

2019 Monthly Speakers

January 28 – Cheryl Topping – Pruning 101

Cheryl is the manager of the Sunshine Coast Nursery and a certified Arborist. Cheryl will provide excellent information on how to prune our plants correctly. She is also offering pruning workshops at the Botanical Garden on January 26 and 27. If you are interested, please register by calling 604 740-3969.



February 25 – Paddy Wales – Plan your resilient Garden in changing times

Paddy Wales is the author of *Journeys Through the Garden* (Whitecap). Her images and written articles appear in national and international publications including *Gardening Life*, *Canadian Gardening*, *House & Home*, *Style at Home*, *Fine Gardening*, *Chatelaine*, the *New Twelve-Month Gardener*, and many more. Paddy is a very active and integral part of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden, where she is an instructor and frequent speaker. In this presentation, Paddy will speak about gardening in drought conditions, which we are most likely to experience again this summer.



March 25 – Marilyn Holt – Good Bugs, Bad Bugs

Marilyn Holt is a gardening enthusiast, international speaker and once owned and operated a Pelargonium nursery, exporting plants internationally. She was editor of the BC Council of Garden Club's "The Bulletin" for seven years. Marilyn currently looks after the Garden Center for the Abbotsford Buckerfield's store and is also a horticultural judge. She shares her knowledge through workshops and seminars for Buckerfield's throughout the year as well as speaking to Garden Clubs and groups on a variety of subjects.



April 29 – Alex Augustyniak – Year Round Gardening

Alex Augustyniak grew up on farm in Ontario, Canada and moved to BC in the 90's. The Gajewski farm was established in 1938 and lead by his amazing grand mother, Mary Gajewski. At the height of operations, the farm had just over 400 acres with various crops including 15 acres of tomatoes (under contract with Aylmer's), cash crops, cows, chickens, eggs (farm gate sales), ducks, and rabbits plus a 1 acre veggie garden. Over the last 35+ years, Alex has been growing veggies, herbs and prolific weeds throughout Canada, at the home farm in Manitowaning, Ontario, Port Moody and in raised beds throughout BC. In 2014, Alex took on the role of GM of West Coast Seeds Ltd., a BC family owned seed company and has lead the efforts to continually help people grow their own food 12 months of the year. Alex is also the Treasurer, and a ornamentals Judge of All American Selections, an independent seed trial group.



May 27 – Donna Balzer – Improving your garden soil

Horticulturist, speaker and author, Donna Balzer, has a degree in Agriculture with a specialty in Horticulture. She has a YouTube channel, has hosted HGTV program, “Bugs and Blooms” for the past three years and is frequently a guest on CBC radio. Donna Balzer has two greenhouses and a large vegetable garden on her double lot in Qualicum Beach. She is an award-winning media personality and a garden consultant with a personal passion for food.



September 30 – Andrea Lord – Xeriscaping Your Garden *(cancelled)*

Andrea is a local landscaper who made the move to the Sunshine Coast a few years ago. With all the water restrictions and limitations for our gardens, year after year, this will be a welcome topic for all of us.

Andrea could not make it to the meeting but we are lucky enough to have Ted Chisholm, SD 46 Community School Coordinator tell us about the greenhouses and gardens at various schools on the Sunshine Coast. It will be a chance to connect if you would like to volunteer.



October 28 – John Field – All About Mushrooms

John Field is a retired science instructor at Capilano University in Sechelt, a Warden for Ambrose Lake Ecological Reserve, a founding member and former director of the Iris Griffith Interpretive Centre near Ruby Lake, and a naturalist “by inclination.” He has hosted many field trips, especially mushroom forays. In his presentation, John will lead us on a “virtual tour” through the forest in search of these tasty and treacherous treats.



November 25 – AGM and Seasonal Arrangement workshop

After our AGM, Verna Kelso will guide us through making some seasonal arrangements. There will be supplies on hand.

