less likely to get compacted but the lawns need much more water. Many urban lawns have the worse combination: a few inches of soil over a hardpan base. The solution? Build up the thatch. Use a mulching mower during growing season and spread a dusting of fine soil in autumn. Using spent potting soil from summer containers with a little compost is an efficient, cost-effective way to do this.

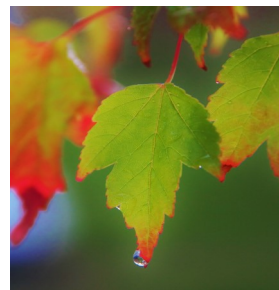
3. Decide How and Where to Change

Draw a schematic of what you want your lawn area to look like in 3-4 years. Keep it all, or center or one section, or just green paths? A full meadow, a total xeriscape? Draw planned trees, tall shrubs. Make cultivar lists! For clump grasses, click on this link at the Canadian Wildlife Federation website:

https://cwf-fcf.org/en/news/articles/ornamental-native-grasses_resource.html?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIuNbop-Wz8gIVLB-tBh3Z0AEXEAAAYASAAEgJ2vPD_BwE

Here is a list of native grasses for shady areas:

Carex deweyana – Dewey's Sedge.
Carex obnupta (wetter) – Slough Sedge.
Luzula multiflora (dry) – Common Woodrush.
Melica subulata – Alaska Onion grass.
Festuca occidentalis – Western Fescue.
Elymus glaucus – Blue Wildrye.



Leaves turning—J. Canning

4. Change In Steps

Decreasing lawn size is easy. Removing 12 – 18 inches of sod around the edge creates a whole new bed for drought tolerant plants -- or veggies, which take 1/3 the water of a lawn.

For areas you plan to keep, changing turf type lowers or stops mowing and saves water. When you have 1/3 of the lawn and garden area in blossoms, berries and seeds throughout the growing season, you can support all the local pollinators and birds. There are several flowering lawn alternatives and low-mow, low-growing turfs. West Coast Seeds has proven mixes.

5. Remember to Create More Shade

Trees, large shrubs and tall vines are critical to stabilizing climate change. Add them as specimens in the centre of the lawn, in a meadow-style yard and for shade near buildings, but here make sure their roots won't invade weepers, soffits or sidewalks. Birds eat pests so consider fruiting specimens, not only ornamentals.

So Start, Already

I changed my unhealthy, weed-covered front lawn into a smaller, lush carpet of lawn alternative in two years. When I weeded, I brought a bucket of potting soil and seed, adding it into every hole and a scraped-out area beside it. Hand watered with a can in the hot weather. I also dug out a bit of sod along the edge of the garden. Total time was about 20 minutes.

Start this autumn. Like the ancient Zen saying advises: "To change the world, move one stone."



Sunflower furning - J. Canning

Our Cowichan District has had the good fortune this year to be face to face with our garden community. Whether our venues have been at Dinter Nursery, at a Seedy Saturday or Sunday, the Cowichan Family Life and the Ladysmith Rotary Garden Tours, the Cowichan's 154th Fall Fair or at our Garden Advice Parties, our two new Interns Louise Sawchuk and Sandra Lee have delighted in a variety of interactions with fellow gardeners.



Gwen Redcliffe

Our members continue to answer gardening queries from the public via email through Milner Garden. Members also submit articles of seasonal interest to the Take Five Magazine in the "Gardening Hoe Down" column created by one of our Project Coordinators Joanne Barwise. September's issue "Ladybug, Ladybug, Fly Away ..." To My House, Please is written by Ute Holewa our District Rep. Thanks to one of our Project Coordinators Jo Canning, our Cowichan members continue to give webinar presentations on various aspects of gardening with the Vancouver Island Regional Library. Thank you Jo for your encouragement and support for me to be September's speaker. My topic was on the Seasonal Life of a Dahlia. Our newest venue, initiated by Jo, is our face to face clinics held at the public libraries in Duncan, Ladysmith and Sooke. Gardening Clubs in Duncan, Gabriola and Ladysmith, have requested speakers from our Cowichan District.

Some of our members are currently involved with further studies. Joanne Barwise along with her interest in pollinators has also proceeded with "Fire Smart Gardening". Martha Jean Clarke our VIMGA's membership chair is taking on "Rewilding" her garden. Fern Hietkamp is involved with the Gaia Master Gardening Program.

