

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

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December, 2022



Editor's Letter

Let the Leaves and Snow Fall

Just when I had the energy and time to rake my leaves—you know it, along came the snow. I thank my lucky stars that there is a neighbor that puts his bagged leaves out on the curb for any and all takers. And take I do! I continue to embarrass my poor husband who asks “how many bags can you stuff into the Honda Fit anyway?” Many it seems.



Jan Thorsen

For more on the benefit of leaves, check out “Leave the Leaves: Winter Habitat Protection.” courtesy of the Xerces Society.

Much has happened since the last newsletter. VIMGA members have been busy submitting and collating clinic and education hours AND we had a successful “Fall into Gardening Conference” with gardening partners, Nanaimo Rhododendron and Mt. Arrowsmith Societies—with our AGM sandwiched in during lunch. Thanks to Mike O’Neill for chairing such a fast paced meeting.

We are pleased to announce the next Spring Education Day (SED) will be live at Nanoose Place on Saturday, March 11. The theme “*Growing Vegetables—the Good, the Bad and the Ugly*” will include a panel of VIMGA master gardeners along with expert Bonnie Zand to guide us through our ‘buggier’ questions. It promises to be an exciting day. There will also be a plant sale—so start saving your ‘extras’.

Included in this issue is an article by Dorothee Keiser on growing *Amelanchier alnifolia* (Saskatoon bush or serviceberries). Also included is an opportunity to honour our long-standing member, Linda Derkach. Linda has received both gold and silver awards from VIMGA and has been a powerhouse in the Community Living universe for BC.

At this time, the VIMGA Executive wishes you a safe and restful holiday season.

- Jan

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President's Message

president@vimga.org



Mike O'Neill

Seasons Greetings to you all!

I hope you are all staying warm and safe in this winter wonderland. I find this weather very relaxing and it makes me smile to see all that white stuff blanketing the garden. It feels like I have nothing to do except perhaps shovel a few scoops of snow to make a path from our door. When I think about it though I realize, computers have changed that feeling! We seem to never have nothing to do anymore :). It is a work in progress for me.

Many of our board and committee members have a well deserved break through November and December but our planners and other committees continue to get things ready for the coming new year. Our Spring Education Day, SED, is usually our first big event and plans are coming together for another in person event and a chance to get together for fellowship and education, a look ahead at our clinics, and some great learning sessions. Mark the date, March 11, 2023 in Nanoose!

I am sure that most members have your hours into the reporting system but if you haven't yet the December 31 deadline is fast approaching. Don't worry though if you need help, it is close by with a phone call or email to Debbie Gurrard our Regional Planning Coordinator (RPC). dgvimga@gmail.com I can also assist anyone in Nanaimo and area with a visit or an online session president@vimga.org As a reminder..... annual requirements for CMGs is 15 advice hours and 10 education hours and Interns 65 volunteer hours over 2 years, and 10 education hours in year 2. (0 education hours in your first year). Our recently changed year goes from January to December for requirements. Our year end remains October 31 for all other matters including dues and you should already have sent those in.

It was great to see many of your at our Joint Education day with NRS and MARS in Qualicum. An action packed day with some great sessions. Having our AGM in this short format worked out well and a format we hope to adopt every two years when we plan to hold our Joint Education day "Fall into Gardening". I would like to thank the committees from NRS, MARS, and VIMGA for a job very well done! Congratulations on another great event!

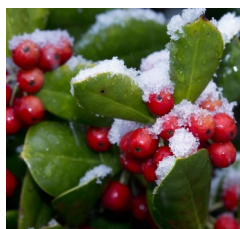
We have a few committees to fill but as you can see in this newsletter our Board positions are all complete and most committees. I encourage you to have a look at what might interest you and contact a member of that committee or myself.

Have a great new year and I hope to see you next year or sooner!

