



# Vancouver

April 1, 2009

The Newsletter of SOUL Vancouver  
[www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/](http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/)

Volume 1, Number 8



Photo by JR Rendón

*"Once we become interested in the progress of the plants in our care, their development becomes a part of the rhythm of our own lives and we are refreshed by it."*

-- Thalassa Cruso

## Message from the Chair

By Martin Harcourt

*Editor's Note: Martin is again unavailable for comment; instead, following are a number of important announcements about the April 9 SOUL Vancouver Meeting and also about an exciting fundraiser just announced in support of the UBC Farm.*



### Pig Manure Fundraiser, Going Green with Roses; and Pollan-ating the UBC Farm

SOUL Vancouver's April 9 meeting is going to feature a couple of special attractions that members aren't going to want to miss. First will be a special fundraiser featuring bags of the organic pig manure that SOULers have been raving about since last Fall. After Cors deLint visited us for the first time as our featured Guest Speaker last September, word of the quality of his presentation -- as well as the organic pig manure he brought along to discuss at that time -- spread so fast that requests to have him return have been overwhelming. As a result, Cors has been asked back this September to give an encore presentation and he has graciously accepted. In the meantime, he will be making a special trip to our April meeting, bringing along 80 bags of his pig manure which we'll be selling at \$13 per bag as a fundraiser for SOUL Vancouver. The fundraiser will be at 6:30pm in the parking lot of the Continuing Education Center, where we hold our monthly meetings. It'll be first-come, first-served; but keep in mind, the 60 bags he brought last September were sold in less than 10 minutes!

Following the Fundraiser and the Executive portion of the meeting, our Guest Speaker will be Patrick White, of the Canadian Rose Society who will be doing a presentation on organic gardening with roses. His talk, 'Going Green with Roses', will include his involvement with the EarthKind Rose project, an effort to evaluate rose selections and utilize organic growing practices in order to completely eliminate the use of sprays or other similar interventions in growing healthy, thriving

roses. Patrick's presentation is particularly timely, given the upcoming World Rose Convention/World Rose Festival that is being hosted in Vancouver in June. With the theme of this event placing a special emphasis on growing roses organically, SOUL Vancouver will be hosting an educational table at the Festival.

And finally, the UBC Farm has announced a unique fundraiser featuring award-winning author, Michael  
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The SOUL Vancouver Newsletter is published ten times per year by the Vancouver Branch of the Society for Organic Urban Land Care. This newsletter is distributed free of charge to all SOUL Vancouver members. Please feel free to share this publication. Permission to reprint any materials originally published in this newsletter may be granted upon written request.

#### Our Mission:

"To support our communities in their transition to organic practices."

#### Our Goals:

- To foster and promote the practice of organic land care.
- To provide opportunities for education in all aspects of organic land care.
- To establish and promote guidelines, standards and specifications for all aspects of organic land care.
- To establish procedures for certification of organic land care practitioners.
- To establish and develop a means for the exchange of information and ideas between the public and the organic land care industry.

**Editor's Note:** Any information, articles or photos that you feel would be of interest to our members would be greatly appreciated. Please forward your submissions to [OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com](mailto:OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com) by the 28th of each month to receive consideration for publication in a subsequent issue of the SOUL Vancouver Newsletter. Bylines and photo credits will be acknowledged wherever applicable.

**Cover Photo:** 'A Cozy Blanket of Green in Spring' - Taken during a walk near a well-loved garden on a wet morning in Vancouver. Have a photo you'd like to see on the cover of the newsletter? Send it to the Editor!

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## **Fundraiser, etc. continued from Page 2**

Pollan. On Saturday, June 6 at 1:00 p.m., Michael will be on hand at the UBC Farm to sign copies of his book *In Defense of Food* and discuss his manifesto: "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly Plants."

Tickets to this rain or shine event are \$45 (includes GST) and are being sold exclusively through **Barbara-Jo's Books to Cooks**. The ticket price includes a paperback version of *In Defense of Food*, and all proceeds from the event will go to support the UBC Farm. All are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and a blanket to sit on. Visit Barbara-Jo's Books to Cooks website at <http://www.bookstocooks.com/> for more information; or, to purchase tickets, phone: 604-688-6755.

