

MAY 2011



Abundance

by Pat Johnston

I met Pat Boyle when she and Neil first moved to Victoria. How lucky I was that she was my first client as a Native Plant Gardening Consultant. What I remember most about Pat is her energy. She had an abundance of it. Not only did she design her native garden for their new home, she planted it. For those who have visited Pat and Neil's garden you will know that the native garden is situated on a steep slope down to Gonzales Bay beach. It's not an easy property to garden. Their property was originally occupied by rental cabins and loads of debris had to be discarded from the site before garden work could be started. Pat did most of the work herself, as well as removing invasive species on the site. Then once she had cleared the site, had it bulldozed the way she wanted, Pat planted the entire south slope down to the beach in December! I was stunned by how much hard work she had done in such a short period of time. Of course, the results were breathtaking!

con't...



NATIVE PLANT
STUDY GROUP

Our Gratitude and Farewell to Our Friend, Pat Boyle

This newsletter we reflect on member Pat Boyle. We celebrate her life's contributions and the passion she had for protecting the health of our planet and all that lives within it.



Prairie Violet *image: Agnes Lynn*

Pat had an enormous talent for design and before moving to Victoria had created gardens that were featured in magazines. Once she moved to Victoria her passion for native flora and ecosystems blossomed. She spent many hours not only keeping her own garden looking smashing, she also helped create, manage and maintain other public and private native gardens. These gardens will continue to inspire people to get to know and grow native species and care for Garry oak ecosystems.

I also remember Pat's enthusiasm for her grandchildren. Whenever we spoke during the past few years she raved about her granddaughter, and then her new grandson. She loved them dearly.

What a loss Pat is to her family, friends and the community.



image: Karen Cummins

"Today, like every other day, we wake up empty and frightened. Don't open the door to the study and begin reading. Take down a musical instrument. Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground."

Fond Memories

by Brenda Pilon

- Vouching for me when I had no ID with me but wanted to write a cheque at the Swan Lake native plant sale – even though she probably only knew my face and not my name.
- Calling my husband Chuck my "Sherpa" as he packed around my purchases.
- Garden tour: Pat's beautiful garden and obvious passion about native plants and the environment.
- Idea to use metal flashing as a root barrier
- Her sincere, smiling energy.



Salmonberry image: Agnes Lynn

A Garden by the Beach

by Valerie Elliott

I had just become NPSG co-chair when my best friend John was asked by his sister to housesit at a house on Gonzales Beach. John knew I'd be interested in the incredible garden and invited me over to the garden for a visit. Incredible, beautiful, breathtaking, inspirational... all these words come to mind as I remember how excited I was to see native plants so skillfully and intuitively placed, as if nature had planted them herself. It would be another year or so before I met Pat. I admitted being a secret admirer of her garden and wishing to emulate its success. As we talked, Pat shared her stories about how educating her neighbours was also part of this success. Pat encouraged me to be vigilant with my "challenging" neighbours so they too one day might understand the importance of native plants and their habitats. Agnes Lynn tells me that the City was so supportive of the strip of planted garden along the City pathway down to Gonzales Beach beside her house that they even provided a sign.

I am most grateful for the time I spent with Pat. She always gave more than she took. She thought of others before herself and she exuded a playfulness about life that was contagious. The planet has truly lost one of its greatest and sincerest stewards.