Mike O'Neill

President

Mike



President

Mike O'Neill [REDACTED]
president@vimga.org

Term 1 of 3 allowed
serving year one of two

Treasurer

Jane Kerr [REDACTED]
treasurer@vimga.org

Term 1 of 3 allowed
serving year two of two

Past President

Dorothee Kieser [REDACTED]
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Year 1 of 3 allowed
serving year 1 of 2

Vice President

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vicepresident@vimga.org

Term 1 of 3 allowed
serving year one of two

Secretary

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Term 1 of 3 allowed
serving year one of two

MGABC Representative

Jacqueline Sherk [REDACTED]
Provincialrep@vimga.org

Tammy McBride [REDACTED]
mgtammym@gmail.com

Term 1 of 3 allowed
serving year 2 of 2

North Island District Member Representative

Cathy Lund [REDACTED]
ni-rep@vigma.org

term 2 of 3 allowed
serving year 2 of 2

Nanosee/Qualicum/Parksville District Member Representative

Ruth Beilman [REDACTED]
ni-rep@vigma.org

* looking for replacement

Term 2 of 3 allowed

Nanaimo District Member Representative

Cameron Smith [REDACTED]
nan-rep@vimga.org

Term 1 of 3 allowed
serving year 2 of 2

Cowichan District Member Representative

Jacqueline Sherk [REDACTED]
cow-rep@vimga.org

Term 1 of 3 allowed
serving year 2 of 2



VIMGA Board of Directors

Mike O'Neill, Ruth Beilman, Dorothee Kieser, Jane, Kerr, Jacqueline Sherk. Missing from picture: Fern Heitkamp, Cathy Lund, Cameron

VIMGA Committees 2022/2023

Continuing Education Committee (CEC)

needs chair
cec@vimga.org

Members: J. Sherk, M. Shakespeare, C. Southwick,
R. Beilman, J. Thorsen
2 Year Renewable Term

Vancouver Island Regional Library Coordinator

Richard Bernier
rbernier@shaw.ca

1 Year Renewable Term

Program Management Committee (PMC)

needs chair
pmc@vimga.org

Members: D. Kieser, R. Beilman, D. Gurrad, K Bennett

2 year Renewable Term Year

Badge Officer

Gail Hudson
badges@vimga.org

1 Year Renewable Term

North Island District Planner

Jane Kerr
ni-district_planner@vimga.org

1 Year Renewable Term

Nanaimo District Planner

Chris Southwick
nan-district_planner@vimga.org

1 Year Renewable Term

Newsletter Committee

Jan Thorsen
newsletter@vimga.org

1 Year Renewable Term

Digital Committee and Webmaster

Cameron Smith
digitalchair@vimga.org
webmaster@vimga.org

1 Year Renewable Term

Membership/ Sunshine

Martha Jean Clarke
membership@vimga.org

2 Year Renewable Term

Plant Sales Coordinator

Mary Shakespeare
shakespeare.ms@gmail.com

1 Year Renewable Term

Mentorship Committee

Lead Mentor: Dorothee Kieser
leadmentor@vimga.org

2 Year Renewable Term

Gardening Advice Line (GAL)

Dorothee Kieser
gal@vimga.org

Members: K. Howard,
2 Year Renewable Term

Qualicum/Parksville District Planner

Karen Bennett
pqn-district_planner@vimga.org

1 Year Renewable Term

Cowichan District Planner

Ute Holewa
cow-district_planner@vimga.org

1 Year Renewable Term

Regional Planning Coordinator (RPC)

Debora Gurrad
rpc@vimga.org

1 Year Renewable Term

Event Photographer

Kay Howard

Kay is looking to retire from this position
so it is available for anyone interested!

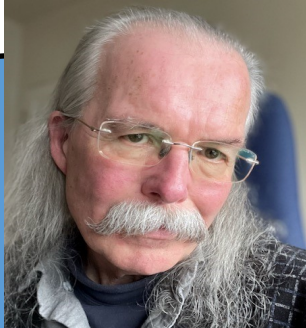


AWARDS

Pictures by Kay Howard



Certificates of Appreciation



Cam Smith



Gwen Redcliffe



Debora Gurrad

Silver Spade



Karen Bennett (last year's Silver Spade award winner) presenting the Silver Spade Award to Jo Canning.

AGM—October 23 Memories

pictures by Kay Howard



Now that Covid restrictions have lifted and we are able to meet in person again, individual membership cards will not be mailed out this year. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Best wishes for the New Year

Martha Jean, Membership Chair



Fall into Gardening – a Look Back

(Photos by June Bouchard and Glen Jamieson, story by John Denisger)

