



# Vancouver

June 1, 2009

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

Volume 1, Number 10



Photo by Steve Osmond

*"People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time to have such things about us."*

-- Iris Murdoch, *A Fairly Honourable Defeat*

# Message from the Chair

By Martin Harcourt

Hello. We had a fabulous container gardening workshop at the last meet. I cannot thank Bob Tuckey of The Natural Gardener Gardening Store enough for coming in and showing how it's done. Bob held a draw and gave away two fantastic creations he made for us. Thank you again and his shop is on tenth up at the top of the hill just before the golf course, go ahead...you can be patronizing....just don't be condescending. Oh and he is our newest member!



SOUL Central held their executive meeting on Sunday May 24 at the Burnaby education center. After dispensation of the usual stuff an agenda to further design and plot SOUL's direction was introduced. We worked on a mission statement and tried to set boundaries and define committee functions. I found the meeting slow and halting with only just, a quorum. Why is it so hard to get people out for meets like this one? SOUL Vancouver bribes it's members- I know. But one would think, mission statement etc is a pretty down to earth and important decision and would be of interest to everyone. Perhaps it's too dry.

I like a meeting with all corners going at the same time and my only job as chair is to direct the traffic. We need more members to come down to the meet (I have room for one in my truck from Surrey) and I am sure other members have room as well. We will have cookies too! And if you can't make the meet tell me what you want on the agenda and you will see it reflected in the minutes. We know you have good ideas and if you can't get down to the meet, your ideas can be expressed this way. It had occurred to me that putting the meeting online could bring in more members but I am a complete Neanderthal when it comes to this level of media savvy.

My food garden is a little slow this year. I meant to put a thermometer in the ground to monitor it but I didn't. I'm on a hill and I face north so it's always a

struggle but every year something bumpers. One year it was cauliflower; some of them were a foot across and very heavy. Cauliflower is good in those Indian curries and in the fall I try to make Veloute Dubarry. It's very good; just use a good chicken or vegetable stock as a base. I can give you the rest of the info or there are lots of recipes online.

Last year I did well on broccoli, got two crops off the same plants! One year I had the best chard ever  
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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.

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**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 [VancouverNewsletter@organiclandcare.org](mailto:VancouverNewsletter@organiclandcare.org) 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:** *Rosebuds*, by Steve Osmond. Have a photo you'd like to see on the cover of the newsletter? Send it to the Editor!

## ***Creative combinations, captivating beauty highlight May Guest Speaker presentation***

Along with loads of enthusiasm for his topic, Bob Tuckey, owner of The Natural Gardener Gardening Store on West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Vancouver, brought along a few treats to last month's meeting to help demonstrate how to construct summer and alpine containers. And members lucky  
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### ***Chair's Message, continued from Page 2***

and I've got a great recipe for that, too.

Planning your food garden and making notes on what you planted and where year to year is really important. I have always had a food garden or as I call it, a garden, as opposed to a flower bed. I always try to grow tomatoes and I usually do ok but the blossom end blight gets the last of the crop grown in containers. The gardeners' guide says it's from a calcium deficiency so be sure to mix in a little limestone before you pot them up. I know Tomato Mosaic Virus is pretty common too. I lost my entire crop one year to this pesky disease when a friend of mine said "Oh I just use a little copper on mine and they were fine." Yikes! I think I will go without.

Another gardener said she had had enough and would not try to grow tomato ever again. Sounds pretty drastic. She is also the one who said that gm plants had immunity to air-borne disease agents probably introduced by gm producing companies. I would not go so far as to say it was deliberate but..... I like to make my own tomato paste and I skin and freeze them in bags. I got several pouches of organic seed from Stellar seed and these look like they will do well. I am taking a bunch of potted tomatoes to the Ban Pesticide Coalition meeting to hand out to people. "Bribes."

So there are a few recipes for you: agenda, Veloute Dubarry, and conspiracy by GM companies.

I hope your gardens are doing well.

**Martan!**

## **SOUL Vancouver Executive Committee**

**Chair:** Martin Harcourt

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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 1st Tuesday 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:** Guest Speaker's Presentation.  
**8:45pm - End:** Lending Library opens, and Social with tea, coffee and goodies.

### **Speakers Series Calendar:**

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

**July 7, 2009** - Extended Executive Meeting. No Guest Speaker scheduled. (Please note our new monthly meeting day will be the first Tuesday of each month, starting with this meeting.)

**August** - Annual Summer BBQ. Date, time and place TBA.

## Containers, continued from Page 3

enough to be in attendance were just as enthusiastic in their response to his presentation.

