

# CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Issue 15

[www.vimga.org](http://www.vimga.org)

September 2024



## Editor's Letter

Greetings VIMGA members and Welcome Interns,

As we bask in these remaining precious days of summer, we enjoy the lasting blooms of fall and harvest the fruits of our labour (and vegetables!). We look forward to clearing up beds, planting bulbs, and nurturing winter crops. Without necessarily intending to, we begin mapping out next season. What plants were huge successes? Don't forget to take note of those stellar varieties. Inevitably, we must face that some things just didn't work out. In my case, that would be sweet peas. They did not get enough water and dried up, producing very few disappointing blooms. In an effort to avoid dwelling on my failures as a gardener, as I am prone to do, I would like to share an ongoing success that has required a little vision but very little effort.



Marion Waters

The front of our property features a long bank along the roadway. In the ten years we have lived here, I have let mother nature be the master gardener there. About twice a year, I trim out invasives and transplant native seedlings that have popped up in my garden beds. I'm not sure everyone driving by "gets" my idea, but the dramatic change over the years gives me great satisfaction. Huckleberries, salal, flowering currants, spirea, pearly everlasting, all have their time to shine. It is alive with wildlife: birds, rabbits, insects, and browsing deer. At times it is dry and scruffy-looking, but sometimes it is glorious.

Take time to celebrate what is fabulous in your garden; and don't forget to take photos for the newsletter - *Marion*



For the larder—from Jo Canning

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# President's Message



Mike O'Neill

Greetings VIMGA Members,

Summer was busy for my family this year and I hope your summer with Friends and Family was a good one too!

It is that time of year! We are excited to be holding our AGM on November 16, 2024 from 0900 to 1430 this year! This is going to be a great gathering with plenty of fun for everyone with a focus on our 2024 INTERNS! Mark the date to be held at Nanoose Hall. We have not had an in person stand alone AGM for a while now so this one is very special.

Our 2024 Silver Spade award nominations are open and we invite members to nominate a deserving VIMGA member for our highest honour.

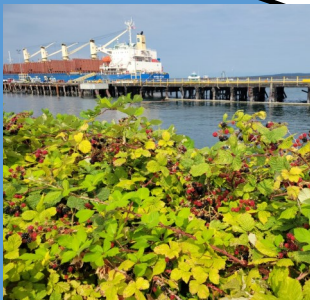
Ahead of our AGM we have our Fall into Gardening event on October 27th which you will be hearing lots about in this newsletter so read on. Not only a great education event but a big source of funds for VIMGA fundraising and always a sellout!

We have several positions coming up on the Board and Committees this year and our nominating committee will be getting the word out. VIMGA needs you. Elected positions open so far are District Rep – Nanaimo, President, and Secretary. On the committee side is the Plant Sales Co-Ordination Team, and Lead Mentor (class of 2026). All of our committees are always excited to welcome new members if you are interested. Reach out to your District Rep or any board member if you have some interests.

This will be my last newsletter as your sitting president. It has been an honour to serve VIMGA these last 3 years and I have grown a lot in VIMGA awareness through this time. What a fantastic organization of volunteers we are for all we do for our communities. Thank you members!

All the best,

*Mike*



Pics submitted by Mike O'Neill



VIMGA memories!

## 2024 VIMGA Silver Spade Nominations VIMGA AGM November 16, 2024

Dear VIMGA Members,

It is time to consider deserving CMGs who have gone above and beyond in service to VIMGA in the 2023/2024 year! Our past Recipients:

Dorothee Kieser 2018  
Chris Southwick 2020  
Karen Bennett 2021  
Jo Canning 2022  
Angela Einarson 2023

### Nomination Criteria:

Based on more than 1 of the following : a) leading and attending clinics to interact & educate the public b) holding seminars, teaching, or speaking or publication of written material, c) holding one or more administrative posts within VIMGA or MGABC.