On Sunday, October 23rd, about 150 enthusiastic gardeners gathered at the Qualicum Beach Civic Center for a day of learning, camaraderie, and fun. Under the theme of “Coping with Climate Instability in Your Garden,” we had 4 superb presentations. We learned about trees for our future hotter, drier climate from Douglas Justice. Carolyn Josefssen gave us an excellent presentation on the Garry Oak Ecosystem and incorporating native plants into your garden, and we learned about pollinators and how to attract them from Bonnie Zand. And then, there was Des Kennedy who “brought the house down” as only he can do. Our thanks go to each speaker for their support and to the obvious time they put into creating such high-quality presentations. MABBRI and the Invasive Species Council set up interesting information booths which were well attended through the day. Thank you to the organizing committee who worked so well together while representing the NRS, MARS and VIMGA: Deborah Francis, Chris Southwick, John Deniseger, Jan Thorsen, Glen Jamieson, Marilyn Dawson and Kathy Loyer. We’re already looking forward to the next version of Fall into Gardening, two years from now, in October 2024!



Bernie Dinter with Douglas Justice.



Caroline Josefssen at the ISC booth



Glen Jamieson introducing Bonnie Zand.



The incomparable Des Kennedy



The MAABRi Booth



Silent Auction



The organizing committee (L to R): Jan Thorsen, Glen Jamieson, John Deniseger, Marilyn Dawson, Kathy Loyer, Deborah Francis, Chris Southwick

Our VIMGA Members

I have been a lifelong gardener – earliest memories in my mother's garden at age 4 judging the irises and the tulips. Later as a teenager I became fascinated with native plants around my home in Victoria – now called Garry Oak meadows filled with erythroniums, camas and wonderful moss and ferns – and amazing Garry oaks that surrounded our home.

I gardened as much as possible while raising kids and working. But immediately following retirement....

I did the Basic Training Program in 2004 at Malaspina followed shortly thereafter by the Advanced MG Program at VanDeusen. Finished that in 2008.

Shortly after joining VIMGA I took on the role of Master Planner for our 115 members documenting the clinics, sign-up and computerizing our forms and functions.

At that time, Malaspina was offering the BTP twice a year so at any time we had four classes of students doing their two-year MG in Training requirements. Roughly 2/3 of our members were MGs in training at that time.

Many of our certified MGs did seven or eight clinics each year in order for the students to get their hours.

I also took on drafting the Bylaws and Policies of VIMGA so that we could become incorporated under the Society Act of BC.

Following time as the Master Planner, I joined Pam Harrison as VIMGA representatives on the MGABC Provincial Council around 2009 and the formation of the provincial organization. During that time on Council, we represented the interests of VIMGA. I also took on the development of the Guide to the Basic Training Program (based on the Vancouver MG program) that would become the standard for all affiliated chapters of MGABC. Over the ensuing 12 years, I drafted by-laws and policies for MGABC, and served as Vice-President and Secretary from time to time.

I love research and writing about plants. For over ten years I have been Editor and writer for the newsletter of Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society. I have also been President of MARS and served on the Executive for 9 or 10 years.

I love to organize our May Garden Tour for the community and bus tours for our members that have taken us all over Vancouver Island and as far as White Rock and Abbotsford.



Linda Derkach

I am also a member of Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island (currently Secretary) and many other garden clubs and organizations worldwide.

For the past six years or so I have been Secretary for the American Rhododendron Society.

I love to travel and tour gardens and have been lucky to have visited many gardens in England, France, Portugal, Australia, New Zealand and the US.

My greatest joy is stepping into my garden boots and going outside to potter in my garden – plant, replant, propagate, share plants with friends and family, create alpine dishes, prune and maintain my garden in Qualicum.

I appreciate how very lucky I have been during the pandemic to have a garden that brings me joy and satisfaction every day. - Linda

"Linda has been such a treasure trove of knowledge and skills. Since she has extensive background as an educator, in her writing and presentations she is careful to include enough detail so that others can follow her blazed trails in all that she does. In working with her, she also draws on her experience in writing bylaws (no easy task!) for a number of organizations, including the American Rhododendron Society's Executive Committee, the BC Community Living organization and of course our own MGABC and VIMGA. Since Linda was the main author of the original documents for some of these organizations, her knowledge of why these documents were written and necessary has been exceedingly helpful in moving these organizations forward as well as giving them legitimacy".

- Chris Southwick



Jacqueline Sherk

MGABC & Cowichan Updates

Submitted by Jacqueline Sherk, MGABC Rep

This year the MGABC has held five meetings as follows: February 1, April 26, June 14, August 16 and November 8th. Most meetings are held on Tuesday evenings, and always by Zoom.

