



Vancouver

May 1, 2009

The Newsletter of SOUL Vancouver
www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/

Volume 1, Number 9



Photo by JR Rendón

"... time is not a linear flow, as we think it is, into past, present, and future. Time is an indivisible whole, a great pool in which all events are eternally embodied and still have their meaningful flash of supernormal or extra-sensory perception, and glimpse of something that happened long ago in our linear time."

-- Frank Waters, *Mountain Dialogues*, 1981

Message from the Chair

By Martin Harcourt

Hey there. I know I have been away from my post for a bit but really, winter is the only vacation time I get. Anyway, I hope everyone is volunteering for all the great events put on by the society. And now for my rant....



I have been involved with The Environmental Assessment Committee drafting a pesticide ban bylaw for Surrey. We finished the draft on the 15th of April. The committee spent about 25 hours on it and I still find it incomplete, but then that's politics: you have to compromise.

We had a thorn in our side pretty well the whole time. Not that I think it is a bad thing to have an opposing view, but I found the thorn's argument lacking. Personal belief systems have no place in these types of meetings. We are doing the work of the residents and we need to follow scientific data to its conclusion

The thorn's arguments went in this order, more or less, throughout the months of our meetings:

- My sports fields are 18 inches of sand and are basically hydroponic systems.
- Hand weeding is too expensive.
- Steaming weeds does not work.
- Weeds present a slipping hazard on sports fields and as such increase the liability of the City.
- I do not believe that pesticides are a problem in our environment.
- I need pesticides.
- Businesses will go broke without pesticides.

You can see that his reasons went from the practical to the personal. I threw in the 'business will go broke' because I hear that one a lot.

There are many reasons for not using pesticides. I will not describe them here. Simply, the end result of

pesticide use is that we have so destroyed the soil food web that we must genetically engineer plants to grow in what is left of it! We don't need drought resistant corn; we need to replenish aquifers and ecosystems that hold moisture. We don't need to add tons and tons of chemical fertilizers; we need to rebuild soil naturally.

We at SOUL talk about sustainability and leading by **Continued on Page 3**

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 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: 'And thus it ends' - *Fargesia nitida* in bloom, taken at VanDusen in late April. Have a photo you'd like to see on the cover of the newsletter? Send it to the Editor!

A Talk on Earthy-Friendly Rose Growing

Patrick White of the Canadian Rose Society spoke to us about Earth Kind™ Roses at our April SOUL meeting. The objective of Earth Kind is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a new horticultural system based on real world effectiveness and environmental responsibility. The goals of Earth Kind include: landscape water conservation, *Continued on Page 4*



Rosa chinensis 'Mutabilis'

Chair's Message, continued from Page 2

example. Simply, if we must continue introducing chemicals to our gardens, we are not being sustainable.

Twenty-one years ago I was asked to find another way to deal with pests on Granville Island. They had a separate contractor that sprayed the island and the public hated it. I found IPM in California and quickly found a new direction in landscaping.

In those days *Safer's* did not exist as it does today. *Safer's* was a small group of people looking for a market for their products; a fringe group. *Safer's* grew to be a monster company because people wanted an alternative to chemical pesticides. More recently, major gardening stores have brought in alternatives to chemical gardening. Many stores now have aisles marked "organic." This new focus on alternatives to chemicals is happening because people are demanding change. The demand for change drives the need to create alternatives. If we do not ban pesticides in our communities the great ideas for alternatives will never be thought of. It's time we got rid of these outdated poisonous products in our homes and environment, so we can see the next fantastic idea take shape.

Lastly for all you thorns out there: **Change**. All statistics indicate that you will not live past 60 if you do not embrace change. Force your brain to come up with new solutions to old problems and you will live to be 100 and maybe more.

Peacefully yours,
Martan!

SOUL Vancouver Executive Committee

Chair: Martin Harcourt
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Treasurer: Barb Bancroft
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Publicity Coordinator: Michael Bell
Speaker Series Coordinator: J.R. Rendón
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To contact *all* SOUL Vancouver members, use the listserver account: 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 2nd 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: Guest Speaker's Presentation.
8:45pm - End: Lending Library opens, and Social with tea, coffee and goodies.

Speakers Series Calendar:

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 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.)

Earth-friendly Roses, continued from Page 3

safe use and handling of fertilizers and pesticides, reduction of yard wastes entering landfills.

(<http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu/>)

What Are Earth Kind Roses?

Earth Kind is an important designation given to select roses by the Texas A&M University Agriculture program. Earth Kind roses have been through rigorous statewide testing and evaluation by a team of horticultural experts and found to possess the high level of landscape performance and outstanding disease and insect tolerance/resistance required to for this special designation.

The original roses tried were China, Polyanthus, Tea (not hybrids) and Shrub. All of these grew on their own rootstock. (Grafted hybrids last only 10-12 years.) The roses that showed resistance to disease and pests were designated Earth Kind™.