Please email any nominations after reviewing the attached criteria to our VIMGA Silver Spade Award Chair this year, Angela Einarson. (2023 VIMGA Silver Spade Winner) :

Angela Einarson [ainarson@outlook.com](mailto:ainarson@outlook.com)



## VIMGA Annual General Meeting Saturday, November 16, 2024

**Where:** Nanoose Place Community Centre  
2925 Northwest Bay Rd., Nanoose Bay

**When:** Saturday, November 16 from 9:00—3:00

**Register:** Contact Ruth at: [aruc@shaw.ca](mailto:aruc@shaw.ca)

This AGM is a **members only** meeting. Your Education Committee along with our president, Mike O'Neill are busy planning this day of education opportunities and socializing. We are especially looking forward to meeting others from our 'far-flung' areas and welcoming new interns.

More information will be coming about this special event.

Your education committee—*Jan, Chris, Ruth, Mary, Pam T., Phyllis, Kim and Jo*



# Area Updates

## **North Island District Rep—Marion Woloschuk**

[ni-rep@vimga.org](mailto:ni-rep@vimga.org)

North Island District members had a good but busy summer. Travel, family visits, house and garden renos were all on the agenda, as well as a number of successful VIMGA clinics. Although it has slowed down somewhat, there are still a few upcoming clinics that will be attended by the MGs and interns this fall.



Marion Woloschuk

Their mentors are keeping in touch with the 4 interns and offering any advice and encouragement needed to ensure they will be successful. The interns are getting in their hours, and we're confident they will continue their journey to become full fledged VIMGA members and will be a great asset to our organization.

We recently held a social event at the home of Debbie Gurrad, with 8 members able to attend, and it was good to catch up with what everyone has been up to this summer. We enjoyed some lively conversation, tasty nibblies, and even managed to do a little "VIMGA business" along the way.

We're all looking forward to the 2024 Fall Into Gardening event and of course the VIMGA AGM in November. -*Marion*

North Island get-together, Saturday, Sept 7 at Deb

Gurrad's house in Cumberland.

from left: Marion Woloschuk, Barb Sanderson, Whitney Peek, Margaret Griffiths-Cochrane, Phyllis Pullinger, Kathy Plato, Deb Gurrad, and Jane Kerr



## **Cowichan District Rep - Ute Holewa** [cow-rep@vimga.org](mailto:cow-rep@vimga.org)

Hello all, just wanted to let you know that we had our planned social/GAP at Fern Hietcamp's place on Koksilah Rd.; it was an opportunity for the interns to meet Master Gardeners (those that they hadn't already) - all 5 of our interns made it, and 7 Master Gardeners. We also had 5 guests (family members and neighbours who have been involved in my garden over the past few years). We had a half hour social at the beginning, with veggies/cheeses and yummy treats, then did a tour of our garden and greenhouses, and also addressed the questions I had put to the group when we organized the event (questions on design and plant choice for the front yard, given soil and aspect considerations). It was a good opportunity for us to connect mid-summer, and for the interns to get to know more of us. Attached are a few pictures taken during our tour of the garden. Hope everyone is having a great summer, with families, friends, gardens, etc. - *submitted by Fern Hietcamp*



Ute Holewa



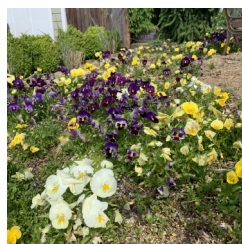
**VIMGA Qualicum/Parksville District Rep - Norma Kilpatrick & Jean Carr** [pqn-rep@vimga.org](mailto:pqn-rep@vimga.org)

The summer started off with PQN hosting the first VIMGA picnic at Rathtrevor park in June. There were over 60 members and partners in attendance; it was a beautiful evening with good food and lots of laughter. Even though most of our clinics were completed by summer, PQN members were busy logging in hours at the Milner Woodland's food garden and propagation group. We had a record 10 GAPs this summer and members were also hard at work with GALs and writing Plant Picks and FAQs for the Milner Garden website. Despite all of the hard work, we still had time to tour one of our new intern's (Laurie Tantrup) garden in Port Alberni and enjoy some social time. The master gardeners and interns who volunteer in the food garden at Milner's garden will be doing a presentation titled " Fall Vegetable Growing and Winter Clean Up" on September 21st from 12 - 1pm.