Parlour Show News. I'm elated that my seedling "Gwen Redcliffe", "a "Single" Dahlia form that is open centered with a single row of uniform, evenly spaced ray florets in a flat plane surrounding the disc flower", has won first and Section Champion in the Novice Triple category and first in the Single category at the Nanaimo Gladiolus and Dahlia Society's Show held on September tenth and eleventh. "Gwen Redcliffe" will now be registered with the American Dahlia Society.

It's hard to believe how fast this year has gone and we will soon review how climate change has impacted our gardening strategies. Thankfully the collective efforts and knowledge of our VIMGA membership will help many gardeners face this challenge.



Gwen's prize winning dahlia

Cowichan Members are Busy



Gwen Redcliffe and April Johnston at Dinter Nursery



Gwen Redcliffe



Left to right: Intern Sandra Lee, Jacqueline Sherk and Intern Louise Sawchuk at Dinter Nursery

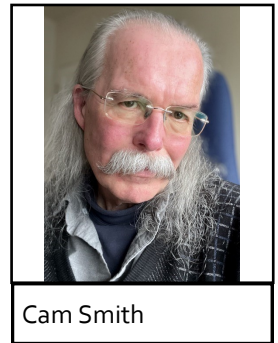


Triple Display in Novice Section awarded first and Section Champion and first in the Single Display at the September 10th and 11th Nanaimo and Gladiolus Society Show.

Area Representative Updates:

Nanaimo District Rep – Cameron Smith

nan-rep@vimga.org



They're discussing pumpkin spice flavoured or scented... everything... on the radio as I write this and I'm considering turning on the heat in my office lately, all signaling the changing of the season. Summer harvesting is underway (our tomatoes are almost finished) and winter planting should be in. Don't forget to do composting and mulching on those beds that aren't going to be used over the winter.

We currently have 29 members in the Nanaimo district, including 22 CMGs, one Alumnus, two Lifetime and four Intern members.

We scheduled 56 clinics for this year, answering questions from 654 people. That's up from 37 clinics last year and, as in the other districts, we were LIVE this year! We have logged 590 advice hours so far, compared to 581 for all of last year. Of note is that this year we have done 448 clinic hours and 142 "other" advice hours, compared to 265 clinic and 316 other hours last year. The difference is probably because we were zooming last year, so members had to come up with "other" hours to meet their requirements.

One of the other reasons for the increase in our clinic hours is that this year we returned to attending Farmers Markets with a vengeance: we set up at the Island Roots market in Nanaimo nine times and at the Cedar Market four times. And we bought a new canopy tent and table to make all that market time more comfortable.

And remember, as the Nanaimo District Members' Representative, you can ask me anything about VIMGA: how it works, who to contact about various issues, what's going on with the Board of Directors, and more. Contact me at nan-rep@vimga.org.



Folks were lining up to talk to Gail Hudson and Marion Waters, under our new canopy tent, at the August 24 Island Roots Farmers Market in Nanaimo

VIMGA Cowichan District Rep - Ute Holewa

cow-rep@vimga.org

OUR LINEUP

June 18 MG clinic at VIRL Cumberland Branch

June 25 DINTER

July 11 VIRL Webinar - Container Gardening by Jo Canning

July 13 GAP/VOG meeting of Cowichan members and owner Gail at Ma Maison restaurant in Chemainus, followed by performance and video recording of the "WILD Tuber 'Rap Mantra' and lunch (**photo on next page**)

Aug Gardening Hoe Down Article "The Mighty Worm" by Jo Canning

Sept Gardening Hoe Down Article "Ladybug, ladybug.." by Ute Holewa

Sept 2 GAP at Louise Sawchuk's house



Ute Holewa

Area Representative Updates con't

Sept 8 Be FireSmart: Landscaping to Protect Your Home - in person presentation to Gabriola Garden Club by Joanne Barwise

Sept 10 DINTER

Sept 12 VIRL Webinar - 'Dahlias' by Gwen Redcliffe

Sept 14 Cowichan Valley Garden Club speaker Gwen Redcliffe on Dahlias

Sep 16-18 Cowichan Fair

Sept 10 DINTER

Sept 12 VIRL Webinar - 'Dahlias' by Gwen Redcliffe

Sept 14 Cowichan Valley Garden Club speaker Gwen Redcliffe on Dahlias

Sep 16-18 Cowichan Fair

Sept 24 DINTER

Oct 'Dahlia' article by Gwen Redcliffe for 'Take 5' magazine

ADVICE HOURS

All of our active members have their required advice hours. Congratulations all!