## **Salmon Friendly Lisa**



The Langley Environmental Protection Society (LEPS) invited SOUL to speak at their Salmon Friendly Gardening Seminar on Saturday, March 22. The topic was 'Making your neighbourhood a better place and start something healthier for you and the salmon in your backyard!'

Lisa Atkins, our SOUL President, and a Gaia College teacher, volunteered to give a power point presentation on ecological garden design. Other speakers included Gail Macadam, the Bug Lady, and Gwen Odermatt of Petals and Butterflies Farm Nursery.

Both the introduction and the Bug Lady spoke to the ill effects of pesticides and it was obvious from their reactions that the audience was already converted. Lisa's talk concentrated on designing gardens to have the lowest impact on our environment. She spoke of analyzing the space for drainage, sun, wind and, of course, use before ever digging a shovel into the earth. She showed how alternatives to impermeable  
*Continued on Page 4*

## **SOUL Vancouver Executive Committee**

**Chair:** Martin Harcourt  
Email: [mharcourt@organiclandcare.org](mailto:mharcourt@organiclandcare.org)  
**Vice Chair:** Lee de Rosenroll  
Email: [lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org](mailto:lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org)  
**Treasurer:** Barb Bancroft  
Email: [bbancroft@organiclandcare.org](mailto:bbancroft@organiclandcare.org)  
**Secretary:** Donna Wells  
**SOUL Board Liaison:** Lee de Rosenroll  
Email: [lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org](mailto:lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org)  
**OMG Coordinator:** J.R. Rendón  
Email: [jrendon@organiclandcare.org](mailto:jrendon@organiclandcare.org)  
**Event Coordinator:** Open  
**Publicity Coordinator:** Michael Bell  
**Speaker Series Coordinator:** J.R. Rendón  
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**Librarian:** Lee de Rosenroll  
Email: [lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org](mailto:lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org)

To contact *all* SOUL Vancouver members, use the listserver account: [soul\\_vancouver@lists.onenw.org](mailto:soul_vancouver@lists.onenw.org)  
The listserver account is for SOUL Vancouver members and to be used for SOUL business only. Please note that replying to an email sent through the listserver will send your response to *all* SOUL Vancouver members. To reply to a specific member's email, use the 'Forward' command and then copy and paste that individual's email address into the 'TO' line.

## **Upcoming SOUL Vancouver Meetings**

**SOUL Vancouver monthly meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month** (except in August and December) in the Canada Way Education Centre at 5310 Woodsworth St. in Burnaby, BC.

The format for the monthly meetings is as follows:  
**7:00pm - 7:30pm:** Executive Committee meets to conduct Chapter business.

**7:30pm - 8:45pm:** Featured Guest Speaker's Presentation.

**8:45pm - End:** Lending Library opens, and Social with tea, coffee and goodies.

## **Speakers Series Calendar:**

**April 9, 2009** - 'Going Green with Roses -- A Personal Voyage', presented by Patrick White of the Canadian Rose Society.

**May 14, 2009** - 'Summer Container Gardening and Alpine Container Gardening', presented by Bob Tuckey of The Natural Gardener Gardening Store.

**June 7, 2009** - SOUL AGM, in Victoria. No monthly meeting scheduled.

## Salmon Friendly Lisa, continued from Page 3

surfaces reduce runoff, how we should think about where our materials originate as transportation impacts our atmosphere, and the importance of *Right plant, right place*. Her slide on how over-fertilization is poisoning water tables and creating dead zones in our oceans caused audible gasps of dismay!

The presentation was very well received and generated a lot of questions and comments at the lunch break afterward. It was a worthwhile effort, with over 40 people in attendance from Langley and Surrey; and we would like to thank Lisa for volunteering.