Co-representatives for Parksville, Qualicum, Nanoose: Norma Kilpatrick and Jean

*- Norma & Jean*



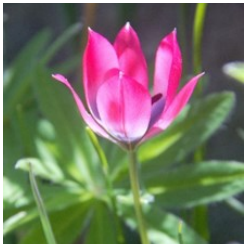
Qualicum/Parksville and North Island  
get-togethers



# Bargain Bulbs Often the BEST

Submitted by Jo Canning

The spring bulbs have arrived, and it is time to enjoy our last flurry of buying at the garden centres. But wait, there's more! Even after the garden gets put to bed we have a chance for one final splurge. Sale bulbs! In late autumn, the sales signs are posted, and many hidden gems are just waiting for a good home as well. These gems are often the foundations of the perennial garden -- long-lived, reliable species bulbs and old hybrids.



*Tulipa puchella*

## When Is It Too Late To Plant?

All the hardy bulbs have enough food left in the storage organ even if they don't get into the dirt until December. At worst, they will bloom a few weeks late.

Many bulbs actually bloom better when they get a freeze, so if your ground is frozen, don't despair. The only problem is -- the ground is frozen! Easy solution: pop them into a pot at the correct depth filled with freely draining soil. This as much dirt above the bulb top as the bulb's full length. You can also stack smaller bulbs above larger (thus deeper) bulbs at their more shallow, preferred

level. Just offset the higher ones so a lower one will not get stopped by a bulb above it. Now, dig the pot partly down into the dirt where you'd like to see them bloom with a bit of mulch around it to stop the pot tipping over. Alternately, put them on a porch or under the eaves. Just remember to give them a bit of water every 2-3 weeks on a non-frozen day so they stay plump. When the bulbs are finished blooming, plant them (greens and all, so they can replenish) and let them continue their life cycle.

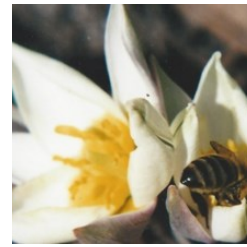
## Is That Big Bag of Mixed Bulbs Really a Bargain?

Often it is -- when you judge contents. First, count how many are in the bag. Bulk bags can get holes in them and lose contents. I've counted some that are 50-75% full. When you count, you can calculate their per-unit cost compared to bulbs sold earlier in the season.

Second, look for quality: firm, heavy, damage-free and mold-free. If the bulb is desiccated, it is dead. If it is moldy, don't bother. If it is scraped or gouged the bulb will rot over winter. If it is



*Crocus tommassianus under mature hibiscus mutabilis*



*Tulipa tarda & black-tailed bumblebee*

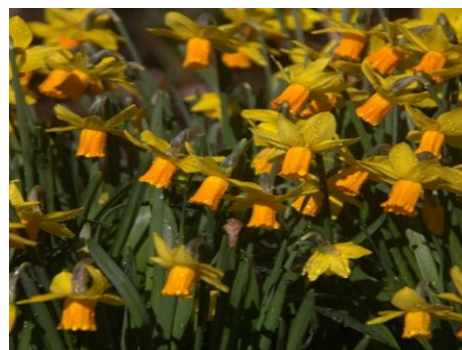
sprouting yet still firm, buy it and plant it immediately, in ground or in a pot.

Next, look at variety. Many mixed bags are 80% one type, so choose a bag with at least 3 shapes and sizes in equal proportions unless this is not important. Note the bulbets: these are last year's "babies" and look like cloves of garlic. Most will produce only greens in the spring. This is fine if you are building a long-term perennial bed but make sure they are no more than 10% of the total count.

## Some Varieties to Look For:

Many species and old hybrids thrive in less than perfect conditions, and many are happy in shadier areas. These can be tucked into corners of a bed, or just under the drip line of a tree. If planting under or around shrubs with shallow, fine, root balls, use a sharp dibber to push aside the root mat then push the bulb down beneath it at the correct level. Root system and bulb will not compete for food, the bulb will push through the fine roots, and both will continue to thrive.

