



Aquilegia Foromosa
Photo by Anne Hansen

Native Plant Study Group

September 2010

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Liliium Columbianum
Photo by Anne Hansen

Residential Rain Gardens, Bringing Low Impact Development Home

By Joy Finlay

Lise Townsend of Greenway Consulting was our May speaker. She shared several approaches on how we can restore natural water cycles by using rain gardens, an example of low impact development. She also explained the basics of rain garden design and suggested which plants may be used and how all of this contributes to biodiversity.

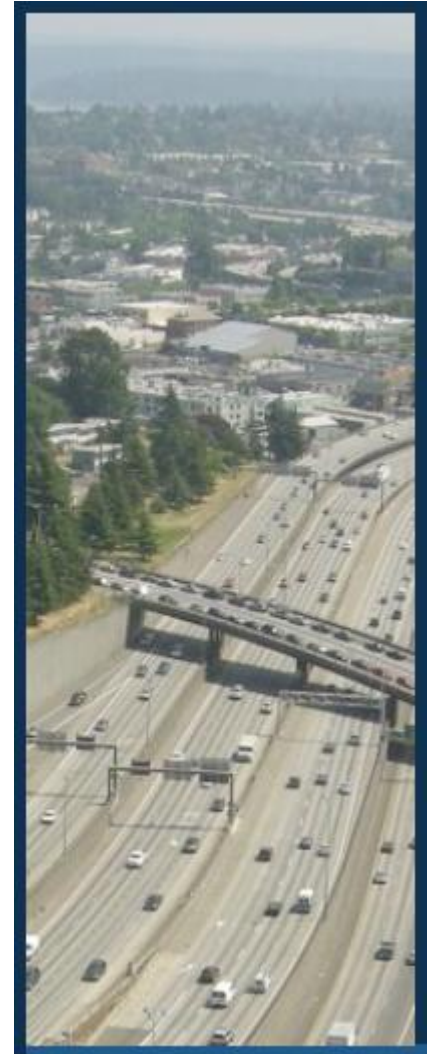
Having completed a Master's thesis at UVic, focusing on degradation of watersheds, Lise posed questions about the way our city operates, i.e. do we need bigger pipes or different strategies? The Swan Lake watershed in 1858 was like a sponge. Now, 25 per cent of the surface of the watershed is impervious to water. With a disconnect-with-nature mentality, the focus has been on getting the water off the land as soon as possible, using speed channels to prevent flooding and other techniques that change where and how the water moves.

Low impact development, in contrast, employs strategies for small-scale storm water controls at the subdivision level, such as bio retention (a.k.a. rain gardens), green roofs and permeable pavement, and is mindful of pre-development plant-soil systems.

A 45-page Handbook for Western Washington for Home Owners is available on Google. As Lise explained and the handbook states, rain gardens are simply shallow depressions that allow storm run-off from roofs, driveways, patios, etc. to slowly soak into the soil. They are not wetlands where water remains. The handbook shows how to design, build and maintain beautiful rain gardens. The key principles are not to build ponds or mosquito factories, but small decentralized overflow systems, taking into consideration proximity to steep slopes, buildings and septic fields. One half inch per hour is good drainage.

Lise concluded her talk by showing us how she is in the process of growing nodding onions, wooly sunflowers and other plants in 10 centimetres of soil on her own garage roof. She also recommended taking a look at the waterway at the Dockside development. With her can-do approach, we should be on our way to a new paradigm: celebrating water.

As I write this synopsis of Lise's presentation, I recall how we as kids used to jump into the rain barrel to cool off on a hot summer day. Our disconnect with this kind of low impact activity has certainly grown in today's urban environment – but at our house we still have rain barrels, screened of course.



