

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

*"By all these lovely tokens, September days are here, with summer's best of weather,
and autumn's best of cheer." — HELEN HUNT JACKSON*



MONTHLY MEETINGS

St. Mark's Anglican Church

12953 20th Avenue

7:00 pm, 4th Wednesday of
each month, except December
and August

NEWSLETTER

The *Garden Clippings*
newsletter is published six
times during the year:

January 15	July 15
March 15	September 15
May 15	November 15

Submissions from the
membership are welcome
and subject to editing.
Submissions must be non-
commercial in nature and
must be word-processed. A
style guide is available upon
request. The deadline is the
1st of the month, 2 weeks
prior to publication. Send
inquiries to: owg@shaw.ca.

WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

By Karen Ewing

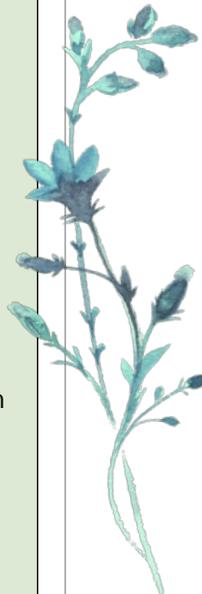
Hello everyone, and welcome to the September 2018 *Garden Clippings*! As the incoming President with the responsibility of providing a few words for each newsletter, I thought that I might take the opportunity to share with you more details about the people who make up our fabulous club. I've always been curious about the Master Gardener program, so I decided to research this amazing program for the first issue of the *Clippings* of my term.

HISTORY OF THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

According to the all-knowing and all-wise Google, the Master Gardener program was "founded in 1973 by Dr. David Gibby of the Washington State University Cooperative Extension in the greater Seattle area to meet a high demand for urban horticulture and gardening advice." Since that time, the Master Gardener program has spread across North America, and is now operational in eight Canadian provinces. I asked Christine Deagle, long-time SSGC member, for information about the program. Here's what I learned!

WHY DID CHRISTINE BECOME A MASTER GARDENER?

Christine told me she became a Master Gardener in 1995 because she wanted to learn more about all the different facets of gardening! She talked to me about how the courses allowed her to share her love of learning about gardening with others, and about the great benefit of joining a community of people who are learning together. She remarked that "I always tell people who are somehow impressed with the title that it means that I am qualified to be a volunteer! None of us claim to know everything, but we do have some knowledge that helps us sometimes make educated guesses, and we do know pretty well where to go or who to contact (often the real experts) to get the information that we need."



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SSGC EXECUTIVE 2018-19

Karen Ewing
President

Linda Stanley Wilson
Vice President

Lee Bolton Robinson
Past President

Pam Robertson
Secretary

Dorothy Brown
Treasurer

Kathy Starke
Program Coordinator

Susan Lockhart
**Communications &
Webmaster**

Lorna Fraser
Darts Hill Representative

Cindy Tataryn
Flower & Garden Show

Sharon Lawson
Library

Claude Hewitt
Logistics

Marilyn Bryson
Membership

Linda Stanley Wilson
Newsletter Editor

Carol Wong
Plant Sale Chair

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HOW QUALIFICATION IS EARNED

There are two programs—a Basic program and an Advanced program. The Basic training is comprised of a formal course that runs for 12 weeks, with an exam at the end. Assignments need to be completed throughout the course. It usually takes at least two years to finish the Basic course due to the required 70 hours of volunteer time that must be done to complete the program. The course focuses on basic botany, how to select and grow shrubs, trees, herbaceous perennials, and vegetables, pruning, soils, lawn care, integrated pest management, and how to identify pests and diseases. The Advanced program is for people who have completed the Basic program. It runs every two years, but only if enough people are interested. The Advanced program builds on the knowledge learned in the Basic program and includes hands-on time looking at insects and diseases through microscopes, as well as cutting up flowers from some of the major plant families in an effort to understand why they have been assigned to a particular plant family. In order to maintain a Master Gardeners' qualification, volunteer time must be completed each year.