Here are a few reliable, long-lived cultivars. They are the foundation of a low-maintenance garden with reliable floescence. I've purchased them all on sale.



*narcissus cyclamineus "Jet Fire" – early miniature daffodil*

### Crocus:

- *C. tommassianus*, or "tommies" as they are often called, One of the few self-seeding cultivars, and a favourite of early pollinators. I've seen bumblebees on these in February.

### Narcissus/daffodils:

- "*N. poeticus* var. *recurvus*", is my favourite. It is white, multi-stemmed, fragrant.

- *N. "King Alfred"* an old clone that finally lost its vigor is now labeled 'King Alfred type.' *narcissus cyclamineus*
- "*Jet Fire*" -early miniature daffodil



*echinacea*

- *N. toto*, the miniature group. "Jet Fire", and "Tete a Tete" are both early and totally reliable.

### Grape hyacinth:

- *Muscari armeniacum* is the species type, and often left on the shelf after the fancier varieties are gone. It is perfect in the front of the border, and often self-seeds in a rockery.

### Squill:

- *Scilla siberica*, another species type. If you have a shady, unpredictable area, these are perfect as they are tough and naturalize readily. They are especially beautiful as a swale under tall trees.

### Tulips:

- *T. gregii*, whose mottled leaves rise long before the bloom, remain after, and echo the trout lily leaves, making it a great woodland companion.

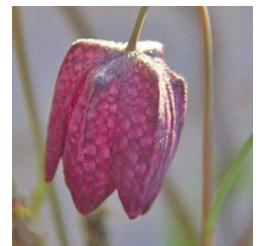
- The smaller-flowered species group, loved by pollinators, and, I discovered to my delight, largely ignored by the deer! *T. saxatilis*, *T. tarda*, *T. puchella*

### Some native beauties:

- *Erythronium* spp., the trout lilies

- *Dodecatheon pulchellum*, the delicate pink shooting star.

*Fritillaria meleagris*  
- *Fritillaria meleagris*, the checkered lily



*Fritillaria meleagris*

### **A Final Gem**

If you find a *Hippeastrum* (often mislabeled as 'amaryllis') forgotten on the sale table, and it is firm or sprouting, nab it – they are expensive at full price. Every one I've bought on sale proved a reliable bloomer. Not only are they amazing indoors in winter, after their greenery dies down and they are given a brief rest in a cool dark spot, you can set them out to bloom again in a protected place in the late summer garden, or in a pot on the patio. When they have finished, lift, store, and replant in late November under a grow light for another round of winter exotica.

Happy hunting, bulb-a-philes, and happy gardening.



*Camellia sinensis*



*Sunflower dawn2*

Pics by Jo Canning

# Raising Backyard Chickens

Submitted by Marion Waters

*Reprinted with permission from Campbell River Mirror*

"Bwok," did you say?

Do you dream of raising your very own backyard chickens? Tasty fresh eggs for breakfast, a steady supply of manure for your garden, entertaining pets . . . not to ruffle your feathers, but there are some practicalities to consider before you take flight. (Sorry, I had to use some chicken puns.)

While it's not easy to start keeping chickens, once you are set up, the upkeep is simply a matter of following routines. Chickens need food, water, shelter, and protection from predators. The coop, or shelter, will be your first challenge. If it's really small, design it with a sizable opening on hinges for easy maintenance and egg collection. Nesting boxes are essential and should measure about 30 cm by 30 cm by 30 cm. You will need two or three boxes for a small flock of about six birds. Chickens like to feel hidden and safe while they are laying eggs so keep this in mind when you are situating your boxes. Several perches are also a must. Dowelling works but sturdy branches work well too. Set them into slots on the wall so they can be removed for easy cleaning. Chickens sleep on perches but they also love to climb and explore so it's good to have various perches both inside and outside.

A dirt floor is economical and allows you to practice the "deep litter" method. Simply top up with about 6 cm of fresh bedding every few weeks, depending on the size of your shed and flock. Many chickens in a small space will require more

frequent top-ups. Once or twice a year, completely shovel out all of the litter. You will find that the litter on the bottom has already composted nicely. Mix well and let it sit for a period of four months to be sure all the pathogens have died off. Turn the pile periodically to promote even composting. This mix is high in nutrients, improves soil structure, and adds microbes to the soil – worth its weight in gold!