--By Barb Bancroft

### New this month in the Lending Library

#### Books:

- *The Wildlife Gardener's Guide* -- Janet Marinelli (Paperback)
- *Elements of Garden Design* -- Joe Eck (Paperback)
- *Butterfly Gardening* -- The Xerces Society (Paperback)
- *Principles of Soil Chemistry* -- Kim H. Tan (Hardcover)
- *The Edge of the Sea* -- Rachel Carson (Paperback)
- *Heritage Perennials Perennial Gardening Guide* -- John M. Valleau (Paperback)



These titles are brand new additions to our Lending Library and are not yet listed on the website, but they will be available to members at the next SOUL Vancouver monthly meeting on April 9.

A complete list of book and DVD titles available in our Lending Library is updated monthly, following each monthly meeting, and can be downloaded in a PDF version at:

[http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/SOULVancouver\\_LendingLibrary.pdf](http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/SOULVancouver_LendingLibrary.pdf).

As always, our new Lending Library welcomes your donations of new and used books and/or DVDs on topics relevant to organic gardening, sustainable living, and other ecological or environmental subjects. Monetary donations to help buy new titles are also accepted and appreciated. For more information, please contact the Librarian, Lee de Rosenroll, at [lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org](mailto:lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org)

## Events and Announcements

The Ban Pesticides Coalition will be hosting a series of public presentations in Surrey in April and May. Martin Harcourt will be speaking at a number of these. Exact locations and times TBA.

SOUL Vancouver will be hosting an educational booth at the World Rose Festival in June. This event is being held in tandem with the 2009 World Rose Convention, a gathering of Rosarians from around the world. This is a unique event that is being held for the first time ever in Vancouver. The theme this year is 'Roses in the Landscape', with an emphasis placed on growing roses organically. The Festival will run June 19 - 21 at the new 'green' Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre.

SOUL Vancouver and its OMG program will be hosting Community Information Tables at Vancouver-area Farmers Markets throughout the 2009 Summer/Fall season. In 2008, we hosted five Information Tables at Trout Lake, Riley Park, Kits and the West End. If you would like to participate, please contact the OMG Committee at [OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com](mailto:OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com).

SOUL Vancouver has confirmed its exhibitor's space for the CanWest Hort Show, September 23 - 24, 2009 at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. This will mark the 28th year of Western Canada's largest horticultural show, and the second appearance for SOUL Vancouver as it represents not only SOUL, but also Burnaby Continuing Education and Gaia College who team to offer organic gardening courses to the public.

The Wildlife Garden Project has scheduled two new group efforts at the WRA's Rescue Centre complex. On April 4, volunteers are being asked to show up from 10am - 2pm to repot about two dozen trees (mostly 1 gallon sitka spruce) for the outdoor aviaries. Compost will also need to be moved to the future blueberry beds as well as the sign bed in preparation for planting. A second work date is scheduled for April 18, again from 10am - 2pm, when the sign bed will be planted up with a variety of native plants. For more information on the project, or to sign up as a volunteer, contact WGP Coordinators Irmgard and Donna at: [WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org](mailto:WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org)

To volunteer for any SOUL Vancouver or OMG event or activity, a sign-up sheet is always available at monthly meetings, or you can do so via email at: [OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com](mailto:OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com). Organic Master Gardeners should note that volunteering for the positions and events noted above would qualify toward fulfilling your Volunteer Hours commitment.



The Wildlife Garden at the WRA's Rescue Center features a large multi-grafted apple tree in need of a little TLC. Anyone from SOUL with an arborist's expertise and a little time to offer regarding some advice on the care of the tree is being asked to contact the Wildlife Garden Project at [WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org](mailto:WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org).

### ***Wildlife Garden Project in full swing***

The Wildlife Garden Project got off to an early start for the year on March 7, when several OMgers showed up on a non-rainy Saturday morning with pruners and mattocks in hand, ready to remove blackberry and other invasives from a couple of future planting beds.

Within three short hours, the transformation was shocking - in a positive way. The Cypress Tree bed was once again distinguishable from the overgrowth and is now ready for planting with numerous native shrubs that have been donated for the purpose. A dogwood is a hoped-for addition to this bed as well, and anyone knowing of one that might be available as a donation to the garden is being asked to contact WGP Coordinators Irmgard and Donna so they can pass that information on to Paulette Tercier, the WRA's garden coordinator.