After first describing what materials are necessary for achieving best results - including tips on choosing a pot and letting us in on his recipe for combining good potting soil with sea soil -- Bob proceeded to create a gorgeous perennial container that featured a surprise selection. One edible -- bloodvein sorrel - was matched with black mondo grass, sedum ogon (yellow), salvia, gentian, and calibrachoa (annual). Bob explained his choices in terms of color, texture and height in a very thoughtful way and pointed out how he was planting the plants even with the top rim of the planter and nearer to its perimeter to allow



space in the middle for the plants to grow together. It was a very colorful and creative planter and was won by Barb in a draw!

Bob then put together the cutest alpine pot using *Sedum rupicolum*, *Talinum spinescens*, *Androsace jaquemontii*, and *Saxifrage cuneifolia*. These were the teeniest plants! Using a low-profile terracotta pot (azalea style), Bob planted these

selections even with the top rim, using cactus soil and sea soil as his mix. The finishing touch was the finest round pellet gravel in a nice mix of colors as a mulch on the top of the soil. It was a beautiful collection won by Lee in a second draw!

-- Donna Wells

### New this month in the Lending Library

#### Books:

- *Hive Management* – Richard Bonney (Paperback)



These titles are brand new additions to our Lending Library and are not yet listed on the website but will be available to members at the next SOUL Vancouver monthly meeting on July 7. A complete list of book and DVD titles available in our Lending Library is updated monthly and can be downloaded at: [http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/SOULVancouver\\_LendingLibrary.pdf](http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/SOULVancouver_LendingLibrary.pdf)

For more information, please contact the Librarian, Lee de Rosenroll, at [lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org](mailto:lderosenroll@organiclandcare.org)

## Events and Announcements

The Wildlife Garden Project is standardizing its volunteer days to make it easier for volunteers to schedule some time out in the garden. Starting in June, volunteer days will be held on the Second Saturday of every month, from 10am - 1pm. 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)

SOUL Vancouver and its OMG program kicked off the 2009 Farmers Markets season at Trout Lake on May 23. Carissa, Gavin and Danny P were on hand to share their organic gardening insights with an enthusiastic crowd of market-goers on what turned out to be a picture perfect Saturday. With four more dates on our agenda this season, we'll be looking for more volunteers to help us staff our community education tables at each of those. The dates are:

- **June 27 (Sat.):** West End Farmers Market, 9am - 2pm.
- **July 5 (Sun.):** Kitsilano Farmers Market, 10am - 2pm.
- **August 8 (Sat.):** Trout Lake Farmers Market, 9am - 2pm.
- **September 2 (Wed.):** Mid-Week Farmers Market, 3pm - 7pm. (New Location: Main Street Station)

If you would like to participate in this year's Farmers Markets, please contact the OMG Committee at [OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com](mailto:OMGVolunteerHours@gmail.com).

We're looking for volunteers to help staff our educational booth at the World Rose Festival in June. The Festival is in association with the 2009 World Rose Convention. The theme of the event is 'Roses in the Landscape' with an emphasis on growing roses organically. The Festival will run June 19 - 21 at the new 'green' Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. Volunteers will be needed for all three days.

Our exhibitor's space for the CanWest Hort Show on September 23 - 24, 2009 has been confirmed. This is 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. CanWest is being held at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre.

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 the positions and events noted above qualify as Volunteer Hours.

## OMG News and Updates

It hasn't taken long for this year's volunteer season to get into full swing.

Activities at the Wildlife Garden Project have been going strong since the beginning of this year, transforming the grounds at the Wildlife Rescue Centre at an astonishing pace. WGP Coordinators Irmgard and Donna are doing a wonderful job organizing volunteer days and working with Paulette Tercier to ensure that there is always something special to go along with whatever work or project is planned for the day. A potluck, a nature walk -- whatever they come up with next -- you can be sure that there will be a fun way to unwind with fellow volunteers once the work is complete.

Irmgard and Donna have also been working on ways to make it even easier for volunteers to get involved in the wildlife garden. So, starting in June, volunteer days at the Wildlife Garden Project will be held regularly on the Second Saturday of every month, from 10am to 1pm. No more having to remember a specific date - just keep in mind that if it's the Second Saturday of the month, then head on out and enjoy the day working alongside others who want to make a difference by helping out with this fun and worthwhile project.