Enclose a pen (as large as you are able) with a sturdy fence, then cover the fencing with chicken wire. If your pen is small, then birds of prey will not have enough room to swoop in and out. If your pen is larger or you have raccoons in your area, you may wish to lay chicken wire over the top as well. Make sure it's high enough so you can move around easily underneath, about two meters. Some useful extras include: an automatic chicken door that is activated by daylight, and a lightbulb inside the coop on a timer that will provide some extra hours of light during the dark months so your chickens continue laying.

You will need two food products: chicken scratch and layer pellets. Read the packages for amounts to use and adjust as your flock increases or decreases. Save kitchen scraps, too – the hens will love you for it! Lists of foods to avoid include: garlic, onions, tomatoes, avocado, asparagus, potatoes. Chickens will also consume weeds. I toss armfuls into the pen. What they don't eat breaks down and helps soak up excess moisture. They will eat any weed sprouts as soon as they



popout of the ground.

Keep fresh water both inside and outside. Store feed in metal containers, such as aluminum garbage cans with tight lids. Disinfect food receptacles about once per month – once a week for water vessels. Refresh water daily and remove uneaten food to avoid attracting pests. Clean the roosts. Scrape off feces with a hoe or shovel, then wipe with vinegar.

Chickens that have free access to their outdoor pen are considered "free range". However, you may wish to have a collapsible fence (snow fencing works well for this) that you move around to give them access to other areas of your yard. They will love the freedom of grazing on fresh grass and bugs. Your eggs will also taste better!

Be sure to check out your local bylaws which may have rules regarding size of pens and number of birds you are allowed to keep. Oh, and make sure you share your eggs with your neighbours.





# Ramp Up Your Raspberries

Submitted by Marion Waters

*Reprinted with permission from Campbell River Mirror*



Raspberry plants (*Rubus ideas*) are either the easiest crop to grow or the most challenging, depending largely on your soil composition. When I lived in Campbell River, our property was poorly drained and soggy for half the year. Each summer, my dream of scrumptious raspberry jam was thwarted by a sparse crop of mushy fruit.

Good drainage is the key to growing healthy raspberry plants. If you have clay soil or your drainage is poor, then plant canes in hills 30 to 60 cm deep. (If only I had known this years ago!) This can be done for individual plants or in a row. Planting in raised beds is a good option and affords some containment of new shoots. Mulching with a mixture of leaves, straw, bark, sawdust, and/or compost helps to retain moisture and will also feed the plants. Keep mulch away from crowns (where the stems meet the ground) to prevent crown rot.

The *Rubus* species includes many native berries that are also in full production as I am writing: thimble berries, salmon berries, and native black or red raspberries. Most have thorns (with the exception of thimbleberries). All are edible. Raspberries require slightly acidic soil (pH 5.5-6.5) so do not apply lime to areas where raspberries are grown. They need loamy, nitrogen-rich soil so plenty of compost is the key. Avoid using manure which tends to be alkaline. Apply compost when blossoms begin to appear and reapply a couple of times throughout the fruiting season.

If you have autumn raspberries, then apply in a similar fashion beginning in August. If your home compost is not providing enough nitrogen (indicated by yellowing or pale green leaves) then top-dress with organic fertilizer or fish fertilizer.

Raspberries require deep watering right into the roots, about 4 cm per week. Overhead watering is not ideal because the water runs off the leafy canopy and may land away from the roots. Direct sunlight is a necessity, at least six hours per day during the growing season. Raspberry plants can tolerate some shade, but fruit production will be reduced. Start the season with about half a metre of space between plants to allow for air flow and penetration of sunlight. As new canes shoot up in these spaces, prune them out right to the ground. Do not clip out new shoots growing from established plants because they will become your fruiting canes next season.