MGABC Executive Members:

Our president is Rachael Fleming from the Okanagan chapter. As this is Rachael's second year of her two-year term, she will be stepping down as of the end of 2023. Mike Juleff of the Victoria chapter is the past president and attends all meetings.

Linda Derkach of our own chapter has just stepped back as secretary. Since 2009 she has been on the prov council - she also has been Director of Policy and Planning, Secretary, Council Consultant, back to Secretary.

Lynne Christmas of the Vancouver Chapter is Treasurer.

Chapter reps are as follows: Melba Reid/Pat Zander (Okanagan); Carol Salton (Prince George), Nancy Willihnganz (Victoria); Audrey Baier/Sherry Bennett (Thompson-Shuswap); Julie Paul (Vancouver) and myself for Vancouver Island.

As we have two vacant positions going into 2023 (President Elect and Secretary) we are calling on our membership to consider stepping up to one of these positions!

The following are some of the activities and discussions that take place at our meetings:

- AGM planning starts early in the year, especially since it is always an educational event that involves all chapters. The AGM takes place in October (as does our VIMGA AGM). Prince George will host the 2023 AGM.
- A 'website task force' was initiated early in the year as the MGABC has a goal to update their website to being more user-friendly. Not all chapters have a website such as VIMGA does, so they rely on the MGABC's website to serve their membership.

- Both the MGABC Policy Manual and the Affiliation Agreement were updated early in the year.

- MGABC carries a liability insurance policy in order to protect our organization from legal harm in the event that a member of the public is injured at one of our events or clinics. The premium for this insurance in 2022 was \$2,420.

- Our membership categories and education requirements for qualification, along with the issue of members transferring between groups, was discussed at the June meeting.

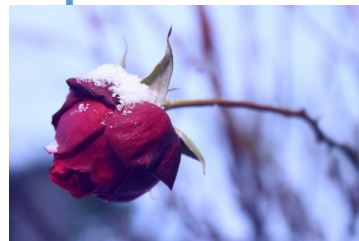
At the last meeting, held in November, we reviewed the success and challenges of our AGM event, specifically with regard to technical matters due to the Zoom format. Since all agree that Zoom works best for our provincial AGMs, learning to run the digital platform smoothly is crucial.

The first MGABC meeting of 2023 will be held on Tuesday, January 31st at 7:30 pm.

I will assume the position of District Rep for Cowichan in place of Ute, and I will continue to serve as our VIMGA rep on the MGABC council.

*At Christmas I no desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May's new
-fangled mirth;
But like of each thing that in
season grows.*

*- William
Shakespeare*



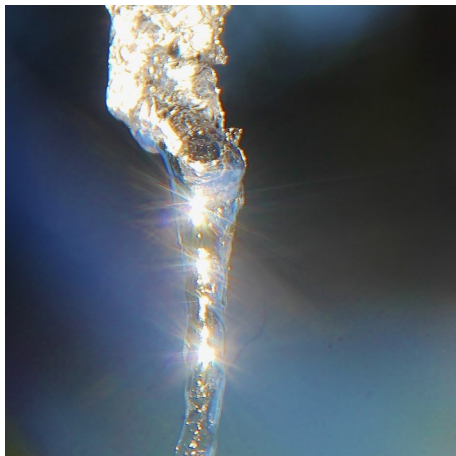
Congratulations and thank-you's are in order to members of our Cowichan group!

- Gwen Redcliffe received a recognition award at our AGM for her involvement and work as district planner for the past four years.
- A very big thank you to Ute Holewa for stepping up to become our new Cowichan District Planner.
- Long time member, Pip Woodstock, has received her 15-year badge -- way to go, Pip.
- Jo-Ann Canning, a 27-year master gardener was the very deserving recipient of this year's Silver Spade Award.
- Thank you, Fern Heitkamp, for stepping up to the position of VIMGA Board Secretary.
- We also greatly appreciate our member, Judy Raimondo, who is returning to us from her LOA into active membership.

I will assume the position of District Rep for Cowichan in place of Ute, and I will continue to serve as our VIMGA rep on the MGABC council.



Romeo and Juliet and Gwen Redcliffe Dahlia



Winter Scenes by
Jo Canning



Leave the Leaves: Winter Habitat Protection

Reprinted with permission from Xerces Society

Where do insects and other invertebrates go in the winter? The vast majority “overwinter,” or spend winter, right where they spent all summer—just less active and more hidden.

Think twice before you rake, mow, and blow this year.

