



Newsletter from the City of Victoria Parks Division

Fall 2011

In This Issue

- **Tours, Courses & Events**
- **Environmental News**
- **Etc.**

Instructor Profile:

Jeff de Jong will be teaching the Winter Container Gardening Course. Jeff works for the TLC Land Conservancy as the Site Manager at the internationally renowned Abkhazi Garden. As well as having the gardening show, Gardening 101, on CFAV 1070, he continues to appear as a public speaker for local gardening clubs and Trade Shows.

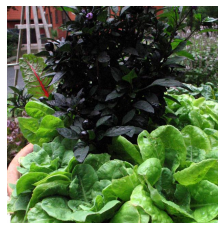
Community Events

Swan Lake Fall Native Plant Sale
Saturday & Sunday,
October 1 & 2, 2011
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Glendale Gardens Fall Plant Sale & Childrens Festival
Sept. 24 & 25, 2011
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tours, Courses & Events

Fall Vegetables



Learn about seed and plant selection, cultivation (what do the plants need to thrive, fertilizing, watering, light requirements, raised beds), cultural techniques (plant protection, row covers, cloches) soil preparation (amendments, till vs no till) planting times (when to plant and succession planting) crop rotation (what and why, how to set up and record) and harvest (how to harvest and when).

Saturday, September 10th, from 10 am to noon, \$25

Remarkable and Rare - Cultivated Trees of Beacon Hill Park – PART TWO

Last year's tour was a huge hit, so don't miss out this year as we explore a different grove of rare or exotic trees. Tour led by the City of Victoria Environmental Technician and the Supervisor of Arboriculture. Meet at the children's playground near the parking lot off Arbutus Way. Registration is not required.

Saturday, September 17th, from 10 am to noon. Free.

The Gardens at HCP and Nourish Bistro



Formerly known as Glendale Gardens, The Gardens at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific are a peaceful place to stroll after lunch at the Nourish Bistro. Nourish offers everything from vegan, to gluten free, to healthy beef. They are a full cycle (seed to stomach) restaurant... growing their own

veggies and then creating recipes from the bounty for you to eat!

Transportation and admissions included, lunch is not.

Thursday, September 29th, 10 am – 3:30 pm, \$22 senior, \$24.75 Adult

Winter Container Gardening



The season for gardening is anytime of the year when you live in Victoria. October is the perfect time to plan the late autumn/ winter container garden. Containers for the balcony will add beauty and drama to the shorter days and cooler weather. Container gardening in the winter can be as exciting as gardening in the spring. Jeff de Jong will lead you through this Workshop to help you plan the best container garden. You will discover ways to add fragrance, color and excitement to your balcony or front entrance.

Saturday, October 22nd, 2011 from 10 am to noon, \$25

Community Groups

Native Ecosystems In Victoria Public Areas Network

www.nevpan.org

Moss Rocks Park

Work Party to remove invasive species. Meet the third Sat. of the month at white truck at the base of rocks on May Street.

3rd Saturday of each month

10 am – noon.

SWERP (Southeast Woods Ecological Restoration Project)

Volunteers meet every Saturday morning 9-11am (except long weekends) at the totem pole in Beacon Hill Park to remove invasive species such as ivy from the native landscape. We provide garden tools and gloves. This protects and enhances nature in the city and we benefit from learning and connecting with the natural environment. Everyone welcome. Volunteer contact: kacy@islandnet.com

Railyards Shoreline Restoration,

Bring gloves and tools. Meet on the Galloping Goose near the foot of Regatta Landing.

2nd Saturday of each month

10 am – 12 noon.

Winter Moth Banding Workshop



Winter moths are smooth, green caterpillars that hang down from trees in late spring and early summer once they have eaten blossoms and leaves from Garry Oak, ornamental and fruit trees.

Join City Parks staff at a free workshop to learn how banding your trees now will help prevent Winter moth damage in the spring. Participants are to meet at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard office, located at the end of Nursery Road. Please dress for the weather as

the course will take place rain or shine. Registration is not required.

Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011 from 10 am to noon or
Saturday, November 5th, 2011 from 10 am to noon, Free

Small Trees for Urban Yards, Planting Tips & Pruning Guidelines

Back by Popular Demand! Join a City of Victoria certified arborist to learn how to choose trees for urban yards, prune trees for structure and form, how to provide mature tree care, and tree planting tips and guidelines.

Saturday, February 4th, 2012, 10 am to noon, \$30



Fruit Production – Part II



Don't miss Part II of this very popular course which will cover renovation pruning on older fruit trees and orchard management techniques. Other topics includes grapes, raspberries, cultural practices and trouble shooting problems.