For support, set wooden posts at either end of rows with two cross pieces attached in a T-shape. Attach two sets of wires to the cross bars, one set at about knee level and one at chest level or higher. Bunched canes can be curved over at the top like a shepherd's crook and tied off. This extra length will yield more berries. Or, you can prune off canes to about 2 metres. This allows for easier picking and reduces leafiness for better penetration of sunlight.

Pick your berries regularly during fruiting to keep them coming! Robbing plants of their berries sends them the signal to

keep up the effort to produce mature seeds and propagate. If you are away, get a neighbour to do this task. Most people are happy to reap what you have sown!

Including some ever-bearing or autumn-bearing raspberries in your patch will extend your harvest. A later crop will grow from new growth on existing canes. Prune out any dead branches, but not entire canes. When all fruiting is finished, cut the spent canes to the ground for both summer-bearing and fall fruiting types. This may be well into the fall or can even wait until early spring.

Mulch your raspberries with leaves over the winter. This will protect the dormant plants from fluctuations in temperature and provide nourishment as the leaves break down. I began mulching my raspberry patch last fall and must have been sidetracked because I only got half-finished. The mulched side was dramatically more productive!

I'm off to bake a sponge cake (a good way to use up an abundance of eggs). I'll top it with freshly picked berries and cream. Simple to make, inexpensive, mostly homegrown and incomparably delicious.



# 2024 Fall into Gardening

*“Planning for the Future”*

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

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

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

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

10:00 AM – 10:05 AM	Introductory Remarks
10:05 AM – 11:00 AM	Nancy Moore: “Creating Microclimates and Appropriate Tree Selection for Small Gardens”
11:00 AM – 11:20 AM	Break
11:20 AM – 12:15 PM	Daniel Mosquin:
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM – 2:10 PM	Steve Hootman:
2:10 PM – 2:30 PM	Break
2:30 PM – 3:25 PM	Jeff de Jong:
3:25 PM – 3:30 PM	Closing Remarks

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





# Education Opportunities Galore



## MGABC AGM –Zoom Event- October 6, 2024

**Registration Link:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZUscO2hrzsoE9JMun8\\_V4no\\_JaMrnzc3pYs](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZUscO2hrzsoE9JMun8_V4no_JaMrnzc3pYs)

<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; MGABC AGM</b>  Welcome and President's Address – Rachael Fleming  Minutes of 2023 AGM  Financial Report  Creative Presentations by the MGABC Chapters  Golden Trowel Award  Nominating Committee Report
<b>11 am</b>	<b>Elin Kelsey, Ph.D.</b>  <b>Why the Practice of Evidence-based Hope Matters Most in an Age of Climate Doomism.</b>  Master Gardeners have a deep and rich relationship with the living world. For many, love for the planet is mixed with anxiety, grief and a range of other feelings about the future. In this presentation, we'll explore the new science of climate emotions and why the practice of evidence-based hope is so crucial for our emotional well-being and for our capacities to engage in meaningful ways with the global crises we face.  <i>Elin, is an award-winning author and speaker. Her influence can be seen through the popularity of her book, Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way We Think Is Critical For Solving The Environmental Crisis (2020).</i>
<b>12 pm</b>	<b>Linda Gilkeson, Ph.D.</b>  <b>Resilient Gardens for a Changing Climate: Meeting the Challenge</b>  Our regional climate is changing as the global climate changes, with extreme and variable weather bringing new surprises every year. We can adapt to this new reality by rethinking what we plant and how we manage food gardens and landscape plantings. Learn how extreme weather affects plants, gardening practices that improve plant survival, and the role of gardeners in mitigating climate change.  <i>Linda is a great friend of the Master Gardeners and is busy year-round, giving workshops on pest management, organic gardening and writing regular newsletters for her many followers.</i>
<b>1 pm</b>	<b>Wrap Up</b>

The Qualicum Beach Garden Club  
presents an evening with  
**DES KENNEDY**  
Renowned internationally for his novels, Des has made appearances on various TV shows and documentaries. Revered as one of Canada's top gardening writers, his exceptional talent lies in his ability to inject humor into his passion.