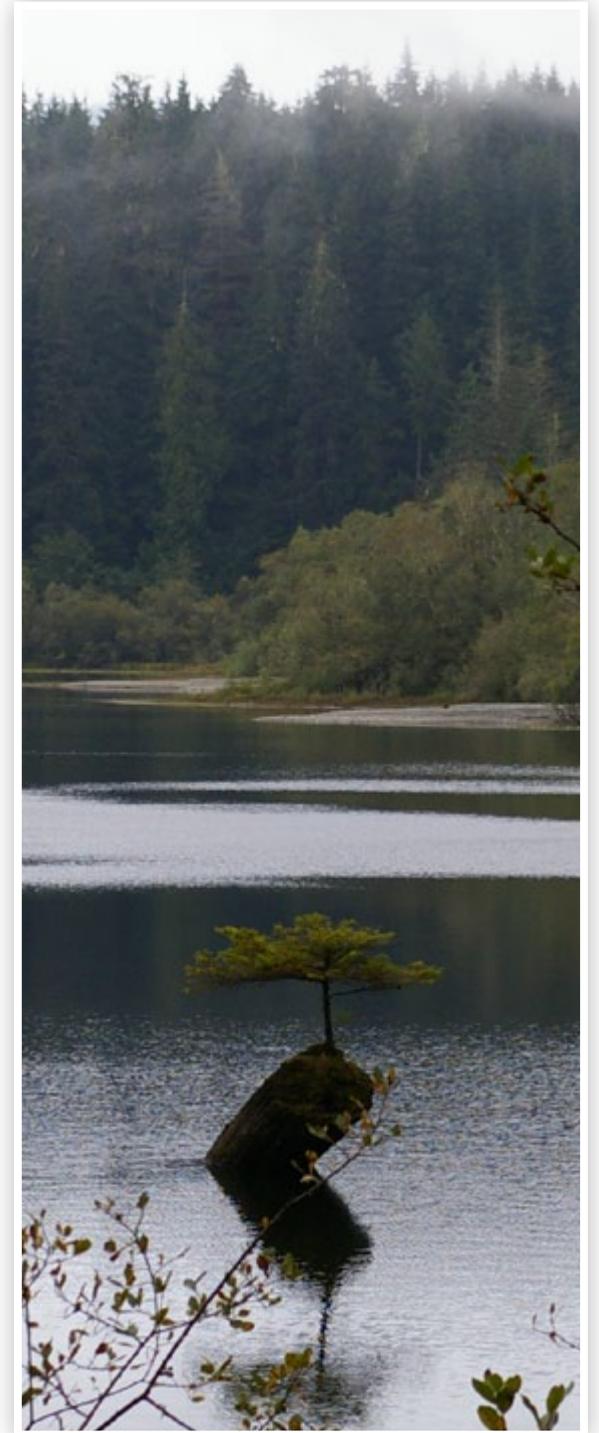


image: Todd Doherty

ONE FOR ALL

by Nathalie Dechaine

We had a special treat for April's NPSG meeting; three of our very own members shared their experiences in their native plant study pursuits! Jennie Sutton gave us some tips and tricks about **Turning Your Lawn into a Native Plant Garden**. Todd Doherty started in his native plant garden in his yard but then grew into the adjacent landscape and presented on **Restoring a Community Boulevard**. Agnes Lynn wrapped things up with **Local Wildflowers**, sharing her favourite names and stories through a presentation in order of blooming times.

Turning your lawn into a native plant garden with Jennie Sutton

Article by Nathalie Dechaine

When Jennie first bought her house in 2001 and was faced with dealing with a neglected lawn, she was tempted by a solution that required little maintenance and watering. She contacted Pat Johnston to help her work out what a native plant garden might have to offer. In early 2007, Jennie also hired a landscaping consultant to develop a plan with three berms. Next, she worked with Pat again to decide what to plant and decided on mostly native and some other varieties of drought-resistant plants.

Once the plans were set, she hired a friend to do



the "grunt" work. Over the next few weeks in June/July, he dug up lawn outside the three marked berms and flipped the sod over onto layers of newspaper that Jennie laid out, covering the berms. Jennie even managed to score a whole load of free dirt when a neighbour's house required new perimeter drains. Her friend helped her move all of this into what became the three berms. She then dug in a garden bed surround (plastic) to enclose all 3 berms and laid landscape cloth down everywhere that the paths would go, to limit weed growth, or so she thought!

That fall she bought a load a load of leaf mulch and had that "slung" with a slinger on top of the dirt piles. This mulch was hot and very smelly, much to the chagrin of her neighbours! Luckily, the smell dissipated after 2-3 days. Finally she was able to plant so the winter rains could water the new plants.

By spring of 2008, she found all the plants on her



wish list and she hand watered that next summer of to get her new garden established.

By the next summer (2009) she didn't need to water, the garden was filling in, but weeding was still necessary where lots of earth still showing. She decided to use ¼ inch clean crushed gravel (sharper edges works best for stable walking surface as rocks start "interlocking" better than smooth rocks). By spring of 2010, Jennie was already pruning, and of course, still weeding.

Jennie's original goal was to have a native, drought resistant garden that she could enjoy while walking up to my front door or while sitting out on my front porch, G&T in hand! She achieved enjoyment and satisfaction, but also has engaged curiosity from her neighbours and other walkers-by!

If you would like to see how Jennie's garden is growing, check it out at: 2203 Kinross Street in Oak Bay, between Eastdowne and Cadboro Bay Road. She even invites you to walk along the gravel paths to get the full experience!