Also getting a bit of attention that morning was the sign bed at the entrance to the garden. Irmgard led a small detail of volunteers in putting some final

***Continued on Page 7***



**Melanie's magical loppers made short work of the blackberries that threatened to entrap her early in the day.**

## OMG News and Updates

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Guess what Spring 2008 OMGers? It's been a whole year now since you spread your organic gardening wings and flew out of the cozy nest that was Catherine's OMG Basic Course. So what have you been up to since then? We've seen many of you in action, sharing your knowledge and experience in community events such as the Farmers Markets; or at some of the tradeshow and conferences we've participated in this past year; or at the Wildlife Garden Project, tools in hand and ready to tame the overgrowth and prepare demonstration beds.

We've also heard from several of you who have been busy lending your efforts to community garden projects, or other food growing programs at seniors' residences or hospitals. Some have even begun to contribute your research and writing skills, reading books and poring over DVDs in our recently opened lending library. Your reviews for the Newsletter will go a long way toward providing our members with insight on what these resources have to offer.

It's all rather exciting to see the various ways OMGers have chosen to become involved. The feedback from your experiences is invaluable as we look at ways to build and improve on our OMG Volunteer Program. For those OMGers who took the course last Spring, one means of this feedback will be through your **Annual Record of Volunteer Hours** forms which are due this month. You can contact the OMG Committee to have a copy of the newly revised form emailed to you; or you can download it, after April 9, at: [http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/OMG\\_AROVH.pdf](http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/OMG_AROVH.pdf)

More than just a means of tracking your annual 10-hour volunteering commitment, this form lets us know what types of activities are engaging your interests and whether enough opportunities are being provided to make it even easier to become involved in ways that are meaningful to you. So please be assured that the time you take to fill out the form will reap benefits in future as existing projects are expanded and new programs are offered; and that includes in communities outside of Vancouver and Burnaby. We're well aware of how many of you live outside the immediate area and we're working hard to extend our reach into your communities as well. But we need your help in making that happen sooner, rather than later. If there are programs in your area that you think are aligned with the goals of our OMG Program, please consider filling out a **Volunteer Project Proposal** form and providing us with some basic information so that we can look into the possibility of including it in future. This form is also available upon request from the OMG Committee, or by downloading after April 9 at:

[http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/OMG\\_VolunteerProjectProposal.pdf](http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/OMG_VolunteerProjectProposal.pdf)

Both of these forms have been recently revised which we hope will make it easier to fill out than may have been the case in the past. The volunteer categories have been revised as well in an effort to bring the guidelines more into focus. Also, each category now includes a list of activities that are more clearly defined and arranged in a way that should make it easier to envision the scope of our program as it continues to grow. The plan is to roll out a fully updated list of opportunities each year, but if new projects or activities are added mid-year, this new format should make it easier to include and announce the additions as they happen.

Once you've had a chance to familiarize yourselves with these new forms and guidelines, we'd love to hear your feedback. Pun intended, this is an organic process and that feedback is essential to guiding the direction of the OMG Program.

Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 OMGers, you will soon be invited to participate in an online Spring survey. Not to worry, it'll be a relatively short and painless process; but the information you provide will be invaluable and greatly appreciated. Thanks to Catherine, we have recently been able to spend a few minutes during the OMG Basic Course, introducing ourselves and the OMG Program to you and answering some of the questions you have as you begin to consider different ways in which you can participate. But we'd love to know a little more about you than is possible to learn in just those few minutes. This survey is intended to find out more about you and what interests you in particular about organic gardening. The information we've received in the past from other OMGers is what has become the framework of our OMG Program. So be assured, we value what you have to say.

And finally, although a long time in coming it's with no less heartfelt sincerity that we extend our congratulations to the following OMGers, Fall Class of 2007, who have now officially attained the status of **Qualified Organic Master Gardener: Debbie Artman, Andrea Dyck, Dan Paget, Julia Say, Sean Rustemeyer, Barb Bancroft, Lee de Rosenroll and JR Rendón**. Congratulations to all; and a pretty impressive showing for a group that started out with no OMG Program in place at all to support their initial efforts. We've all come a long way since 'way back then.'