September 10th/2024  
Doors open at 6:30pm  
Speaker starts at 7pm  
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre  
Entry to this event requires a physical ticket.  
Members: Pick up your ticket at our June meeting.  
Guests: Tickets are \$5.  
Contact Linda at QBCG.event@gmail.com

www.QualicumBeachGardenClub.com



Two More Opportunities



**The Best Adventures Start in the Garden!**  
Join today to access exclusive member benefits.

The RSBG is 22-acre woodland botanical garden located in Federal Way, WA that is home to the largest collection of Rhododendron species in the world.

**Explore More!**  
Visitor Center • Plant Shop • Rutherford Conservatory  
Victorian Stumper • Garden • Magnolia Grove  
Big-leaf Rhododendron Garden • Azalea Collection  
Alpine Garden • Pond Garden • Blue Peony Meadow

**Membership perks include:**

- FREE year-round admission
- Discount on additional guest admissions
- Invitation to members-only events
- Early access to Spring & Fall Plant Catalogs
- 10% off in Gift Shop & RSBG Nursery\*
- 10% off Spring & Fall Plant Catalog orders\*
- Discounts on webinars and lectures\*
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Annual Rhododendron Species Journal
- AFB Regional Admission Privileges
- \*Depending on member level.

To learn more and to join visit: [RhodyGarden.org/JOIN](http://RhodyGarden.org/JOIN)  
or call 253-838-4646 to get started today!  
Follow us on social media: @rhodygarden

# A Walk Through Parnassian Wood

Submitted by Dorothee Kieser

Photos: Dona Naylor (thank you Dona!)

On August 10, 2024, ten keen VIMGA members got a chance to walk through the Parnassian Woods in Cassidy, a glorious property owned and managed by Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT). It is a large forested area on Frost Road and is primarily a relatively untouched area of native forest and understory plants with a few European and other tree specimens planted by the former owners/donors. Susan Fisher who manages the Native Plant Nursery on the property was our guide and informed us about the property, its water resources as well as its animal and plant species. The Parnassian Woods are named after a butterfly, rarely seen on Vancouver Island but which had been observed in these woods. It was a real treat to go on the walk and I hope that such walks can be repeated for other VIMGA members who showed an interest but are still on the waitlist, since there is only room for 10 participants at a time.



Susan Fisher, NALT: Wendy Smith, Ute Holewa, Sandra Lee, April Johnson, NALT Volunteer (Barb), Dorothee Kieser, Allison Foote, Jill Williamson, missing from pictures: Dona Naylor (our VIMGA photographer)



Creeping Oregon grape in NALT Native Plant Nursery



Susan Fisher, Ute Holewa. Dorothee Kieser, April Johnston, Sandra Lee, Wendy Smith, Jill Williamson





## Want to Upload and Share your VIMGA Pictures?

Upload them here (Cloud Server) and we can sort and load them into our pictures folder

[Upload My VIMGA Pictures](#) (just click on the link) you will need your VIMGA username and password

Be sure to name your picture, ie; Cowichan Clinic August 31 Gwen and Fern



Native plants such as huckleberry, salal, snow berry, spirea, and flowering currant create a natural hedge and a haven for wild-life.

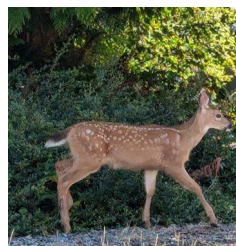
Submitted by Marion Waters



Gail Hudson's BOUNTIFUL Harvest!



tree lily it's three years old and now over 7 feet tall, that's the 6'2" spouse for comparison. It lives on my back deck.



And here's one of the reasons the lily lives on the deck. We have lots of deer, and a mother doe and twin fawns camp out in our yard. The rotters also have taken to noshing on my marigolds and pruning the chrysanthemums. Lily tree and deer pics submitted by Marion Woloschuk



"They gave thanks for a bountiful harvest? Their garden must've done better than yours."

*Thanks again to our VIMGA members for their many contributions to our newsletter.*

*—Marion & Jan (co-editors)*



"Your Blackberries always look so healthy, how do you do it?"