TO THE FUTURE:

Joanne Barwise:

1) Approved three-session course at VIU Elder College entitled "The Little Things That Make the World Go 'Round." (Covering Pollination, Wild Bees and Butterfly Gardens);

Slated for Spring 2023

2) Upcoming second year (2023) for Cowichan District Master Gardeners' column, Gardening Hoe Down in the 'Take Five' newsmagazine.

3) On-going study to become a Master Mellitologist at Oregon State University (OSU). Attended one week at Bee School at OSU.

Jo Canning:

1) VIRL Webinars will continue into 2023

2) Live clinics are scheduled at VIRL branches for 2023.

3) Proposed gardening book reviews at VIRL.

...and back to what we all love - gardening

EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW PLANTS

Jo Canning: Added a new bog plant to my solar-powered mini pond: a lizard tail, *Saururus cernuus*. It is so easy to grow ... probably because it is invasive in many parts of Canada. But as it spreads by runners in shallow water, I have it completely contained.

Also tried out a heritage pole bean in my container garden, called "Kew Blue." WOW! Long and succulent as a French fillet bean, only sweeter. Can be eaten raw in salads at the "snap" stage, turns green as it cooks so you can lift it out of the steamer when half green and by the time it gets to the table it is PERFECT! It remains sweet even at the half & half stage, when the beans are swelling in the pod. And it also makes a decent horticultural bean as well. Not as meaty as a pinto bean, but more flavour than a little northern bean.



Cowichan members at Ma Maison (rapping ????)

Area Representative Updates con't

North Island District Rep—Cathy Lund

ni-rep@vimga.org



Cathy Lund

It's been a season of growth in our membership, in our offerings and in territory. We have broadened our area this year from Baynes Sound in the South to Campbell River in the north. We have a total of 9 members, 5 CMGs, 1 Alumni and 3 interns. Recently we've heard that 2 members from the Victoria area have moved into our area and will join us in the new year.

Most of our events were in the spring with GAPs focused on pruning and the first nursery advice clinics. Over the summer Deb held an advice clinic at the Cumberland library, a first for this venue. Another advice clinic was held at Gardens on Anderton, a community garden that originated as Wellness Garden. I haven't been there for at least 10 years and it is now a large and beautiful garden with 100 volunteers maintaining it. We had a lovely summer day for it. The Comox Valley Horticultural Society(CVHS) held a summer social and we had a MG table set up to support them. It's the first physical activity with CVHS since covid. Unfortunately they have decided to keep their monthly meetings to virtual so we have lost 5 advice clinics that were planned for the remainder of the year.

We have one advice clinic at the Campbell River Garden Centre for the end of September. Additional potential venues have been identified for next year. The Farmers Market which we've supported in the past is one of them.



Currently there are 2 CMGs short a couple of hours and 2 of our first year interns could use more hours. We are looking at potential opportunities for them and encouraging cross area involvement in any clinics or GAL. As we grow we are learning to provide advice in any forum that meets the needs of our community. As an example 2 of our interns have written gardening articles.

We are looking forward to the face to face education session with MARS and VIMGA AGM.

Area Representative Updates con't

VIMGA Qualicum/Parksville District Rep - Ruth Beilman pqn-rep@vimga.org

PQN has 4 interns from the class of 2022, who are all doing very well. They are keeping busy with clinics, Milner and GAPS.

We held an area potluck lunch and social on August 9th, which was well attended. We visited the neighboring yard – the owner is quite a character and has many different fruit trees. Figs, persimmon, cherry, apples, pear.....



Ruth

We have had 4 GAPs over the clinic season. The interns and I have seen some very interesting acreages and have learned a lot. Last week we held one at Spider Lake with numerous fruit trees -Debora Gurrad joined us and gave a Master Class on pruning fruit trees - A very good day!

