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Newsletter for the NPSBC Native Plant Society of British Columbia
Spring 2001

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Where on Earth is your garden?

By Harry Hill

About eight years ago, not long after we settled into our one-acre wooded lot on the Sunshine Coast, a neighbour brought by a visiting British gardener to view what was then just the basic outline of a garden. Excited about the recent plantings I'd made of currently trendy perennials, I was eager to impress. I proudly pointed out my hellebores and euphorbias and pulmonarias, all of which failed to elicit praise or comment. Not until we came to a wild elder, dangling its clusters of small red berries, was I asked to identify anything.

"Oh, *that* old thing," I almost said. "Sorry! I haven't got around yet to yanking it out!"

Days later I began to reflect on that foreign gardener's fussing about something as ordinary and inconsequential as a native bush that crowds the roadsides here and never garners a second look by local residents. Isn't it just like the nature of gardeners (and humans in general!) to want what is thought to be uncommon or exotic or coveted by others? It struck me that while gardening in a part of the world where beauty is so common, people here often have difficulty recognizing beauty in the commonplace. I set about to do just that, and to create a garden that knew where on Earth it was located.

We all know of people who move to "Super, Natural British Columbia" because of the beauty they find here, buy a little bit of paradise, and then set about to obliterate everything that is unique

about it. Instead of working with the bounties that Nature provides, they choose to attempt an English cottage garden in a desert valley or a Japanese garden in the rainforest. By slavishly copying what they have seen in gardening books and magazines, they have created gardens that could be *anywhere*, and are ultimately *nowhere*.

Incorporating native plants can do a lot to give our gardens a sense of place. And finding native equivalents for non-native horticultural varieties isn't hard. *Out* with the Japanese barberry, *in* with the Oregon grape! *Out* with the Spanish bluebells, *in* with the blue camas! *Out* with the creeping cotoneaster, *in* with the kinnikinnick! *Out* with the smothering monoculture of English ivy, *in* with the rich tapestry of sword fern, violets, bleedingheart and woodland saxifrages!

Including locally native species fosters a connection with the natural world beyond our gardens. When the camas is blooming in my garden, I know it's time to visit the several locations on the Sunshine Coast where I'll find patches of blue on the coastal bluffs. When the branches of Pacific dogwood poke through the shaggy coniferous walls of my garden to hold aloft their gleaming white bracts, I know I'll find a similar sight along nearby hiking trails.

I like to think that if we're not keeping in mind how our plantings will interact with the natural world beyond our property, then we're only gardening in two dimensions. We can add that third dimension by

See "Where's your garden?" p. 10



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NSPBC Workshops

The intent of the NPSBC workshops is to share the knowledge of native plants that exists in our province (and sometimes beyond) and encourage the use of native plants in our landscape and in our home gardens.

We strive to provide a variety of workshop topics that are suitable for home gardeners, naturalists, and professionals. Our goal is to provide those looking to expand their knowledge of native plants with the opportunity to learn from both academically trained instructors and self-taught botanists who bring an area of native plant expertise to the participants.

Preliminary handout material may, in some cases, be made available so that participants can come prepared to get the most out of each workshop. Written and lecture information will be evenly balanced with hands-on, practical field or lab experience. Light lunches are included in the registration fee, and so is all handout material.

Kamloops, May 18-20

An Introduction to Mosses and other Bryophytes

Fri, May 18 7:30pm-9:00pm

Sat, May 19 9:00am- 5:00pm

Sun, May 20 9:00am- Noon

Instructor: Dr. Wilf Schofield,

Professor Emeritus Botany,
University of British Columbia.

Assistant: David Williams,
Professor Biology, University College
of the Cariboo.

Coordinator: Rozalyn Harris, Tel:
(604) 420-4584; E-mail:
hr_harris@telus.net

This is a great opportunity to learn and study, up close and personal, mosses and bryophytes from your corner of British Columbia and those

that are found in the Kamloops area. The Friday night session will be held in a laboratory at the University College of the Cariboo where the critical features of these interesting plants will be studied using a dissecting microscope and your own hand lens. Participants are encouraged to bring samples of mosses and bryophytes from their own region to key out and (hopefully!) identify.