NUMBER OF MASTER GARDENERS IN THE SSGC LAST YEAR

Thirty!

WHO ORGANIZES THE MASTER GARDENERS FOR THE SSGC CLUB MEETINGS?

This year, Christine Deagle is organizing the Master Gardeners for each of our meetings. Make sure you visit the Master Gardener table with your questions—these intrepid learners are a tremendous source of information on many topics, be it pests, soil, plants or pruning!

GREETERS

To welcome our new members and guests, we have a friendly Greeters Program. Our Greeters stand by the door before the meeting commences and welcome new people to our club. Greeters introduce newbies and guests to a few seasoned members and give them a quick tour of our library, Master Gardeners table, and Programs area. If you are interested in becoming a Greeter, please talk to Lee Bolton Robinson, who will be organizing the volunteers this year. You can contact Lee at leebolton@telus.net.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dick Logie, Ernie Gray, &
Bryan Williams

Set-up

Ruth Sebastian

Goodies Coordinator

Carole Wood

Door Prize

Freddie Whiting

Audio Visual

Claude Hewitt

Lost & Found

Monthly Plant Sale

(Table Reservations)

Christine Deagle

Master Gardeners' Desk

Carol Wong

Sunshine Gardeners

Darts Hill Weeders

Plant Sale Committee

Kathy Starke

Open Gardens Coordinator

Linda Stanley Wilson

Phoning Committee

Sunshine Greetings

Note: If you know someone in need of a little sunshine, please contact Linda.

Lee Bolton Robinson

Awards

Nominating Committee

Greeters

Parents, Peace Arch Cubs

Clean-up

September Newsletter:

Linda Stanley Wilson, Pam
Robertson, Joan Galloway,
Lucina Perkin

SHOW WHAT YOU GROW

By Cindy Tataryn and Gillian Roberts

We love to see what's growing in your garden. The Grow and Show table is set up in the back of the hall for each meeting. We would like to encourage all members to bring in their garden treasures to share with other members. (Label plants when possible.)

SEPTEMBER

- ✦ Any Fruits
- ✦ Any Vegetables
- ✦ Dahlia
- ✦ Gladiola
- ✦ Perennial Hibiscus or Rose of Sharon
- ✦ Anything of interest from your garden that you would like to share
- ✦ Floral Design of your choice: *Sweet & Simple*

OCTOBER

- ✦ Any Fruits or Nuts
- ✦ Any Vegetables
- ✦ Onion
- ✦ Potatoes
- ✦ Pumpkin
- ✦ Squash or Gourd
- ✦ Perennial Aster
- ✦ Anything of interest from your garden that you would like to share
- ✦ Floral Design of your choice: *Halloween*

I have been asked by the Program Committee to make inquiries to see how many members would like to participate in a series of floral design workshops. It's easier than it looks and it is a perfect way to bring a little sunshine into your home during a drab winter day! Workshops are open to all members. The plant material can be home grown, purchased, or collected during a walk.

Please contact Cindy at ctataryn@telus.net or phone 604-585-6786 to have your name put on the list. I'm afraid my schedule won't allow the workshops to start until after October, but I do need to know if there is enough interest to organize instructors and book a venue. Please contact me before October 1st.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our club thrives when volunteers step into key roles, but there are a lot of background volunteer positions as well. Volunteering is a great way to get to know other members and to learn more about gardening. As we start our new garden club year, please consider the following volunteer opportunities. Many of these are perfect for newer members!

SUNSHINE GARDENERS

This group of volunteers offers short term gardening assistance to Club members who are in need. This may be for a variety of reasons such as health issues, a death in the family, or an accident. The volunteers work in small groups for two hours on a pre-arranged day. An email is sent out to the volunteers and if you are available, you reply to it. There is no minimum time commitment, you come when you can.

DARTS HILL WEEDERS

Small groups of volunteers go to Darts Hill Garden Park on a pre-arranged day and work in "our" bed (Bed 25) for two hours. You choose the days and time, then sign up on the calendar at the beginning of the season—usually mid-March, when we have a group work party/potluck lunch.