Membership

CMG – 9

Interns - 4

Alumnus – 5

Lifetime – 1

Leave of Absence



Milner Gardens Group

- 1



Debora Gurrad will be offering two workshops this fall on planting techniques for small small trees and woody perennials. Those of you who are familiar with a group called 'The Garden Professors' will know about the planting technique they advocate for called root washing. Debora has been using this technique for a couple of years now with great success and would like to demonstrate it for any Master Gardener or intern who would like to learn it. It involves washing all the planting medium off the roots, then inspecting the roots and correcting any that will cause problems down the road, then proper planting.

The first workshop will be a small tree or woody perennial in a pot on Oct 1st. It will be at Wanda Brenton's house at 3043 Jameson Road in Nanaimo at 10 am. You will be able to get your hands in on at least one plant so please dress appropriately for this wet and messy work - boots, gloves, layers of clothing and hand pruners.

The second workshop will be digging up and correcting the roots on a small (or medium) tree that was planted incorrectly. Slated for October to mid-November.

For more information, contact Debora at dgvimga@gmail.com



Debora Gurrad

MGABC 2022 Provincial AGM
Sunday, October 2, 2022 via Zoom
Bringing the 'Wild' Into Our Gardens



Agenda

9:15 Link in to Zoom

**9:30 Welcome – Rachael Fleming, MGABC President and
Mike O'Neill, Vancouver Island President**

**9:35 *Linda Gilkeson: Where have all the insects gone?
When will we ever learn?***

10:35 Break

10:45 *Gwen Odermatt: Treasures of the Pond*

11:45 Break

12:00 MGABC AGM

Welcome and President's Address – Rachael Fleming

Minutes of 2021 AGM – Attached

Financial Report – Lynne Christmas

Focus on Chapters – Projects, Activities, Regional Flora, Native Plants

Golden Trowel Award

Nominating Committee Report – Karen Bennett

Slate of Officers for MGABC Provincial Council 2022 - 2023

President: Rachael Fleming (Okanagan Chapter)

President Elect: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: Lynne Christmas (Vancouver)

1:20 Break

1:30 *Dorothee Kieser: Native Plants for the Woodland Garden*

2:30 *Kristen Miskelly: Native Plants for Sunny Gardens*

3:30 Door Prizes. Farewell – Happy Gardening!

To Register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcGpqDluGdwRtxs0ospi99i8SCqR2hoW>

Our Speakers



Dr. Linda Gilkeson: *Where Have All the Insects*

(When Will We Ever Learn...?)

Global insect populations have crashed over the last couple of decades. Learn why this matters for our food supply, for a healthy environment and the future of wildlife. Find out what factors may be causing the widespread declines and how gardeners can help to reduce the harm from some of these factors.



Gwen Odermatt: *Treasures of the Pond*

Ponds built to mime nature can be great places to invite additional dimensions of life into the garden. We will look at how a healthy, vibrant pond will host beneficial wildlife and create zones for diverse plantings which will add rich layers of fauna and flora in the garden.



Dorothee Kieser: *Native Plants for the Woodland Garden*

Many native plants are suitable for shade or part shade gardens. Not only are native plants interesting and beautiful, they are also excellent sources of food for Native bees many of which are in considerable decline. The talk focuses on the best growing conditions and propagation techniques.



Kristen Miskelly: *Native Plants for the Sunny Garden*

From meadows to rockeries, gardens offer many opportunities for sun-loving native plants. In this talk we will learn about sun-loving species for dry and moist areas, as well as some propagation and growing tips. Topics related to meadowscaping and wildlife benefits will be covered.



2022 Fall into Gardening

“Coping with Climate Instability in your Garden”

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:** <http://nanaimorhodos.ca/>

Date: **Sunday, October 23, 2022**
 Location: Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
 747 Jones St. Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1S7
 Time: 10:00 AM to 3:30 P