*OMGers Gavin McLeod and Carissa Piercey enjoyed the beautiful day and the enthusiasm of fellow gardeners at the Trout Lake Farmers Market on May 23.*

Looking for other ways to work on your OMG volunteer hours? We've just hosted our first Farmers Market community education table out at Trout Lake. Thanks to Gavin, Carissa and Danny P for sharing their time and organic gardening know-how at our community education table on May 23. An exceedingly beautiful

day was made all the more enjoyable by the high spirits of market-goers who stopped by our table for advice, tips and friendly chatter about organic gardening. Four more Farmers Markets appearances are on tap for us this year - again at Trout Lake as well as at Kits, the West End and Main Street Station. If you'd like to spend a couple of hours basking in the sun and talking gardening, then consider signing up for one of these opportunities. Truly, you'll never meet a nicer and more enthusiastic group of organic foodies than market-goers.



Photo by Steve Osmond

Looking for yet another way to volunteer? In just a couple of weeks, we'll be hosting our information table at the World Rose Festival. Volunteers will be needed to staff the table for all three days of this event, Friday through Sunday, June 19, 20 and 21. It's not too soon to start thinking about how you can pitch in to help make this a successful outing for SOUL. This event will be placing a special emphasis on growing roses organically, so we will be looking to make the most of this opportunity to spread the good word and establish SOUL as a go-to resource for organic gardening information. We won't be able to do that without your help and we'll be counting on all of you to make it happen.

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

## Book Review

# Hive Management

## A Seasonal Guide for Beekeepers

**Author:** Richard E. Bonney

**Publisher:** Storey Publishing, LLC

**Publication Date:** Dec 5, 1990

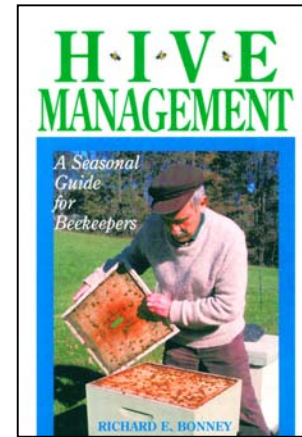
**ISBN:** 978-0882666372

**Format:** Paperback

**Dimensions:** 22.6 x 15.2 x 1.3 cm

**Pages:** 160 pgs.

**Price:** CAD \$22.95



Cover Image courtesy Storey Publishing, LLC ([www.storey.com](http://www.storey.com))

This is an excellent 'details' reference book for anyone in the beehive keeping occupation. Not for casual reading, it is a direct detail book on everything that a beekeeper must keep in mind through the year, addressing every possible issue, pitfall and duty. It describes what to look for when inspecting a hive, for example, and what decision can be made.

This would be a good book for anyone who is thinking of becoming a beekeeper, offering lots of

Information and advice to help in making the decision. Or, for anyone already in the business, this is a good resource for researching an issue with their apiary.

The information is laid out in a good 'quick reference' format, and runs through each season of what to expect and what to do. If you have ever wondered about becoming a beekeeper, this would be a good place to start.

-- by Donna Wells

## ***To-do list and sunny days heat up Wildlife Garden Project***

Three volunteers from the WRCA, plus Paulette and myself were on hand in the Wildlife Garden on May 23. We removed Japanese knotweed even though Paulette has been doing weekly knotweed removal; but the stalks keep on reappearing and grow amazingly fast.

The WRCA volunteers put together a moss basket for the Centre, cut back the Policeman's Helmet patch by the bee house, and got started with preparing a vegetable/flower bed by the fence.

I weeded the bed by the sign - the fennel keeps pushing through the gaps of the cardboard.

Later, we potted up about two dozen spruce tree seedlings in one gallon pots. After that we enjoyed a well-earned break in the shade by the new red-osier- dogwood planting. It turned out to be a bit



Too warm for coffee, so we saved it for another time.

We look forward to our next volunteer day in a few weeks.

To get involved with the Wildlife Garden Project, contact Donna and Irmgard at:

[WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org](mailto:WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org)

-- by Irmgard Carter

## 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 Hermay: *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. No need to call first, but if you have any questions, 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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### **Coming Up At Van Dusen Botanical Garden:**

**Sun. June 7. Family Program:** Ponderers. For kids of all ages! Discover the underwater world of Cypress Pond. To register your family call 604-718-5898 or [familyprograms@vandusen.org](mailto:familyprograms@vandusen.org)

**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.

**Sat & Sun. June 13 & 14. Private Gardens Tour.** Don't miss your opportunity to visit some of Vancouver's best gardens in this year's VanDusen Private Garden Tour. Nine interesting

and very beautiful gardens will be on display. This year we will be featuring several gardens with wonderful examples of "Urban Agriculture". As well, you will have the opportunity to visit some other unique and magnificent gardens, both large and small containing superb plant material and unique landscape features. Tickets are \$30 and are required and available at the Garden Shop and at the Administration of the Garden up to and including the weekend of the tour until they are sold out! 10:00am – 4:00pm.