For more information about Sunshine Gardeners and/or Darts Hill Weeders, please contact Carol Wong at cmillerwong@gmail.com. Sign up sheets will be available at the meeting in September.

FOOD BANK GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

The South Surrey Food Bank has three gardens in which vegetable are grown for distribution. We work from mid-March to mid-September. Volunteers help with bed preparation, planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. Once again, no minimum time commitment is required although there is usually one two-hour work day per week. For more information, contact Pat Logie at logierp@shaw.ca.

2019 PLANT SALE TEAM

The Plant Sale team is already starting to organize for our 2019 sale. Are you interested in being part of the organizing team? We hope to encourage newer members to join in on one of the areas listed below to gain some experience, with the idea of heading up that area in the future. We're also still looking for a couple of individuals who would like to oversee the Previously Loved Tools section. We'd love to show you the ropes! Contact Carol Wong at cmillerwong@shaw.ca.

Carol Wong	Chair (looking for a Co-Chair!)
Colleen Martin	Revenue Building
Gwen Odermatt	Propagation
Christine Deagle	Plants
Brenda Woosnam	Volunteers
Claude Hewitt	Logistics
Linda Stanley Wilson	Publicity

PROGRAM COMMITTEE ASSISTANT

The Program Committee is a great team of volunteers who plan all of our speakers and many of our excursions. Kathy Starke is taking over as Chair this year, but the committee still needs an Assistant Chair. If you are interested in this position, please contact Kathy Starke at kathystarke@shaw.ca.

Are you aware that the club has an online discussion group? This is a great place to pose garden questions or announce events that would be of interest to our membership. If you are interested or would like to join, contact Linda at ssgcdiscussion@gmail.com.

SURREY SEED LIBRARY—OCEAN PARK LIBRARY

Come to the Seed Library Sept. 15 at 10:30 am. Donna Lawson will demonstrate how to make a wonderful flower arrangement using seed pods. At 11:30 am, the Library will be open for anyone who would like free seeds for their gardens.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

SEPTEMBER: JANIS MATSON DESIGNING WITH AUTUMN IN MIND

Our September speaker, Janis Matson, will be sharing her thinking process when she designs



Janis Matson

garden spaces with fall colours in mind. Fall foliage, berries, and bulbs provide a wealth of possibilities, as does the movement of birds, bees, and small animals. She considers how shadows, reflection, colours, texture, and movement interplay in the creative design process.

Janis grew up in Burnaby and has long been a nature and plant lover. She enjoys the challenge of making garden spaces look and feel good and has worked in the horticultural industry for almost 30 years, incorporating her creative perspective and enthusiastic approach in her projects.

Previously, she worked for Murray Nurseries and is currently the owner/operator of Shoreline Landscape Design Ltd., where she has been for over 24 years. In addition, she teaches at Kwantlan Polytechnic University, for Burnaby Community Education, and at Van Dusen.

OCTOBER: DIANNE GAINES WHAT'S NEW IN SPRING FLOWERING BULBS FEATURING POLLINATOR FRIENDLIES

Dianne's first recollection of gardening was, at the early age of four, sitting by her mother's side helping to plant pea seeds in the spring and later picking the delicious pea pods. At a young age she learned the importance of gardening and began to understand that being a gardener is more than a hobby, it is a way of life. Her family encouraged her thirst for gardening by building her first greenhouse when she was still

in early grade school. In the mid-1980s, she joined the Langley Garden Club with her mother. It was great to find a place where people could share their love and passion for gardening. When it came time for university, Dianne's passion for plants pushed her into a major in microbiology with a minor in botany.