Jennie's Plant list:

- Kinnickinick
- Hairy Manzanita
- Creeping Oregon Grape
- Junipers

- Indian Plum
- Flowering Red Current
- Penstemon (Fruticosa)
- Penstemon (Serrulatus)
- Red Columbine
- Sea Thrift
- Sea Blush (spreads like crazy)
- Giant Camas
- Wooley Sunflower
- Dogwood (non-native "White Wonder")
- Nodding Onion
- Shooting Star
- Sedums
- Goldenrod
- Aster
- Yarrow
- Alumroot
- Harebell
- Satin Flower
- Pearly Everlasting
- Lavender & other non-native, drought resistant plants



Restoring a community boulevard with Todd Doherty

Article by Nathalie Dechaine

Who would have thought that changing perimeter drains, would have yielded such amazing results? In 2006 Todd started his affiliation with native plants on his own property

Todd went through the City to secure permission and for funding to help this community development project. With the grant, Todd was able to buy mulch, soil, some help by the way of equipment and some native plants. The parks staff helped Todd purchase and store native plants for his project and allowed him to get a better deal by realizing the cost benefits of buying with their bulk order. Ironically, Todd was told he was



plant arrival
image: Todd Doherty



before image: Todd Doherty

when he had to landscape the effects of this home improvement project. This native plant passion simply grew onto the adjacent property; luckily for the denizens of Victoria, this is commonly owned boulevard.

not permitted to plant trees due to the underground utilities, but there are London plane trees that the city planted along this very corridor!

In the spring of 2008, there was essentially a typical grass boulevard with the infamous London plane

trees. By the summer of 2008, Todd had removed the sod, placed heavy cardboard and paper mulch, built a small berm and had even planted some of the plants in his new garden. He and some volunteers also planted in December of 2008 and wouldn't you know that very evening, it snowed?!

In any case, many of the plants have not only survived, they prospered. He has since supplemented the garden with plants salvaged in the region, providing not only a diversity

the garden if full, healthy, lush and solicits much curiosity from the passer-bys. Some neighbours have even learned about native plants and are inspired to try some in their landscaping. My own mother lives on that block and her strata council is seeking some of these elements to try in their landscaping; it's contagious!

If you want to go check out this boulevard, turned native plant garden, walk by the corner



planting party
image: Todd Doherty



After image: Todd Doherty

of species but also a range of genetics for this garden. By 2010 the garden filled out nicely and received some cedar split rail fences to keep the neighbours and their dogs out of this beautiful landscape. Now

of Pembroke and Vancouver Streets. If you're lucky, you'll catch the mock orange in bloom and you can then just follow your nose!

Local wildflowers with Agnes Lynn

Article by Nathalie Dechaine

Agnes' thorough knowledge of local wildflowers was obvious as she shared her stories about the common wildflowers of a variety of habitats on Southern Vancouver Island. Her beautiful pictures were narrated with some suggestions as to the best local places to see these species in all their glory. Agnes has kindly shared her list of these amazing local treasures, in order as they (generally) appear:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Olsynium douglasii | Satin flower |
| Erythronium oregonum | White fawn lily |
| Rubus spectabilis | Salmonberry |
| Viola glabella | Yellow wood violet |
| Arctostaphylos columbiana | Hairy manzanita |
| Crocidium multicaule | Gold star |
| Trillium ovatum | Western trillium |
| Calypso bulbosa | Calypso orchid |
| Erythronium revolutum | Pink fawn lily |
| Sanicula arctopoides | Footsteps of spring |
| Collinsia parviflora | Blue-eyed Mary |
| Dodecatheon hendersonii | Henderson's shooting star |
| Lomatium utriculatum | Spring gold |
| Fritillaria affinis | Chocolate lily |

For me the highlights from these presentations went well beyond the incredible knowledge our members have. I am currently starting to convert my lawn into a biologically diverse and aesthetically pleasing native plant garden, so I was inspired by all their stories; I even stole a few great ideas! I for one, hope for all, we can continue this theme of member's presentations annually at our NPSG meetings!

Tell us what you think about continuing this new tradition, about a presentation you'd like to give, or to share your ideas for presentation topics for next year: co-chair@npsg.ca



Shooting Star
image: Agnes Lynn

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Plectritis congesta | Sea blush |
| Viola praemorsa | Prairie violet |
| Orbanche uniflora | Naked broomrape |
| Castilleja levisecta | Golden paintbrush |
| Camassia | Camas |
| Trientalis latifolia | Broad-leaved starflower |
| Eriophyllum lanatum | Woolly sunflower |
| Lomatium nudicaule | Indian consumption plant |
| Lupinus bicolor | Two-coloured lupine |
| Sanicula bipinnatifida | Purple sanicule |
| Zygadenus venenosus | Death camas |
| Delphinium menziesii | Menzie's larkspur |
| Propertius Dusky Wing | Butterflies count too! |

White Fawn Lily
image: Agnes Lynn



Outings & Events

Spring Wildflower Fling and AGM

hosted by the Native Plant Society of BC

When: Fri, May 27 to Sun, May 29, 2011

Where: Penticton, BC

Cost: free, registration required,
Form at www.npsbc.org

Activities include:

Friday, May 27: Easy to moderate hike to see chocolate lilies, shooting start, arnica and more; and an informal social.