Invertebrates rely on fallen leaves and other organic debris to cover and insulate them from the elements. Whatever your landscape, you can ensure that resources for nests and overwintering habitat are available.



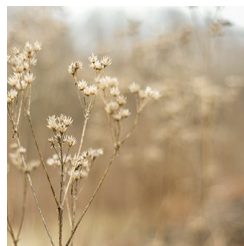
Just Leave It: Types of Winter Habitat

If you’ve provided native and diverse habitat for invertebrates and pollinators during the growing season, helping those invertebrates in the winter is almost as simple as doing nothing. Leave those habitats alone for winter.



Leaves

Important invertebrates will find a home in leaves a couple of inches thick, which mimics natural ecosystems.



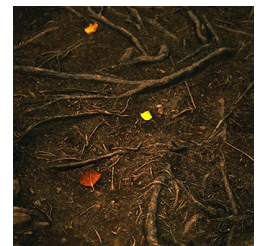
Hollow stems

Stems hollow out when plants die off, providing cavities in which critters can make a home or nest.



Trees, branches and brush

Brush piles and trees provide winter habitat. Dead trees and hollowed branches are useful spaces.



Soil

While invertebrates are always plentiful in the soil, additional species will join in the dirt in winter, preferably insulated with leaves or brush.

Invertebrates and Their Winter Habitats



Woolly bear caterpillar
(Photo: [Jo Zimny](#)
[Photos](#), Flickr)

- Woolly bear caterpillars tuck themselves into leaf piles for protection from cold weather and predators.
- Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies disguise their cocoons and chrysalises as dried leaves, blending in with the “real” leaves.
- Bumble bees create nests in cavities underground, in trees, or in brush piles. They prefer abandoned rodent burrows. At the end of summer, mated queen bumble bees burrow only an inch or two into the earth to hibernate for winter. An extra thick layer of leaves is welcome protection from the elements.
- 30% of native bees are tunnel-nesting, such as leafcutter and mason bees. These solitary-nesting species need narrow tunnels or other tiny spaces in dead wood, hollow stems, or brush piles.

Leave the Leaves cont.



- Yellow spotted millipede juveniles eat humus, the rich organic layer of decayed plants and animal matter at the surface of the forest floor.
- Stick insects drop more than 100 eggs from treetops that free-fall to the ground, where they overwinter in the leaf litter until spring. These eggs are disguised to look just like seeds. The ruse attracts ants, who take the seeds back to their nests and bury them, where the baby stick insects hatch safely beneath the soil.

Fall Cleanup in Moderation

Leaving the leaves and other plant debris doesn't have to mean sacrificing your yard to the wilderness. The leaves don't need to be left exactly where they fall. You can rake them into garden beds, around tree bases, or into other designated areas. Too many leaves can kill grass, but in soil they can suppress weeds, retain moisture, and boost nutrition.



Avoid shredding leaves with a mower. Raking or blowing are alternatives that will keep leaves whole for the best cover and protect the insects and eggs already living there.

If you decide you need to [clean up the leaves and debris in spring](#), make sure you wait until late in the season so as not to destroy all the life you've worked to protect.

Spread the Word



Leaves have a tendency to blow in the wind, often passing through several yards on the way to their final destination. Let your neighbors know your yard is playing an important role in the ecosystem.

One way to share the message is with a [Xerces "Leaves the Leaves" sign](#). Visit our gift center to get your own, which comes with a complimentary year of membership to the Xerces Society.

Another option is to share your dedication to the cause on social media with the hashtag #LeaveTheLeaves.

More Resources

[Nesting & Overwintering Habitat fact sheet](#)

[How to Create Habitat for Stem-Nesting Bees](#)

[Xerces "Leaves the Leaves" sign](#)

[Blog: Leave The Leaves! These Invertebrates Depend On It](#)

[Blog: Leave the Leaves](#)

[Blog: Leave The Leaves To Benefit Wildlife](#)

[Blog: Don't Spring into Garden Cleanup Too Soon!](#)

[Blog: Where Do Pollinators Go in the Winter?](#)

[Blog: Midwinter Tasks for Pollinator Gardening](#)

Help your bees and butterflies!

Reprinted with permission from Island Woman Magazine. It is first in a series of Native Plants.

We have all heard about the worrisome reduction in native bee and butterfly world-wide. But we can help a little on a local basis. BC is known to have about 400 different Native bees and many varieties of butterflies that depend on our Native plants. By planting Native plants in your garden you will provide a food source suitable to those bees and butterflies (especially their caterpillars) and can enjoy the beauty of our local flora and fauna.