Impervious surfaces
Photo from Lise Townsend's presentation



Native Plant Nurseries in Victoria



Cannor Nurseries 4660 Elk Lake Drive 250-658-5415 www.cannor.com	GardenWorks-Colwood 1859 Island Highway 250-478-2078 www.gardenworks.ca
GardenWorks-Saanich 4290 Blenkinsop Rd 250-721-2140 www.gardenworks.ca	Island View Nursery (wholesale) 2933 McIntyre Road 250-544-4802
Lochside Nursery Lochside Drive 250-544-3100 www.csl.ca/lochside.html	Marigold Nurseries 7874 Lochside Drive 250-652-2342 www.marigoldnurseries.com
Thousand Summers Environmental Design 250-727-0229 thousandsummers@shaw.ca	Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary 250-479-0211 www.swanlake.bc.ca
Nature's Garden Seed Co. Victoria, BC V8P 5S2 2	Russell Nursery 1370 Wain Road 250-656-0384 www.russellnursery.com
Nursery information found at : www.naturesgardenseed.com	



Lonicera involucrata
 Photo from Picasa Web Albums
 Part of the Rain Garden Plant List provided

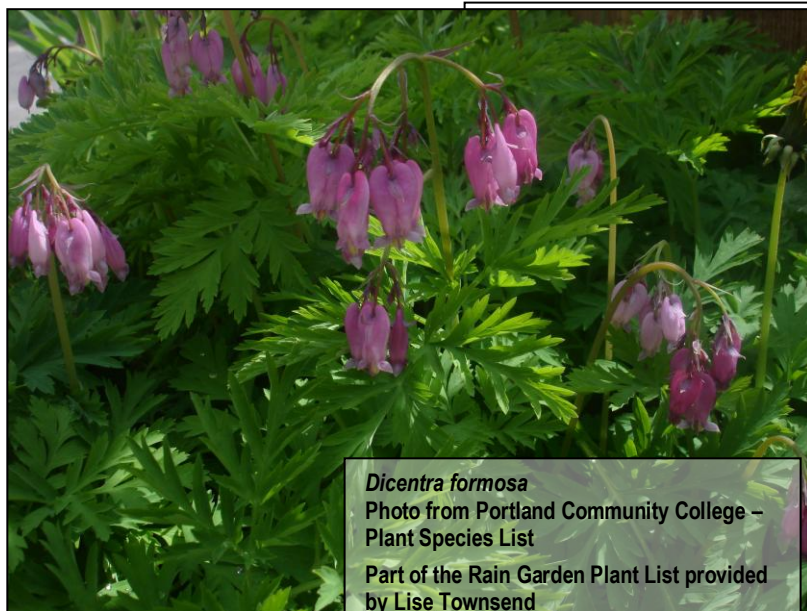
The Native Plant Study Group meets on the third Thursday of the month from September through May at the MacLaurin Building, UVic.

Please join us!

The NPSG gratefully acknowledges the support of the Restoration of Natural Systems (RNS) program at UVic in securing the use of the rooms and facilities.

UVic parking policy--pay parking is in effect 24 hours a day. You must purchase a \$2 parking permit for the evening.

Save yourself the trouble by riding your bike or taking the bus!
 (<http://www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/>)



Dicentra formosa
 Photo from Portland Community College - Plant Species List
 Part of the Rain Garden Plant List provided by Lise Townsend

provided



Rhamnus purshiana
Photo from US Forest
Service

Volunteer Opportunities

The Anti-Ivy League of Cadboro Bay

Seapoint Dr., Saanich

Volunteer for great camaraderie, loads of fun and a feeling of satisfaction. Start up early March and finish about early November.

Location & Time:

Konukson Park on 10-Mile Point every Wed. and Sat. from 9am-12pm

Contact Harry Drage | T: 250-477-9544 | hdrage@shaw.ca

Brodick/Bow Park

West of Univ. Heights shopping centre off of Cedar Hill Rd

Invasive species removal and site restoration. Training and tools provided.

Location & Time:

Schedule and location may vary every Mon. 10-12pm

Contact Judy Spearing | T: 250-472-0515 | jandd_spearing@shaw.ca | www.mountdouglaspark.ca/calendare.do

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary:

3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria

Swan Lake has a wide range of volunteer opportunities involving plants: nature interpretation, gardening with native plants, and removal of invasive plants.