10:00 AM – 10:05 AM	Introductory Remarks
10:05 AM – 11:00 AM	Douglas Justice: UBC Botanical Garden Associate Director and Curator <i>“Planting Trees for a Drier and Hotter Future”</i>
11:00 AM – 11:20 AM	Break
11:20 AM – 12:15 PM	Caroline Josefsson: Vancouver Island University Biology Department <i>“Gardening with less water – learning from the Garry Oak Ecosystem”</i>
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM – 2:10 PM	Des Kennedy: writer, activist, celebrated speaker <i>“Weather or Not” a light hearted romp through the triumphs and travails of the weather-beaten gardener</i>
2:10 PM – 2:30 PM	Break
2:30 PM – 3:25 PM	Bonnie Zand: Entomologist and owner of Bonnie’s Bugs IPM <i>“Gardening for pollinators: supporting BC’s diverse native bees</i>
3:25 PM – 3:30 PM	Closing Remarks



- *We realize that the \$25 ticket fee may not be financially viable for all our members. As a VIMGA member, your attendance is important. For those wishing to be reimbursed please send an email to Mike O’Neill at president@vimga.org*

Douglas Justice presents “*Planting Trees for a Drier and Hotter Future*”

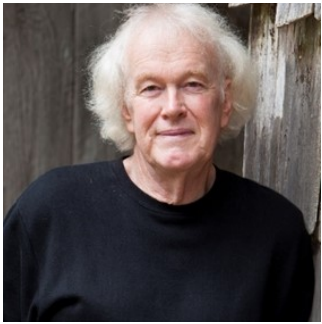
There is increasing awareness among gardeners, if not the public at large, for the need to reconsider many of our planting choices. Numerous factors contribute to this change in perspective, but climate change, sustainability in horticultural practices and the biodiversity crisis are paramount among them. Douglas’s presentation will address tree selection in light of these issues.



Douglas had his initial exposure to horticulture in his parents' garden in Vancouver and at the family farm in Duncan. His passion for plants eventually led him into nursery work, then to degrees in horticulture and botany, which spurred him to pursue a career in teaching and public garden management.

For the last two decades, Douglas’s job has been Associate Director, Horticulture & Collections at UBC Botanical Garden. He teaches in UBC's Landscape Architecture.

Des Kennedy presents “*Weather or Not – a light-hearted romp through the triumphs and travails of the weather-beaten gardener*”



Des Kennedy is a writer, an activist and seasoned back-to-the-lander. He and his partner Sandy have for the last 50 years lived a conserver lifestyle on Denman Island. Their gardens, hand-built house and surrounding woodlands are regularly featured on the Denman Island Home and Garden Tour.

Caroline Jossefson presents “*Gardening with less water – learning from the Garry Oak Ecosystem*”



Climate projections suggest that summers in our region will become increasingly warmer and drier, presenting challenges to gardeners. Can we look to our local flora, our region’s ancient history, and traditional ecological practices for solutions? The Garry oak ecosystem is a species-rich, drought-adapted plant community that originates in a warm dry period of British Columbia’s ancient past, 8,000 to 6,000 years ago. As the climate became cooler and moister about 6,000 years ago, the ecosystem was protected from encroaching conifers

by Coast Salish Peoples who benefitted from the game and edible plants associated with it. The Garry oak ecosystem can serve as a model for sustainable gardening in our area, one that honours our region’s cultural history and its biodiversity. I will speak to my experience of gardening with Garry oak ecosystem-associated plants in my small front yard in Nanaimo, and suggest resources for information, seeds, and plants.



Bonnie Zand presents

"Gardening for pollinators: supporting BC's diverse native bees"

When most people think of pollinators, they think of honey bees. But did you know that there are more than 450 different bee species in BC, along with other pollinating insects? These pollinators are incredibly diverse in size, appearance and lifestyle, and are vitally important for pollination of both food crops and wild plants. Learn to observe and appreciate some of these less well-known pollinators, find out what challenges they are facing, and learn what you can do within your own gardens to support native pollinators!

Bonnie Zand is the owner of Bonnie's Bugs IPM, a private consulting company working with farmers to manage insect pests on Vancouver Island. She is currently running the Vancouver Island Pests, Pollinators and Beneficials Project. Bonnie holds a BSc in biology from UVic, is a board member of the Native Bee Society of BC and is part of the recovery implementation group for the endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Bonnie is also the BC instructor for the Master Melittologist program. In her spare time, she likes to look for interesting native bees and other insects, raise mason bees, garden with native plants and instill a love of insects in her five-year-old daughter

One of the practical sessions for our 2022 interns and their mentors in Dorothee Kieser's garden to show them some of the do's and don'ts of growing veggies. And then treats!