When the Saskatoon bush blooms in April-May they are covered in white flower, a great attraction to bees, then in July-August they have bluish-purple berries which are excellent food for many birds (not to forget for making delicious pies). And in between they nourish the caterpillars of [pale tiger swallowtail](#), [two-tailed swallowtail](#), and the [western tiger swallowtail](#) butterflies. During the winter they provide browse for deer and elk. The Indigenous Nations in our area valued them to make dried berry cakes for winter food.

Saskatoons (Latin: *Amelanchier alnifolia*) also known as Serviceberry grow as a bush or small tree from 1-5 m tall and can be pruned to suit almost any garden space. They are not fussy as to moisture growing well in dry or moist (but not wet environments and even tolerate rocky slopes. They are happy in sun or dappled shade and provide a suitable environment for many under-story plants.

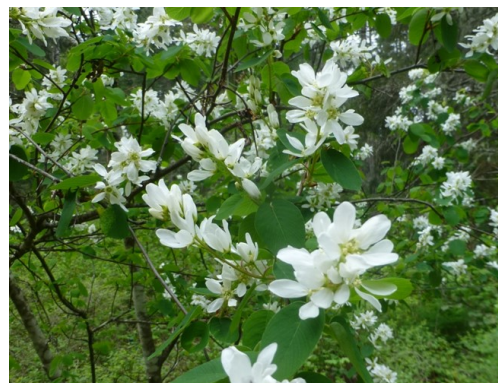
If you decide to plant one in your garden, go to a local nursery that specializes in Native plants. There are several on Vancouver Island (Bowser, Nanaimo, Victoria and Saltspring Island) and some of the general nurseries also have a section for Native plants. But don't rob the natural environ-



ment of its treasures. Many plants are difficult to dig out having deep and/or widely spreading roots and hence are difficult to remove. Roots are likely to be damaged in the process and the plant will not survive.

When you are ready to plant your new arrival, take some care to get it happily situated. Fall is a great time, when the rains have started, but the soil is still warm for the roots to get established. Dig a hole: it should be noticeably larger than the pot the plant grew in. Look at the roots as you take the plant out of the pot and cut off any damaged roots or roots that girdle other roots. Spread out the roots and set it into your newly dug spot to the same level as the plant was in the original pot. Fill with a mix of ½ good garden soil/ compost and ½ of the original soil. Water in thoroughly. If the season stays dry, water periodically until the plant is well established.

Enjoy many seasons of blossoms, bees, butterflies and birds (and pies).



Saskatoon bush in full bloom.

Root Washing by Debora Gurrad



Many eager VIMGA Folks learned about root-washing and best transplant techniques from Debbie Gurrad in October. Debbie held two workshops on the topic. The first was well attended and Wanda Brenton provided the space. Seven keeners who could not come earlier were at Gail Hudson's for Round 2 to learn about the topic. It was a great learning opportunity-Thank you Debbie for teaching us in such detail.

The photos are from the gathering at Gail Hudson's garden where following the learning part we enjoyed the VIMGA member's company sitting in the sun and having a cup of tea.

Here is a summary Debbie provided after the workshop:

1. Wash all the nursery planting medium off the roots of the plant. You can do this on the ground which will kill your back or in a wheelbarrow which will also kill your back but more slowly 😊. I like to do it in the grass or if I want to conserve water, in a wheelbarrow so I can use the captured water to water in the newly planted plant. Don't do it in the garden bed, however, because you don't want to pre-soak the soil you will be planting in and turn it to mud.

2. Inspect the roots and prune out any lignified circling, J-hooks or those heading straight down. If the roots can be splayed out like the spokes of a wheel without damaging them they don't need to be pruned out.

3. Identify the root flare and prune out any adventitious roots that have sprouted above it.

4. Dig a hole for planting that has a small dome in the centre which will put the root flare right at soil level. Splay out the roots like the spokes of a wheel. Widen the hole enough so all the roots can be laid straight out from the plant and are not circling. If the plant won't stay upright, put a stake in at this point to support it.

5. Fill the hole 1/3 to 1/2 full with the same soil you dug out of the hole, then water it in well. This is called mudding in and it washes the soil down into and around the roots. Repeat until the hole has been filled to the level of the surrounding soil. Don't step on the soil to pack it down! Mudding in and patting down with your hands are all that is needed.