For work, she was fortunate enough to join the team at Van Noort Bulb Company, where she has worked for over 20 years in a number of capacities. She feels truly blessed to be able to work in an environment where her gardening passion is encouraged and allowed to grow. See www.vannoortbulb.com for more details.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE OCTOBER TOUR

The Program Committee has organized a tour of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden in Vancouver. The tour will be Thursday, October 11, from 10-11:30 am. The cost will be \$9.50 per member, payable at the garden that day. Our tour guides, Hayne and Bob, have offered to take us for a dim sum lunch in Chinatown following the tour. Hayne will order for us, and each member will pay for their portion of the lunch. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting for the tour. There will also be a sign-up for the lunch, which is optional.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

Nov.: Gwen Odermatt, social evening follows

Jan.: Douglas Justice, UBC

Feb.: Cedar Rim, the latest special plants

March: David Sellars, rock and alpine gardening

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete your membership renewal by using the form on the last page of the newsletter. Bring the completed form and your membership cheque to our September meeting or mail it in to our Membership Chair, Marilyn Bryson. Make your cheque payable to the South Surrey Garden Club.

LIBRARY NEWS

By Sharon Lawson

The Art of Creative Pruning by Jake Hobson is a new book that will be available at the September 2018 meeting. It is filled with information on how to train and shape trees and shrubs. This type of look may not suit everyone's taste, but if you want a true conversation piece in your garden, this is the book for you. Not only does it describe how to accomplish each look, it also provides many examples from gardens all over the world.

Learn the difference between topiary and cloud pruning and the meaning of pollarding and pleaching! The book illustrates many different styles of hedges, including double and triple hedges. There are also examples of several types of arches from around the world. There is a small section on the pruning of fruit trees and one on coppicing, which is used to encourage growth for use in basket making.



The Japanese concepts of *niwaki* (trees that have trained branches) and *tamazukuri* (thinned and/or clipped trees and shrubs) are explained. Training of tree branches is taken to the extreme when done to trees used over a gate or driveway into a property. This style is called *monkaburi*.

The book is full of very good quality pictures of examples of all types of pruning from Belgium, England, France, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, the Netherlands, the USA and Wales. After browsing through this book you too may want to try one of these methods on an existing or newly purchased plant. A formally pruned plant can be a resting point for the eyes in a mostly informal garden.

UNIQUE COMPOST

By Sharon Lawson

Over the past several years, many of our members have purchased Unique Compost from Cors de Lindt. He would come early to our meetings, sell it out of the back of his truck, and was always willing to help load it into members' cars. Unfortunately Cors has developed some health issues that prevent him from carrying on with his compost business.

Another farm is producing this product but unless we place an order of 100 bags the owners will not deliver. This would be an onerous task for someone to organize, however the product is available for pick up by appointment. The bags are 30 litres each and cost \$7.50 (Cors charged \$8.00 for a 40-litre bag) and are now called Go Green Compost.

Gelderman Farms: www.geldermanfarms.ca

Business phone: 604-864-9096

Nathan Gelderman cell phone: 604-557-8684

Address: 35805 Vye Road, Abbotsford

Again, pick up is by appointment so you must contact them first and arrange a time. At this time, we are looking into the viability of making this product available at the next SSGC Plant Sale.

IN THE COMMUNITY

We'll be out at Stewart Farmhouse again to publicize our club. This time, it's the Olde Harvest Fair on September 22nd at the Historic Stewart Farmhouse, 13723 Crescent Road, from 11 am until 3pm. There will be live music, dancing, warm apple cider, and, of course, our volunteers. Drop by with your family and/or grandkids for a trip back to 1888: potato sack races, scarecrow relay, needle in a haystack, butter making, cider pressing, and more.

NATURALISTIC GARDENING—IS IT FOR YOU?

By Joan Galloway

Years ago, before I moved to gardening paradise (i.e. South Surrey), some new neighbours moved in next door. They came over and introduced themselves, said admiring things about my garden, and then informed me that they liked their property to be “natural.” Over the next few years their back yard became an impenetrable jungle, their deck rotted and fell off the house, morning glory crept under and over the fence, bamboo escaped and began shooting up in my hedge, the grass was two feet high, and my children came to refer to the property line as “the weed line.” Is this what is meant by naturalistic gardening? I hope not!