Saturday, May 28: Moderate hike to cottonwood, water birch, red osier dogwood riparian ecosystems led by the Penticton First Nation; working meeting and AGM; Easy hike to wetland and habitat of yellow lady-slipper, striped coralroot and more; moderate hike to grasslands on McIntyre Bluff

Sunday, May 29: Moderate hike to the ponderosa pine and Douglas fir interior habitats; easy to moderate hike to Skaha Bluffs' botanical treasures

The full schedule including hike leaders is online at www.npsbc.org · More info call: 604-831-5069

Bird Watching Walk Through Uplands Park

lead by Ralph Archibald
organized by Friends of Uplands Park

When: Sun, May 29, 8:30am (rain or shine)

Where: meet across from the east board launch at Cattle Point.

Bring your binoculars, bird books, check lists or simply show up to enjoy the outing.

We want to make this a monthly event on the last Sunday of each month. If you would like to help make this happen, please email Margaret. mlidkea@shaw.ca

Garry Oak Grass Workshop

with Dr. Hans Roemer
hosted by the Native Plant Society of BC

When: starting Fri, June 17 at 7pm until
Sun, June 19 at 3pm

Where: Duncan

Cost: yet to be determined

Interest and Info:

email Agnes Lynn thelynns@shaw.ca

Dr Hans Roemer, ecologist and rare plant consultant, will concentrate on the grasses of the Garry Oak realm. There will be two field trips (steep terrain) to areas near Duncan where we can see these grasses, as well as sessions indoors. The goal is to be able to recognize the grasses without resorting to complicated keys and microscopes.

If you may be interested in attending this workshop, email Agnes Lynn who will make sure that you get all information as soon as it is available. It is anticipated that the workshop will fill quickly.

Make Change for the Environment

Scotch Broom Removal

organized by Margaret Lidkea and Kathleen Matthews

When: Sat, May 21, 3pm

Where: meet at the corner of Beach Drive and the entrance to Cattle Point.

Equipment is provided but if you have big hands, bring your own gloves. We will be removing Scotch broom from the centre rocky area by cutting it and then removing it for the Parks Dept to chip and compost.

Letterwriting for a Pesticide Free BC

Please consider writing a letter, sending an email or making a phone call to make BC free of dangerous and toxic chemical. For more info: tinyurl.com/3c2lodr

Letterwriting for Pesticide Legislation

The Canadian Cancer Society, BC and Yukon, is working to win provincial legislation that would prohibit lawn pesticides from being used and sold in BC. to protect the health of BC citizens, especially children.

Please call asap or email Environment Minister Dr. Terry Lake and let him know that you support pesticide legislation by this summer. Contact info: E-mail: Env.Minister@gov.bc.ca Phone: 250-387-1187

An Easy Way to Help Swan Lake

The Nature Sanctuary has just received approval from Thrifty Foods to extend our participation in their Smile Card program for another year. This program provides financial support for the Bridges to Nature Campaign to replace the aging floating walkway. There is no additional cost to you. Thrifty Foods contributes 5% of the value of every purchase you make to the Nature Sanctuary.

More details are available at www.swanlake.bc.ca

Mt Douglas Park Restoration

When: Thursdays and Sundays at 10am, see online schedule monthly

Contact: Contact Judy Spearing t: (250) 472-0515 [jandd_spearing\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:jandd_spearing(at)shaw.ca)

Online Schedule:

www.mountdouglaspark.ca/calendar.do

Training and tools provided.

Rithet's Bog Conservation Society Work Parties

When: 1st Sunday of each month between 1-3pm

Where: meeting sites vary, contact Karen

Contact: Karen Towne [ktowne\(at\)telus.net](mailto:ktowne(at)telus.net) or Russ Pym [rpym\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:rpym(at)shaw.ca)

Online Info: www.rithetsbog.org

The Rithets Bog Conservation Society is asking the nature-loving public to show their tangible support for the bog by purchasing a \$10 tax deductible annual membership.

Brodick/Bow Park Invasive Species Removal

When: Schedule and location may vary Mondays from 10-12pm

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

Contact: Contact Judy Spearing t: (250) 472-0515 [jandd_spearing\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:jandd_spearing(at)shaw.ca)

Training and tools provided.