Patrick also explained to us the protocol for successful growing of Earth Kind Roses. It's all in the mulch!

- The sandy loam soil protocol requires 7.5 cm of aged plant derived compost tilled into the top 6 inches of soil.
- The clay soil protocol requires 7.5 cm of expanded shale particles (navy jack) and 7.5 cm of aged plant derived compost tilled into the top 6 inches of soil, preferably 3 months before planting.
- When it is planting time, re-till top 6 inches of soil.
- Crown beds 4 - 6 inches above surrounding soil and plant.
- Next comes a layer of newspaper, no coloured sections due to ink content.
- Finally, 10 cm of wood chips, ½ inch minimum, as a coarse mulch; Douglas Fir makes a good mulch.

The results showed a number of excellent roses. For our climate, The Fairy and Mutabilis are recommended. Also mentioned were Knock Out, Perl d'Or and New Dawn.



The Fairy rose.

Morden Roses are recommended for drier climates.

Continued on Page 5

Events and Announcements

Martin will be speaking for the Ban Pesticides Coalition in Surrey on May 2, from 10:30am - Noon, at the Guilford Library.

Ivy Busting at Van Dusen on Wednesday May 20, 9:00am - Noon. Our OMG Volunteer Program has received a special request from Van Dusen Botanical Garden to assist their staff in removing English Ivy from selected areas of the Garden. Normally, this activity requires that volunteers be Garden members, but for this event, anyone from our program wishing to participate will be welcomed with open arms. As a bonus, this volunteer opportunity will also include a 30-minute lecture by Cindy Sayre, the Garden's Curator of Collections and also a steadfast supporter of our OMG Program. Space is limited to 15 volunteers and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. To sign up, please contact VanDusen Botanical Garden's Volunteer Coordinator, Judy Aird, either by email at: volunteer@vandusen.org; or by phone: 604.257.8764

The Wildlife Garden Project has scheduled a May 23 'Work, Eat and Play Day'. Those interested in volunteering for the day are asked to meet at the Rescue Centre complex in Burnaby at 10am on the 24th to begin work on a variety of projects. There'll be a break at 11:30am for a 'Coffee and Goodies' Potluck. Coffee will be supplied, but volunteers are asked to bring muffins, cookies, etc. to share. Then it's back to work for at least a bit - until a walk near the lake becomes too irresistible. For more information on the project, or to sign up as a volunteer, contact WGP Coordinators Irmgard and Donna at: WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org

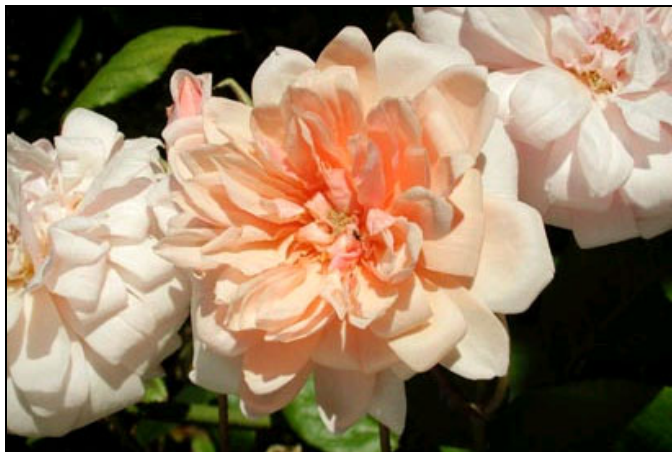
SOUL Vancouver and its OMG program will be hosting Community Information Tables at Vancouver-area Farmers Markets throughout the 2009 Summer/Fall season. The dates for our appearances have just been confirmed and include:

- **May 23 (Sat.):** GardenFest at Trout Lake Farmers Market, 9am - 2pm.
- **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: Pacific Central Station)

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

Continued on Page 5

More Roses, continued from Page 4



Pearl d'Or.

Kordes roses (www.kordesroses.com) are a new generation of roses from France and Germany that are grown without chemicals. Burnaby Lake Nursery's Vigorosa and Verandah series are the Kordes roses. Specifically mentioned were Copper Queen, Escino, Granda Amore, Roseanne, Tradition, and Garalina. Carefree Spirit was a 2009 AARS nominee.

Most interesting fact gleaned at the talk: fragrance and black spot are aligned! The more fragrant a rose, the more susceptible to black spot!

--by Lisa Atkins

Monthly Meeting Nights Changing -- Moving to the First Tuesday of the Month Beginning July 2009

By popular request, the SOUL Vancouver Executive voted last month to change the night of our monthly meetings. As a result, starting in July 2009, meetings will move to the first Tuesday of every month.