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. June 8, Noon – 1:00pm.** Garden Lecture: A History of Plant-based Medicine. From prehistoric times, through the Greek Empire, into the Middle Ages and modern day, plants have played a vital role in the development of medicine and thus are deeply entwined in the history and survival of humankind.

In this lecture, Nadine Diner will share her research on the history of plant-based medicine and its relationship to historical events and figures, which yielded the current disciplines of herbal and conventional medicine.

Following the lecture, Nadine will lead interested participants on a brief walk to the Physic Garden, a 16th Century medicinal herb garden that historically would have grown, adjacent to universities, for the education of physicians and apothecaries. In the Physic Garden, she will introduce botanical specimens with a role in this history, leaving participants with an appreciation for plants as the basis for human health, the medicine of

humankind. The medicine of our appetites since the time of the hunter gatherer, the medicine of our ailments since ancient civilizations, and the medicine of our spirit through their beauty, fragrance and the pastime of gardening.

Location: UBC Botanical Garden Reception Centre. 6804 South West Marine Dr, Vancouver.

Cost: \$5.00 Cash At The Door.

Please Note: Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea supplied. Fee collected at the door.

Please contact 604-822-3928 or [botg@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:botg@interchange.ubc.ca) in advance to book a seat.

**Mon. June 22, Noon – 1:00pm.** Garden Seminar: Phytoremediation and Industrial Hemp. The human population continues to expand and two major by-products of this growth are fly ash (from the coal burning production of energy) and sewage sludge (from domestic waste). These waste products contain nutrients or properties beneficial to plant growth and the soil matrix, and are often used as agricultural amendments.

Such applications can be controversial, as sewage sludge and fly ash may contain heavy metals, pathogens and/or organic solvent contaminants. This controversy has fueled significant research on the topic – scientists search to optimize the benefits and neutralize the hazards of these agricultural amendments. In this search, phytoremediation has emerged as a feasible option to turn these waste products into a reusable resource.

Phytoremediation can be defined as the decontamination of soil, sediment or water using plant growth. Industrial hemp, *Cannabis sativa L.*, is renowned for its ability to grow rapidly. In one growing season, fibre hemp can yield 250 to 400 plants per square metre, with each plant reaching up to 5 metres in height. As a result, hemp has been identified as a plant with the potential to serve as a phytoremediator.

**Continued next page**

## **NOTICES, contd.**

In this seminar, Nadine Diner will share her Master's research on the benefits and hazards of hemp cultivation for the phytoremediation of soil amended with sewage sludge and fly ash.

Location: UBC Botanical Garden Reception Centre. 6804 South West Marine Dr, Vancouver.

Cost: Free

Please Note: Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea supplied. Donations accepted at the door. Please contact 604-822-3928 or [botg@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:botg@interchange.ubc.ca) in advance to book a seat.

**NEW GARDEN TOUR – SELF-GUIDED PREHISTORIC PLANT TOUR.** UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research is excited to announce that our new *Wollemia nobilis* (Wollemi pine) tree has been unveiled. At 11.5 feet tall this tree is a prominent addition to our entrance area. "Little Billy" as the tree is known, is the showcase piece of our new Prehistoric Plant Tour.

The Prehistoric Plant Tour is a self-guided experience that takes Garden visitors back in time to explore some of the early species of plants found in our plant collection.

The experience should take visitors approximately 40 minutes to complete. Maps for the Prehistoric Plant Tour are now on sale in our gatehouse for a nominal \$1.50 (plus Garden admission). Please contact the gatehouse for more information.

THE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY UBC BOTANICAL GARDEN, TD FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION, UBC CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PLANNING, THE VIVIAN GLYN-JONES FUND AND ANONYMOUS DONORS.

Please join us for the  
**Society for Organic Urban Land Care**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
at 1744 Lee Avenue, Victoria  
at 1pm.

### Program.

#### Annual General Meeting - 1pm to 2.30pm

Minutes for last AGM  
Treasurer's Report  
Membership Report  
Certification Report  
Education Report  
Soul Branches Reports  
Election of Officers

#### Potluck 2.30 to 3.30pm.

Please bring your favorite dish to share.  
Beverages supplied by Soul  
Your own utensils.

First meeting of the new Board of Directors, 3.30 to 4.30pm.

Please come and join us, share your ideas, interests and friendship.

**Your, Soul Board of Directors.**