



2021 Monthly Meeting Speakers

January 25, 2021: Selina Pope on “Winter Gardens for Birds, Bees and Butterflies”

Selina is a Master Gardener, Volunteer Community Gardener, a Butterfly Ranger with the David Suzuki Foundation and a teacher and leader in a variety of community projects focusing on sustainability and biodiversity. The talk was focused on gardening ideas to provide habitat, seeds, berries, nectar and pollen to improve the health, number and diversity of birds and insect pollinators in our gardens. The list of winter blooming plants was impressive! Selina recommended we try to use 50% native plants in our gardens to encourage biodiversity and abundance.

February 22, 2021: Angela Hoy on “Composting”

Angela is a Master Gardener (Canada) and a Master Composter (UK). Angela volunteers at the Riley Park Community Garden in East Vancouver and runs workshops and courses there.

Some quick tips:

- use activators like Borage, dandelion (not seed heads), comfrey, nettle, yarrow, diluted urine.
- to make a hot pile (>130 to kill weed seeds), gather material, chop it up and make a large pile all at once.
- onions with soft spots carry a disease that may infect your compost - keep them out, along with any other diseased material.
- aerate regularly by turning or stirring up the working pile.

March 29, 2021: Pam Danglemaier and Elke Wehinger from Botanus on “Lily-Licious”

The presentation included a brief background on the presenters and their Nursery in Langley and then a slide show starting with the history of lilies as cultivated plants (3000 years). There are approximately 100 wild types of lily. They have a comprehensive website with educational material, youtube videos on flower arranging and purchase options: www.botanus.com

April 26, 2021 : Lori Snyder on “Native Plant Uses for Food and Medicine”

Lori is a Metis Herbalist and Teacher. Lori encouraged us to learn about the native plants around us to better understand how they contribute to the health of our ecosystems. To keep native insects and birds thriving we should maintain wild spaces and nurture diversity, with 50% native

plant species as a goal. Before removing a weed, try to understand what it's gifts are as we may be surprised at how it is supporting other parts of the ecosystem and what we can use it for. Lori gave us some details on specific plants and a list of resources to check out.

May 31, 2021: Andrea Bellamy on "Incredible Edibles in Containers"

Andrea's presentation was all about planning, planting and maintaining edible small space gardens and included choosing containers, situating the containers, choosing plants, maximizing productivity and keeping container plants healthy. She also provided a pdf of recipes for edible gardens to share with our members.

Blog site: www.heavypetal.ca

September 27, 2021: Pam Danglemaier and Elke Wehinger from Botanus on "Fall for the Unusual" (fall bulbs).

The presentation covered some of the lesser known fall planted bulbs such as Alliums, Anemones, Galanthus (snowdrops), Eranthis Hyemalis (Winter Aconite or Wolfsbane), Eremurus (Foftail Lily), Fritillaria, Muscari, Oxalis, Scilla and Iris Reticulata. Many of the smaller, low growing bulbs will naturalize in lawns and under deciduous trees if the conditions are good. They will bloom before the trees leaf out or the grass starts growing, only to disappear once the rest of the garden springs to life (eg. Anemone Blanda and Chionodoxa forbesii). Some of the Fritillaria and Galanthus are mildly poisonous which will help deter rodents from your bulb beds. Elke and Pam talked about mixing colours and sizes/shapes for effect and staggering bloom times to extend the season. They also suggested planting bulbs with existing plants and annuals so that the bulbs will pop through and show off, then be screened as they die back and other plants take over. Elke suggested trying some bulbs in pots that can be moved around the garden as they begin blooming and then to an inconspicuous spot as they die back. To force bulbs for indoor display, plant outside and protect until they start to sprout and then warm up gradually over a few weeks, starting with a cool garage, a slightly warmer room and then the final display area.

The presentation included some beautiful colour photos of the flowers, photos of the actual bulbs, and tips on how to plan, arrange and care for the bulbs and flowers. Here are some key tips:

- most bulbs like sunny locations, but in the case of spring blooming bulbs, they can be placed where they will grow and bloom before the trees leaf out.
- good drainage is essential for successful bulb growing - amend the soil if necessary.
- bulbs need water when growing - usually rain is adequate.
- plant bulbs as soon as possible after purchasing, plant in groups, and leave space if you wish them to naturalize. They can be planted close together if in pots.
- fertilizer is not required in the first season, but can be beneficial in subsequent seasons - use compost or slow release bulb food.
- it is essential to allow the leaves to die back naturally to build up energy for next season.

November 8, 2021: Brian Minter on “The Importance of Fall and Winter Colour”

Brian showed some amazing photos of beautiful and vibrant plants that we can cultivate to keep the garden brilliant in the fall and winter. Not only do we get to enjoy the beauty of the plants, but keeping the garden blooming in the colder months attracts birds and insects to enliven the landscape. Brian informed us that bees will be looking for flowers anytime the temperature is above 10 C, so winter flowering plants are appreciated. He also recommends plants with fruit, berries and seed heads to keep the birds coming.

November 29, 2021: Angela Koop from Deluxe Garden Centre gave a demonstration on how to make indoor and outdoor seasonal arrangements. Angela used materials from the garden including evergreen boughs and branches, dried flowers, seed heads and cones, and colorful berry branches. Angela made 2 beautiful arrangements which were donated as door prizes.