We'll still be holding the meetings in the Continuing Education facility in Burnaby. Also, the format for most meetings will remain the same with Executive business from 7:00pm until 7:30pm and the Guest Speaker's presentation beginning promptly at 7:30pm.

Please note that July will be an Extended Executive meeting, so no Guest Speaker is scheduled.

Welcome to our Newest Members!

SOUL Vancouver extends a warm welcome to our newest members -- **Shellina Velji**, of North Vancouver and **Scott Hurst**, of North Vancouver.

Events and Announcements, contd.

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

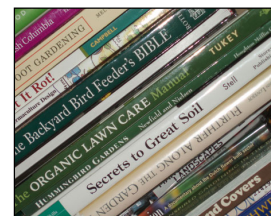
Our exhibitor's space for the CanWest Hort Show on September 23 - 24, 2009 has been confirmed. This is the 28th year of Western Canada's largest horticultural show, and the second appearance for SOUL Vancouver as it represents not only SOUL, but also Burnaby Continuing Education and Gaia College who 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. Organic Master Gardeners should note that the positions and events noted above qualify as Volunteer Hours.

New this month in the Lending Library

Books:

- *Sunscaping* – Dale Cosway (Paperback)
- *The Sense of Wonder* – Rachel Carson, with Photographs by Nick Kelsh (Hardcover)



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 May 14. A complete list of book and DVD titles available in our Lending Library is updated monthly and can be downloaded in a PDF version at:

http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/SOULVancouver_LendingLibrary.pdf.

As always, our 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

OMG News and Updates

There has been such a flurry of activity over the past few weeks that it is startling to look up at the calendar and see that it's May (!) and already time for another OMG News and Updates column. Especially when we haven't even finished everything that we'd previously announced was on the verge of being completed and ready to release during this past month.

Apologies to any 'early birds' who have been visiting the website, looking for those links we'd promised for accessing new OMG forms and Guidelines. But the good news is that the wait is finally over with the forms having just been posted. They can now be found on our newly updated SOUL Vancouver Organic Master Gardeners page at:

<http://www.organiclandcare.org/branches/Vancouver/master%20gardeners.php>

Just scroll down the page to the section marked '**OMG Forms and Other Downloadable Information**' and you can access both the new **Annual of Record Volunteer Hours** form and the new **Volunteer Project Proposal** form. Everything here is in PDF format for easy downloading.

As for the **Guidelines**, you'll see that these are still in the 'Coming Soon' state of development. They will be ready for release very soon, though - we're just postponing the release by a week or two so that we can try to iron out a few last-minute details.

One other item that you *will* see included in this new section of our OMG page is a link to **Wildlife Garden Project Monthly News**. Donna and Irmgard have been working hard with the Wildlife Rescue Association's Garden Coordinator Paulette Tercier, organizing priorities for the Wildlife Garden Project and coming up with ways to keep volunteers up-to-date and well-informed on activities and other happenings in the garden. Along with the occasional email notices that are sent out to SOUL Vancouver members, and announcements that are regularly published in the Newsletter, Donna and Irmgard have developed a 'NewsPage' that includes a monthly calendar of planned activities in the Wildlife Garden along with any other additional information that volunteers might need to be made aware of. Regular WGP volunteers will be emailed the information directly, but the same information will also now be made available in a PDF version so that all SOUL Vancouver members can readily access the information via the **Wildlife Garden Project Monthly News** link on our OMG web page.

Thanks to Donna and Irmgard, now you'll be able to

plan ahead for opportunities to lend a hand in the garden. It's a great way to spend a Saturday and even though it's technically 'work', it's not entirely so. Plus, it's looking more and more beautiful out there all the time, thanks to the efforts of OMGers who have been lending their time to the effort.

As you may have begun to suspect, our newly revamped OMG web page is being developed to become a more useful resource for our Organic Master Gardeners as well as our SOUL Vancouver membership at large. Going forward, information concerning events, activities, and other OMG-related topics and issues will be posted on this page and updated regularly.

Take some time to look through the whole page. There's lots more information in the sections you scrolled through to get to the forms and other downloadable information. Even though the Guidelines themselves aren't quite ready, the information in the other sections on this page should give you a pretty good hint of some of the things that are in store for OMGers over the next year or so. And, hopefully, by organizing our volunteer activities into three broad categories as we've done here, this will help to stimulate your own ideas of where we can go from here. Growing our OMG Volunteer Program requires everyone's input if it's to be successful, and if there is something you feel is 'missing' or should be added to what is currently underway, then please do let us know.

And please make it a habit to check back regularly with the OMG page for updates on our activities. If there is information that you are looking for that you can't find, let us know and we'll try to gather it in a format that can be made available through the web page. Again, the idea is to make this page a useful resource for all of you. But we'll need your help and generous feedback to make that a reality.