-- Barb Bancroft, Lee de Rosenroll, JR Rendón  
OMG Committee

## Book Review

# The Wildlife Gardener's Guide

Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guides

Author: Janet Marinelli

Illustrator: Steve Buchanan

Publisher: Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Publication Date: March 1, 2008

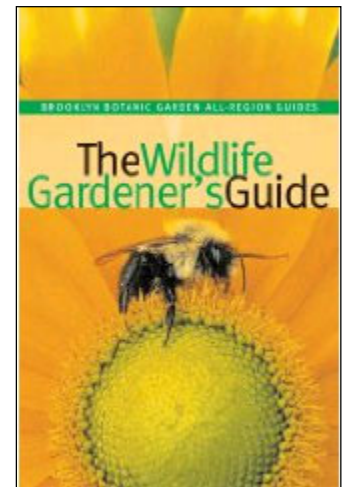
ISBN: 978-1889538372

Format: Paperback

Dimensions: 22.4 x 15 x 0.8 cm

Pages: 120 pgs.

Price: CAD \$10.95



All images courtesy Brooklyn Botanic Garden (Garden Gift Shop) (<http://shop.bbg.org>).

This quick little book is a pleasure to read. While the main focus is on birds, the intention is to show you how to invite wildlife of every kind into your yard, benefiting all, including those who migrate with 'stopover gardens'.



Several wildlife garden projects are shown in a casual way that makes it easy for anyone to create a successful project. It not only shows you how, but it speaks on why you would want to support nature in this way.

The book takes the time to provide enough information for all gardeners, from the most

recently introduced to the pastime of gardening, to those with more experience who would want a reference page on any aspect of setting up a garden for wildlife. It gives details on everything from using containers to creating large gardens; about native plants and cross-pollination; and even the possible hazards of using non-native plants -- it's all here!

Author Janet Marinelli is the former director of publishing at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. She has written extensively about biological invasion and other conservation issues. She has won numerous awards for her writing, including the American Horticultural Society's prestigious American Gardener Award for writing "that has made a significant contribution to horticulture."

With a four-season perspective of plants that feed wildlife, the book has a step-by-step set up plan for several types of gardens. While it provides plant suggestions for areas from Florida to the Northwest, the suggestions are sorted into a clear list for each region. It shows continental migration flyway paths - lots of interesting details making it possible to see the big picture of the migrating wildlife that you will be supporting!

Bee Flowers, Bat Flowers, Beetle Flowers, and even flower choices for Beneficials and the ten steps to a predator-friendly garden -- all are included in this beautifully illustrated book. Don't miss out!

-- by Donna Wells

## **Wildlife Garden, continued from Page 5**

touches on preparing this bed for some early spring planting that will include a range of native plants

such as *Mahonia nervosa*, *Ribes sanguineum*, *Rubus spectabilis* and others. Dates are already being scheduled for that future work. To get involved, contact: [WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org](mailto:WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org)

## NOTICES

**SOUL T-Shirts (\$20) and Stickers (Large Decal - \$8 / Small Decal - \$5) can be purchased at all SOUL**

**Vancouver meetings.** Also available are two books by Heide Hermary: *Working With Nature* is available to members at the special price of \$50, including GST; and *The Essence of Organic Gardening - Seeing & Doing Things Differently* is available at the special price of \$15, including GST.

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**The Wildlife Rescue Association of BC, located in Burnaby, has an urgent need for cut greenery** to use in their aviaries. Stumps, branches of any size, and evergreen prunings are appreciated.

The Care Centre is open from 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, but there is always someone on hand until about 8:00pm to accept your donations.

The Centre is located at 5216 Glencarin Drive in Burnaby. Park in Visitors' Parking and enter at the path on the left. Follow the sign that reads "Injured Wildlife" and someone there will direct you to where the trimmings can be dropped off. There is no need to call first, but if you have any questions, you can contact the Care Centre at 604.526.7275.