Any form of gardening is, by definition, an interference with the natural. Traditional gardening is all about controlling nature. This reflects the traditional thinking that humans are the supreme beings in the world and that nature exists only to be tamed and exploited by them. Today we are more of the philosophy that humans should coexist and co-operate with nature. So how does that change in philosophy translate to gardening?

Traditional English and European garden designs suit large estates with an army of skilled labour to look after them. There are wide expanses of billiard-table lawn with perfectly cut edges. Woody plants are strictly prevented from outgrowing their spaces by annual pruning, frequent shearing, or even pollarding. Herbaceous border plants are strictly ranked by height. In colourist borders such as the English Country garden, flower colour is carefully orchestrated and takes precedence over foliage and form. All that control takes immense skill and a huge amount of work. Today most of us do our own garden work and hired labour is often unskilled

but always expensive, so we need to create gardens that don't need so much input from us.

The opposite extreme to the ornate formal garden is the minimalist school of design, which emphasizes clean, straight lines, rectangular shaped beds and water features, hard stone or metal edges, and mass plantings of a minimal number of plants. Minimalist gardens are often impressive and stimulating. I stand and admire, but I don't feel any urge to walk in, flop down, and be surrounded by these gardens. I might knock something out of place or dislodge some dirt onto those clean walls or paths. I feel constrained; I keep my elbows in. I could never be that tidy—I feel guilty and inadequate. If a plant dies, the symmetry is spoiled. The furniture is beautifully designed and perfectly aligned but is often rigid and uncomfortable or so flimsy I'm afraid it will break if I sit on it.

Newer designs have attempted to modify the rigidity of both traditional and minimalist presentations by retaining the controlled perimeters of traditional clipped hedges or modern straight and hard edges but making the plantings within them loose and wild looking. We are told this is brilliantly inspired design contrast. Is it—or is it a contrived, confused mishmash? The answer to that question may be different for different people. The key to finding your personal answer to any garden design question is to ask yourself, “How does looking at that garden make me feel?” I've come to realize that there is no right or wrong to garden styles, it's all about whether a garden makes you feel happy when you're in it.

Looking at formal or obviously artificial gardens may create interest, charm, stimulation, or even awe in the observer. Some people feel secure and at home when all is in perfect order. But for

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many people these formal settings lack a sense of comfort or welcome. By contrast, we know that being in a natural woodland environment tends to make people relax; it lowers blood pressure and stress levels. It feels like a private escape from the world, creating a sense of serenity, peace, and rest. Naturalistic gardening seeks to recreate such an environment even in a small space by adopting the same principles that govern a natural setting. In nature there are rarely any straight lines. There is no orderly progress from edging to tall plants; instead there are irregular layers from the tall canopy of trees to the ruffled understory of shrubs and tall perennials to midlevel perennials and dwarf shrubs to the carpet of groundcovers punctuated by drifts or clumps of seasonal bulbs. Vines may lace everything together. Your eye is drawn up to the sky and back down to earth. Everything fills in. What grows is what suits the site, the sun, the soil, and the moisture so neighbours are plants with similar preferences, i.e. the right plants in the right places. There is a balance between open spaces and vegetated spaces, i.e. there are clearings in the woods. It's a living space that draws us in and invites us to sit down, relax, and discover nature.

So how can we recreate the feeling of such an environment when we don't have acres of woodland, meadows, and parks to deal with? We start with framing the space to create a sense of privacy and enclosure. This is usually accomplished with trees, often conifers, that are unclipped and soft. If a hedge is needed, a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees (which can be columnar or fastigiate for small gardens) creates a natural-looking "tapestry" hedge. There are no hard edges. If a fence or rock wall is necessary, it can be softened by draping plants over it. Lawn is less important, replaced by stone, gravel, or bark clearings, paths, and seating areas. Lines are based on gentle curves. The canopy and understory plantings are built up in ruffled,

irregular tiers, not stiff formal steps. Plants are chosen that won't outgrow their positions and have a handsome natural shape without extensive trimming or clipping. Plants are placed where their natural shape, height and mass suit the space, considering also colour, texture, flowers, and foliage. The whole picture creates a simple, uncluttered, harmonious balance that flows through the space. Different plants take starring roles at different times and seasons. And always, plants are placed in spots that suit their needs, which should insure that they will thrive and get along with their neighbours without a lot of intervention from you. Besides being beautiful, this should all make for less work for the gardener.