Now, about that survey that we announced for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 OMGers...it, too, is coming soon. Like this weekend. So keep an eye on your email inboxes. It will be an 'online' survey, so with just a few clicks of your mouse and a final 'submit', you will be providing us with some valuable information that will go a long way towards letting us know what your own expectations are for the OMG Volunteer Program, and what we can do to help you get the most out of the experience. Truly, we can't wait to hear what you all have to say.

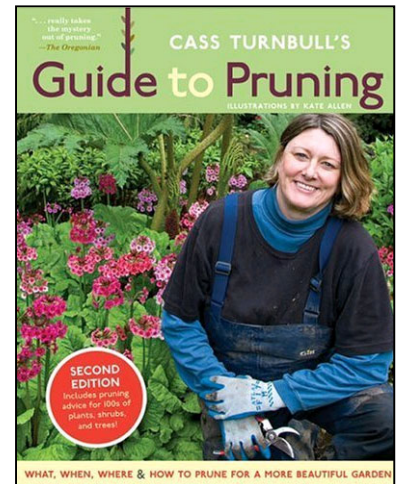
-- Barb Bancroft, Lee de Rosenroll, JR Rendón
OMG Committee

Book Review

Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning

What, When and Where to Prune for a More Beautiful Garden

Author: Cass Turnbull
Illustrator: Kate Allen
Publisher: Sasquatch Books
Publication Date: Feb 16 2006 (2nd Edition)
ISBN: 978-1570614682
Format: Paperback
Dimensions: 22.6 x 18.3 x 2.8 cm
Pages: 336 pgs.
Price: CAD \$26.95



Cover Image courtesy Plant Amnesty (www.plantamnesty.org)

In her book, Cass Turnbull uses the same down to earth approach to writing about pruning as she does when giving her lectures. Her explanations are simple and easy to understand without being patronizing. Turnbull not only describes 'how' to prune, but 'when', 'where' and 'why' as well.

The Guide covers pruning from the basic cuts to timing to hedges to suckers and water sprouts.

There are also sections on common specific plants divided by their growing habits. Kate Allen's quirky illustrations further clarify Turnbull's points.

Cass Turnbull's Guide is a handy reference book to have around to answer your pruning questions, as well as being an enjoyable, humorous read.

-- by Barb Bancroft

A Busy April in the Wildlife Garden

Irmgard's fabulous planning for the 'Sign Garden' was put into action by the planting team, with native plants in abundance. It turned out beautifully, with careful attention to details such as framing the sign to keep it visible.



Carissa led the charge on the garden bed in front of the administration house and readied it for planting by removing old soil and replacing it with new compost.

JR delivered a batch of plant labels donated by Van Dusen Botanical Garden. As well, she brought a nearly new and very much appreciated wheelbarrow as a donation to the gardens.

Blanche tackled area #9, which is near the parking pad, and removed every possible bit of Japanese Knotweed very carefully, so as to not disturb the tiny salamanders hiding under dry leaves.



Kelly worked hard to split huge ferns for distribution to several areas of the garden. With everyone working together on each project it was a very rewarding day!

Paulette has set up a list of priorities with a map in the receiving office so that volunteers can refer to that page whenever they are volunteering on their own in the garden. To get involved with the Wildlife Garden Project, contact Donna and Irmgard at: WildlifeGardenProject@organiclandcare.org

-- by Donna Wells

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.

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.

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

**Vancouver Area Therapeutic Horticultural Interest Group
Saturday Workshops for Spring 2009**

Sat. May 23. Summer Planting – Projects and Techniques for Therapeutic Gardening Programs. This 3-hour workshop focuses on propagation and planting activities suitable for the summer months to help build a repertoire of skills and projects for seasonal programs. Lots of hands-on practice, helpful reference materials, and samples to take home. Class size limited to 12. Fee: \$47.00 including workshop supplies and GST. For more info contact Aimee Taylor at aimee@horticulturaltherapist.com or Ann Kent at ann@catkinggardens.ca

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

Sat. May 2. Bird Walk. Meet at the Garden entrance at 10am. Join Jeremy Gordon from Nature Vancouver for a beginners' birding exploration in the Garden. Rain or shine. Limited to the first 20 people. Free for Members or with Garden admission. For more information on Nature Vancouver, visit www.naturevancouver.ca

**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.

Sat. May 23. Volunteer Orientation. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Orientation is a prerequisite for volunteer activities at VanDusen Garden. Bring your lunch, we'll provide refreshments. Dress for the weather. Meet representatives from the VBGA staff and Board. Tour the Garden with experienced Guides. To register or for more information, call Judy Aird at 604-257-8674
volunteer@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.

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

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

**Upcoming
UBC Botanical Garden Courses
and Lectures**

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
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

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

/ancouverNewsletter@organiclandcare.org

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:

/ancouverNewsletter@organiclandcare.org

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