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**Looking for the difficult to find organic gardening products?** SOUL Certified Professional Phil Nauta's 'The Organic Gardener's Pantry' carries organic products for organic gardeners. Check the website for a full listing of products and product information:

[www.gardenerspantry.ca](http://www.gardenerspantry.ca)

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### **UBC GREAT FARM TREK**

Tuesday, April 7, 3:30pm - Evening  
A Celebratory, Family-Friendly Event  
In support of a Bright Future for the Farm

Join us as we trek from the UBC Student Union Building from the Board of Governors Meeting and then on to the UBC Farm for festivities. Costumes, music, floats, etc. Rain or Shine!

Late-comers will be shuttled by bus from parking areas near the Farm to the Trek area anytime from 3pm – 6pm. For more information, contact:  
[friendsoftheubcfarm@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheubcfarm@gmail.com)

### **Coming Up At Van Dusen Botanical Garden:**

**Thurs. Apr 12. Cedar Series**  
Lecture: Brazil – an introduction to a Naturalist's Paradise. Lecturer: Dr. Keith Wade. 7:30pm in the Floral Hall. Members \$10; non-Members \$15. Tickets available at the door or call 604.878.9821.

**Thurs. May 14. Cedar Series**  
Lecture: Sustainability – Flavour of the Month or the New Vanilla? Lecturer: Harry Jongerden. 7:30pm in the Floral Hall. Members \$10; non-Members \$15. Tickets available at the door or call 604.878.9821.

**Thurs. June 11. Cedar Series**  
Lecture: Roses – North and South. Lecturer: Dr. Donald McLean. 7:30pm in the Floral Hall. Members \$10; non-Members \$15. Tickets available at the door or call 604.878.9821.

All courses require pre-registration. For further information about these and other course offerings at VanDusen please see the Course website at [www.vandusen.org](http://www.vandusen.org)

Registration information and a downloadable registration form are also available on the Van Dusen website.

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### **Upcoming UBC Botanical Garden Courses and Lectures**

**Mon. Apr 6, Noon – 1:00pm.** Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Behind the Scenes (lecture). Cost. \$5. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee supplied. Fee collected at the door. Advance registration required.  
*Instructor: Jackie Chambers*

**Mon. Apr 27, Noon – 1:00pm.**  
What Is Killing our Bees (seminar).  
An update on the problems afflicting our bee populations. Cost: Free. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee supplied. Seat must be booked in advance.  
*Instructor: Paul van Westendorp*

**Sat May 2, 9:30am – 4:00pm.**  
Organic Gardening All Year Round (course). Covers compost and soil

preparation; mulching and watering; starting seeds and transplanting; intensive planting and inter-planting; and crops to grow in planters and pots. 30 students maximum. Cost: \$55 (General); \$50 (Garden members). Advance registration required.

*Instructor: Linda Gilkeson*

**Sun May 3, 9:00am – Noon. Native Plant Gardening (course).** Defines and identifies native plants of the Pacific Northwest and outlines the values and benefits of using native shrubs, perennials and bulbs will be shown as well as slides of native plant gardens showing examples of thickets, rock gardens, woodlands and meadows. A tour of native plant areas in the Botanical Garden is also included. 25 students maximum. Cost: \$45 (General); \$40 (Garden members). Advance registration required.  
*Instructor: Patricia Johnston*

### **To Register:**

**By Phone:** (604) 822-3928 (please have your credit card on hand)

**By Email:** [botg@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:botg@interchange.ubc.ca)

Include the course you are interested in and your phone number, and we will contact you for the credit card information

**In Person:** at the UBC Botanical Garden Office, 6804 SW Marine Drive, between 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM weekdays.

[http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/education/courses\\_lectures.php](http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/education/courses_lectures.php)

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*Have a Notice you'd like to have posted in the Newsletter? Send it to:*

[OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com](mailto:OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com)

*Notices are free for SOUL members, Garden Societies/Clubs, Continuing Education, and certain other charitable, not-for-profit, or environmental concerns. There is a nominal fee of 15 cents per word, payable in advance and on a per publication basis, for all others. For more info on paid Notices, contact us at:*

[OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com](mailto:OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com)

*We reserve the right to reject submissions deemed not in keeping with the stated mission and goals of SOUL.*