Contact Robyn Burton T: 250-479-0211 | volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca

Glendale Gardens Native Plant Demonstration
Garden:

505 Quayle Road, Saanich

Snow, rain or shine! Before coffee we work in the Western Woods restoration project and after coffee we work in the native garden. Volunteers welcome.

Time:

Every Wednesday morning

Contact | T: 250-658-5740

*For all VNHS events: No pets please.
Bring a lunch and drinks for the all-day
outings.*

Wear appropriate attire and footwear.

Contact Agnes | 250-721-0634 | thelynns@shaw.ca | www.vicnhs.bc.ca



Salix hookeriana

Photo by Derrick Ditchburn

Part of the Rain Garden Plant List provided
by Lise Townsend



Events and Outings

City of Victoria Parks Workshops

Saturday, September 18 Remarkable and Rare - Cultivated Trees of Beacon Hill Park

Join a City of Victoria environmental expert and a certified arborist for a free interpretive tour of rare and exotic trees in Beacon Hill Park. Rain or shine. Registration is not required.

Location & Time:

Beacon Hill Petting Zoo @ 10 a.m.

Organic Gardening and Lawn Care

Saturday, September 18

Learn to work with natural processes to create a healthy and vibrant landscape

Location & Time:

Pearkes Recreation Centre
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Carolyn Herriot

Saturday, September 18 Don't Panic, Grow Organic

Carolyn Herriot's garden is testimony to the fact that you can have a beautiful and healthy landscape without using products that are harmful to nature or wildlife. Come and discover some simple natural techniques to keep your garden in balance, allowing Mother Nature to take over, while you enjoy the benefits.

Location & Time:

Pearkes Recreation Centre
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Linda Gilkeson

Saturday, September 18 Life After Pesticides: Beautiful Yards and Healthy Gardens

Dr. Linda Gilkeson will give an illustrated talk on how to have lovely yards, food gardens, and lawns, without resorting to herbicides or other pesticides. She will change how you think about dealing with weeds, insects, and other pests with her emphasis on prevention and low-cost, simple methods. She shows why it is essential to correctly identify pests, how to know when to treat and the right way to use organic treatments.

Location & Time:

Pearkes Recreation Centre
1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Contact T: 250-475-5579 |
Darren.Copley@Saanich.ca

Gorge Waterway Cleanup

Saturday, September 18 Invitation to the Gorge Waterway Cleanup

Please help promote this event by posting this information and forwarding it to your networks. Participating in The Gorge Waterway Cleanup is a great way to make a difference to our local environment. Each year, more than two tonnes of debris is retrieved from the Gorge shoreline and waters. The result is an improved habitat for local wildlife and a more beautiful area for people to enjoy.

Event headquarters will be set-up at two locations: Waterfront Crescent near the Galloping Goose Trail (follow the signs) & Gorge Park. Volunteers will clean sections of the Gorge Waterway from the Bay St. Bridge to the Tillicum St.

Bridge.

Location & Time:

Meet beside Selkirk Green Park
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Contact Gillian Rowan | T: 250-388-5251 | rec-bgca@shaw.ca

Swan Lake Nature House

Thursday, September 30 An Evening with Tea: Exploring Native Plant Teas

Learn how to make your own herbal teas using native plants with Silk Road Tea's owner and Tea Master in residence, Daniela Cubelic. Co-presenter June Pretzer describes the ease and gratification in selecting, planting and harvesting native plants for teas and even jams! Find out which native plants you can grow in your own garden, as well as how to use them on their own, or combine them to make some wonderful and healthful teas!

Location & Time:

Swan Lake Nature House
7 to 8:30 p.m.
\$30 per person

Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS)

Tuesday, September 21 Botany Night - Some Interesting Ferns and "Fern Allies" of British Columbia.

There are several puzzles among the more than 100 species of British Columbia ferns and fern allies, and some taxonomical problems have been swept under the carpet. Adolf & Oluna Ceska will try to expose some of them. You might be surprised that even the



Events & Outings Cont'd

most common BC ferns hide some deep secrets.