Saturday, March 10, 2012, 10 am to noon, \$25

For more information or to register, please contact 250-361-0732 or email parksprograms@victoria.ca.

Tree Appreciation Day – Arbutus Park

Help renew our urban forest by celebrating Victoria's 6th Annual Tree Appreciation Day with us. Learn how to properly plant a tree and shrub to ensure good health. Please bring your own shovels and gloves as tool supplies will be limited. The event will occur rain or shine so please dress for the weather.



Native plantings include Garry Oak, Douglas Fir, Dogwood, and other trees; Oceanspray, Wild rose, Red elderberry and other shrubs. Consultants will be available to look at problem leaf, twig or insect samples and offer advice on how to naturally prevent and/or treat tree and shrub diseases and problem pests and also to offer natural solutions to common gardening problems.

Tree Appreciation Day is funded by the City of Victoria, in partnership with CUPE 50. This is a free event. Registration is not required. Complimentary refreshments will be available.

Sunday, November 6th, 10 am to noon. Free, 2925 Washington Ave.

If you have a Community Group you'd like to list here, please contact us.

Etc.

Other programs you might be interested in this fall are:

Day Tours –

- Lester B Pearson College
- Saltspring Island
- Mystery Art Tour

For more information or to register, please contact 250-361-0732 or email

parksprograms@victoria.ca.

Environmental News

Toxic Plants to be on the lookout for...

The long, cool spring has caused huge growth of many cool weather plants. Among the most obvious of those are invasive Giant Hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, and its native cousin, Cow Parsnip, *Heracleum lanatum* (*H. maximum*).

Telling one plant from the other is mostly a matter of scale. Cow Parsnip is 1.5 to 2.5 metres tall with leaves .5 metres across. Giant hogweed is usually at least 3 metres tall and can reach 5 metres with leaves up to 1 metre. There are sometimes red blotches on the stems of Cow parsnip. Hogweed stems are usually mostly red.



Michelle with Giant hogweed in a Victoria yard and with Cow Parsnip on the Dallas Bluffs.

The two species are very similar in appearance and both do contain chemicals in their sap that can make your skin extremely sensitive to sunlight. Cow Parsnip has a tiny amount. Giant Hogweed contains a lot. Burns from Cow Parsnip are rare and seldom serious. Giant Hogweed burns are frequently bad.

The burns that can result from getting the sap on your skin and then exposing it to the sun can be quite severe, long lasting, and scarring. In extreme cases sores can last for years and the resulting dark brown scars can remain for years after the blisters and sores have healed. It's best to avoid contact with either plant but if you do get sap on your skin, keep out of the sun, wash the exposed area quickly and thoroughly, and be careful of the sun until you are sure you have removed it all.

Tall Grass in the City's Parks

Another result of our extended cool, wet spring has been much stronger growth of grass. The meadows are waste high. Early wildflowers, like the Fawn lilies, Satin flowers, and shooting stars, benefited from the weather and put on a good show. Common camas, the plant that usually paints our park blue in May, has been nearly completely absent. Some of the other mid-season flowers seem to be missing, too.



The Camas show in Heywood Meadow, May 2007.

Common camas flowering is triggered by sun on its leaves. When not enough light gets to them

they just don't flower. Instead, they put their energy into growing the bulb. If we get a hotter, dryer spring next year the show should be great. The combination of a good growing season for the leaves and a hot, dry spring in the following year gave us the incredible show we had in 2007.

Pest Alert - Rose Slug

What do rose slugs look like?

Rose slugs look more like caterpillars than slugs. They are the larvae of primitive wasps called sawflies. There are three species: the bristly rose slug (*Cladius difformis*), the European rose slug (*Endelomyia aethiops*), and the curled rose slug (*Allantus cinctus*).

What kind of damage do rose slugs do?

Young rose slugs turn rose leaves to skeletons, leaving a clear layer of



tissue that eventually turns brown. In addition to being unattractive, the damage also interferes with photosynthesis, thus possibly weakening the plant. Older larvae are larger and are able to chew on leaves, taking bites out of them, as a caterpillar would. Depending on the species, there can be one to many generations each year -- one for the European rose slug, at least two for the curled rose slug, and six for the bristly rose slug. With multiple generations

in a growing season, the plant damage escalates.

How best to manage their populations?

With small infestations simply remove the affected leaves and squash the larvae with your fingers. With slightly larger infestations use a course stream of water as you would to hose off aphids. Sawfly larvae are soft bodied and injured easily. With larger infestations you may need to spray the leaves thoroughly on both sides with insecticidal soap, neem, horticultural oil or if few beneficial insects are present and insecticide containing the botanical ingredient pyrethrin.



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