6. Mulch with 3-4" of arborist wood chips if possible, but any mulch is better than no mulch. I don't like to use bark mulch because it is hydrophobic which can be problematic in our long dry summers. It is also pretty nutrient-deficient and doesn't do nearly as good a job feeding the soil or the soil microbiota as arborist wood chips.

7. No need for any fertilizer or transplant additive, although a shot of nitrogen (with no added phosphorus) if you are transplanting in the spring may be helpful. Do not amend the soil with anything - just plant in the "native" soil the plant will be growing in.

8. Do NOT prune for a year! The roots need all the food they can get to establish and that food comes from the leaves photosynthesizing. Happy rootwashing!



Pics by Dorothee Kieser and Jan Thorsen



Gail Hudson, Chris Southwick, Sue Marr, Debbie Gurrad, Jen Calder,



Jen Calder, Chris S, Ruth B., Debbie G, Gail H



VIMGA Spring Education Day

“Vegetable Gardening, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”

Saturday, March 11 at Nanoose Place

Your Continuing Education Committee has been busy planning our **in-person** SED. We are very pleased to combine this day with a panel of VIMGA Master Gardeners from our four districts who will discuss vegetable gardening (with a Q & A to follow) There will also be a presentation from Bonnie Zand. Bonnie 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 plants in her five year old daughter.

CEC, Jan Thorsen, Chris Southwick, Mary Shakespeare, Jacqueline Sherk and Ruth Beilman

I would be happy to have more master gardeners contributing to the iNaturalist, and winter is a great time to read over the past newsletters and learn more! Here is the link: <https://mailchi.mp/vifarmonitoring/welcome-to-vippb>.

- Bonnie



SED Plant Sale. Please contact Mary Shakespeare if you can help out and/or if you would like to donate a plant.

shakespeare.ms@gmail.com





"In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water." - Doug Tallamy

For those of you who have followed Doug Tallamy's work and lectures on 'keystone' plants, there is an opportunity for VIMGA members to get on the map through the Homegrown National Parks Initiative. HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK® IS A GRASSROOTS CALL-TO-ACTION TO REGENERATE BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION BY PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS AND CREATING NEW ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS.

Signup is free. <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

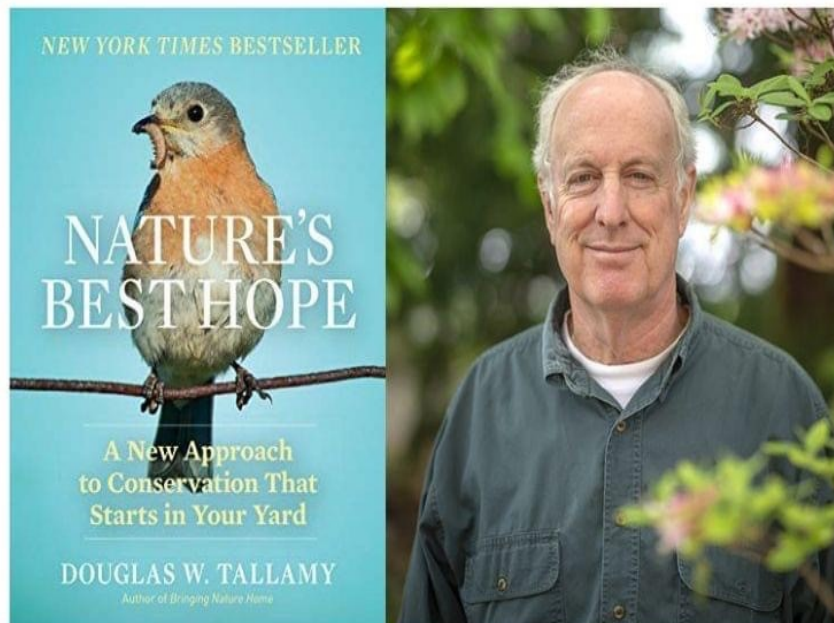
NATURE'S BEST HOPE

BEST SELLING AUTHOR AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING ADVOCATE

DR. DOUGLAS TALLAMY

FRIDAY JANUARY 6TH @ 7PM

TO REGISTER FOR ONLINE STREAMING VISIT WWW.GALLATINVALLEYEARETHDAY.ORG



To register for this free on-line event, go to

<https://www.gallatinvalleyearthday.org/>