Location & Time:

Swan Lake Nature House @ 7:30 p.m.
Admission is free and everyone is welcome.
Bring a friend!

Glendale Gardens

Saturday, November 20

Introduction to Basketry using Northwest Materials

This workshop with Joan Carrigan will introduce participants to weaving with western red cedar bark, west coast sweetgrass, willow bark and beargrass. Joan will cover harvesting and preparation, weaving patterns including regular and reverse twining, twill weave and x-lashing. The materials are easy to work with and participants will enjoy their lovely baskets for years to come.

Location & Time:

Glendale Gardens and Woodlands
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Jane Tice | T: 250-479-6162

Reoccurring Events

Victoria Natural History Society
Botany Night

3rd Tuesday of each month

Go to www.vicnhs.bc.ca to become a member and support our local Natural History Society!

Location & Time

Swan Lake Nature Centre at 7:30pm

Contact| Darren Copley| [dccopley\(at\)telus.net](mailto:dccopley(at)telus.net)
<http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca/>



Linnaea borealis

Photo by Henripekka Kallion

Part of the Rain Garden Plant List provided by
Lise Townsend

This Week...

The Native Plant Study Group presents:

"Boss Mosses: Moss Landscapes of Southern Vancouver Island" with Kem Luther

Contrary to what many believe, it is easy to recognize the most common mosses of our area without a microscope and, in most cases, without a hand lens. Kem's slides of forest and urban mosses will provide identification tricks to help us recognize 95 per cent of the mosses we see on a typical walk. Learn about the fascinating lives of our local mosses and what they contribute to the local ecosystem.



To make best use of our short announcement time, co-chairs will make NPSG announcements.

Notices of other events can be made by writing announcements on the blackboard or taping email messages to the wall. Arrive early to make sure everyone has a chance to read about your events during our break.



Maianthemum dilatatum
Photo by Michelle Margroff

Part of the Rain Garden Plant List provided by Lise Townsend

NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP (NPSG)

(Sub-group of the registered non-profit Native Plant Society of British Columbia and is guided by a steering committee)

The NPSG is a non-political group dedicated to learning about B.C. native plants as wild populations and in garden settings, and to supporting conservation of native plants and their habitats. Participation in outside events, by the group, or by individual members, using the NPSG name is dependent on approval of the steering committee or, where indicated, by the at-large membership. Activities requiring funding must receive approval by the general membership.

Co-Chair:	Valerie Elliott T: 519-0404 co-chair@npsg.ca
Co-Chair:	Nathalie Dechaine T: 380-1696 co-chair@npsg.ca
Speakers:	Kristen Harrison kristen(at)uvic.ca
Treasurer:	Joan Varley T: 658-4689 two.wild(at)telus.net
Newsletter:	Ilana Kronick T: 589-3804 ilanakronick(at)yahoo.com Kristen Harrison kristen(at)uvic.ca Hilary Stead hstead(at)hotmail.com
Plant Salvage Coordinator:	Todd Doherty T: 388-9101 toddco(at)hotmail.com
Membership:	Agnes Lynn T: 721-0634 thelynns(at)shaw.ca
Publicity:	Valerie Elliott T: 519-0404 elliot(at)id2.ca
Room Set-up:	Pat & Wayne Robertson T: 479-4271 pwrobertson(at)shaw.ca
Plant Draw:	Heather Pass T: 479-4175 khpass(at)island.net
List-serve:	Linda Beare & John Olafson T: 658-8993 halcylon(at)telus.net
Refreshments:	Pat McMahon T: 381-3544 pmminvic(at)shaw.ca
Archivist:	Brenda Pilon T: 380-6845 brendapilon(at)shaw.ca
Sustaining Supporters Liaise:	Christine Nykiforuk
NPSBC Liaise:	Moralea Milne

Native Plant Study Group members are members of the Native Plant Society of BC.