Glendale Gardens Native Plant Demonstration Garden

When: every Wednesday morning

Where: 505 Quayle Road, Saanich

Contact: (250) 658-5740

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.

Our Partner Organization Meetings

Botany Night

hosted by the Victoria Natural History Society

When: third Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm

Where: Swan Lake Nature Centre

Contact: Adolf Ceska [aceska\(at\)telus.net](mailto:aceska(at)telus.net) or Agnes Lynn [thelynns\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:thelynns(at)shaw.ca) or (250) 721-0634

Online Info: www.vicnhs.bc.ca

For all VNHS events: No pets please. Bring a lunch and drinks for all-day outings. Wear appropriate attire and footwear.

The Native Plant Study Group meets on the third Thursday of the months from September through May at the MacLaurin Building, UVic. Please join us as a guest for a \$3 drop-in fee or become a member and support our group.

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.

Supporters Offer Discounts to NPSG Members

Just show your membership card to receive benefits from our NPSG supporters. We are grateful for their continued support!

Big Barn Garden Centre: 1286 MacKenzie Avenue

Borden Mercantile (plants and garden supplies): 3960 Borden Street

Cadboro Bay Books (garden books only): 3840 Cadboro Bay Road

Cannor Nursery (excludes seed and suet): 4660 Elk Lake Drive

Danica Nurseries: 6705 Danica Place

Dig This: 1990 Oak Bay Ave, Market Square, Broadmead Village, 2387 Beacon Avenue

Fraser's Thimble Farms: 175 Arbutus Road, Salt Spring Island

Garden Works: 1916 Oak Bay Ave, 4290 Blenkinsop Rd, 1859 Old Island Highway

Integrity Sales (except farm priced items): 2180 Keating Cross Road

Lynn's Little Elf Nursery: 1062 Goldstream Avenue

Marigold Nursery: 7874 Lochside Drive

Meadow Oak Nurseries: 1070 Wain Road

Scentsational Plants: 830 Sayward Road

Trio Ready-Mix: 773 Cordova Bay Road

Twin Peaks: 1780 Mills Road

Urban Oasis: 4649 West Saanich Road

Vet's Plant Box: 570 Beaver Lake Road

Victoria Birdhouse Inc: 2428 Beacon Avenue

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! www.bctransit.com/regions/vic

Something to add to the newsletter?

Please send submissions and announcements to Valerie at [valerie\(at\)iD2.ca](mailto:valerie(at)iD2.ca) before the second Thursday of each month.

September Meeting

When: Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 7pm

Where: MacLaurin Bldg, Univ. of Victoria

Cost: Non-member drop-in fee: \$3.
Members free.

Online Info: www.NPSG.ca

2010/2011 Steering Committee

Our thanks to those who volunteered this term and to those of you who contributed plants to the plant draw! Volunteers make it happen!

Co-Chair: Valerie Elliott, [co-chair\(at\)npsg.ca](mailto:co-chair(at)npsg.ca)

Co-Chair: Nathalie Dechaine
[co-chair\(at\)npsg.ca](mailto:co-chair(at)npsg.ca)

Speakers: Hilary Stead

Treasurer: Joan Varley

Newsletter: Ilana Kronick

Plant Salvage Coordinator: Todd Doherty

Membership: Agnes Lynn

Publicity: Valerie Elliott

Room Bookings: Pat Johnston

Room Set-up: Pat & Wayne Robertson

Plant Draw: Heather Pass

List-serve: Linda Beare & John Olafson

Refreshments: Pat McMahon

Archivist: Brenda Pilon

Sustain Supporters Liaise: Christine Nykiforuk

NPSBC Liaise: Moralea Milne

Volunteers do it together!

While we all wallow in summer sun, take a moment to think about what you can contribute to strengthen our small volunteer group. Do as much or as little as is right for you but consider the benefit that each of us enjoys when we all contribute. To “test drive” NPSG, join us for our annual planning session.

Next meeting: 2011/12 Planning

All members are welcome ... next term.

Help us make decisions for the coming year.

When: June 16, 2011 at 7pm

Where: RSVP for directions

RSVP: please email [co-chair\(at\)NPSG.ca](mailto:co-chair(at)NPSG.ca) if you plan to attend as a courtesy to the hosts, bring great ideas and a little something edible to share

Contact: Nathalie Dechaine
[co-chair\(at\)npsg.ca](mailto:co-chair(at)npsg.ca)

Native Plant Study Group (NPSG)

NPSG is a 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.