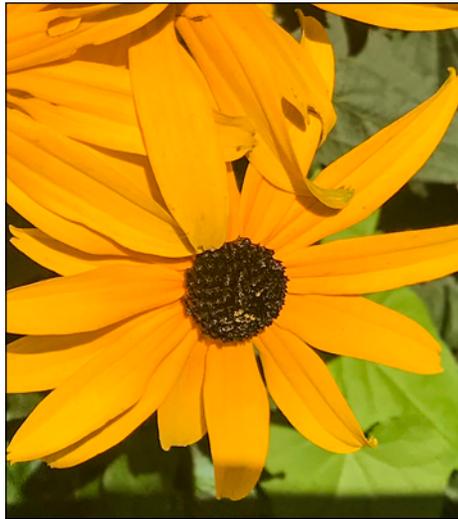
Of course, all this naturalness doesn't happen on its own. In nature plants usually put themselves in the best spots for them but in your garden those spots may be less than optimal for your design. or too much. (Especially with self-seeders!) To achieve that magical, harmonious balance requires ruthless editing, rearranging, and experimenting. As one long-time gardener said, "All perennials should come with wheels and preferably their own holes." But that's the fun and creative part of making a garden—there is room for error and for serendipity. That's how we learn about our plants, evolve our own tastes, and make our own pleasure. In the end we will have a naturalistic garden that is a place not of numbing perfection but of joyful discovery.

My inspiration for this piece comes from the wonderful book *Naturalistic Gardening* (Sasquatch Books, Seattle, 1998), by that guru of Pacific Northwest gardening, Ann Lovejoy. I have shamelessly poached some of her ideas and concepts and added them to my own.

QUICK SHOUT OUT—THANKS BAKERS!

Thank you to our bakers who provided treats for the July meeting. Looking forward to September's goodies! Well done: Marion Anderson, Linda and Len Could, Jenny Lease, Betty Lou Douglas, and Marty Avery.

SEPTEMBER FLOWERS



Photos by Linda Stanley Wilson

South Surrey Garden Club

2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



Please submit to:
 South Surrey Garden Club
 Marilyn Bryson
 1502 133A St,
 Surrey, BC V4A 6A4

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Membership # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postcode: _____ Date: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Annual Membership Dues: \$35 per Member No. of Members ____ = \$ _____ Cash / Cheque
 (Cheque payable to South Surrey Garden Club)

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

For which of the following committees/activities would you like to volunteer? Descriptions of each are provided on the SSGC website at southsurreygardenclub.ca.

Some committees often have a full slate of volunteers, but you will be contacted if there are any openings.

<input type="checkbox"/> Darts Hill Weeders	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower & Garden Show Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower & Garden Show Help
<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Tips Presentations	<input type="checkbox"/> Goodies for Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Logistics & A/V Team	<input type="checkbox"/> Member Greeter	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Registration Help
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Door Prize Buyer	<input type="checkbox"/> Phoning Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale Propagator/Help	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Question Table (MGs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker Introductions	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine Garden Help	<input type="checkbox"/> Website/Communications
	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Position (see website)	
Newsletter Team		
<input type="checkbox"/> Articles / Interviews	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Proof Reader

- I do not have email and would like the Newsletter sent to me by mail.
- I consent to the collection of my contact information by SSGC for the purpose of notifying me of club activities and organizing volunteers.
- I consent to having my contact information available to other club members of the SSGC through the password protected member directory on the club website, for the purpose of conducting club business
- I consent to the receiving of emails from SSGC with regard to membership, meeting notices and club business.

I agree that I will use the personal contact information on the SSGC website under conditions outlined above and will not disclose contact information of club members to non-club members. _____

Signature

Revised August 13, 2018