Please come prepared to spend the better part of Saturday and probably Sunday morning in the field. A hand lens, Dr. Schofield's field guide: *Some Common Mosses of BC*, a water bottle, comfortable clothing and off-road footwear are recommended. We will work with available keys and literature to get a feel for the species variability in the bryophytes. An opportunity will be provided to assemble your own named reference collection. To register, please contact Rozalyn Harris at hr_harris@telus.net
Registration

Registration Fee: \$100 for NPSBC members, \$120 for non-members. Make cheque or money order payable to the Native Plant Society of B.C., c/o Rozalyn Harris, 8887 Horne Street, Burnaby, BC, V3N 4J8. Please include your mailing and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers (as applicable). Also note if you have any special food requirements or allergies.

Number of Participants: Minimum of 12, maximum of 20.

Refund Policy: Full refunds will be given up to 30 days prior to the workshop.

To Bring: Field clothing (rain gear if necessary), notebook, hand lens and Dr. Wilf Schofield's guide *Some Common Mosses of BC*.

Vancouver, July 14-15

Ethnobotany with Nancy Turner

Sat, July 14th 6:30pm - 9pm

Sun, July 15th 9:00am- 5:30pm,
6pm dinner at an aboriginal
restaurant (owner: Dolly Watts)
Instructor: Dr. Nancy Turner,
Professor at UVIC.

Coordinator Brenda Ramsay, Tel:
(250) 638-8436; Fax: (250) 638-8480
E-mail: bramsay@kermode.net

If you are even mildly interested in the traditional and practical use of wild plants for medicinal, nutritional and arts and craft projects, this is the workshop for you. Nancy Turner is a recognized expert on how we humans have used plants for our everyday needs. She has authored and co-authored books and papers with titles such as *Food Plants of British Columbia Indians*, *Wild Coffee and Tea Substitutes of Canada*, *Contemporary use of bark for medicine by two Salish native elders*, to name just a few.

In this workshop Nancy will give a talk on ethnobotany on Saturday evening (location TBA) and then on Sunday she will lead participants on a field trip to look at plants and learn about the different uses that we humans have for them. A bag lunch is provided on Sunday afternoon (Subway, or a deli). A no-host Sunday supper will be arranged at an aboriginal restaurant (name and location TBA) starting at about 6pm on Sunday evening.

Registration

Registration Fee: \$100 for NPSBC members, \$120 for non-members.

Make cheque or money order payable to the Native Plant Society of B.C., c/o Brenda Ramsay, 4822 Sunset Drive, Terrace BC V8G 1C6. Please include your mailing and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers (as applicable). Also note if you have any special food

requirements or allergies.

Number of Participants:

Registration limited to 20.

Refund Policy: Full refunds will be given up to 30 days prior to the workshop.

To Bring: Field clothing (rain gear if necessary), notebook, water bottle and camera (camera not mandatory but suggested). §

Northwest Field School 2001

This field school offers continuing education opportunities for technical and professional development, or interested amateur naturalists. The following are courses in the Northwest Field School 2001 located in Smithers, British Columbia.

If you are enrolled in a B.C. university, some courses can count as credit in a number of programs (please enquire for details in advance). For more information or an application package, please contact Northwest Community College at 250-847-4461 or smithersinfo@nwcc.bc.ca. (Register early, as several courses were fully booked last summer!)

Back Country Botany & Birds

A hands-on course which covers the basics of how to identify native plants, especially wildflowers. Students will also study the key field characteristics to aid in the identification of major bird groups and learn how bird behavior (flight patterns, songs etc.) and habitat give clues to identification.

Instructor: Rosamund Pojar M.Sc.

Fee: \$180

Dates: June 4 – 8, 2001.

Ecology and Management of Riparian Ecosystems

Field-based course examines the dynamics, functions, and

management of a range of riparian ecosystems in northwestern British Columbia. The approach of this course is to provide participants with a working model for managing and restoring riparian ecosystems.

Instructor: Dr. Donald McLennan
Fee: \$600

Dates: July 9 – 13, 2001

An Introduction to Lichens and Bryophytes

This course is an introduction to lichens, mosses, and liverworts, and discusses their life histories, anatomies, and how they are identified. We will also cover the taxonomy and ecology of some of the common, and not-so-common lichens and bryophytes of the Smithers area.

Instructor: Patrick Williston

Fee: \$125

Dates: July 19 & 20, 2001.

How to Identify Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

To become familiar with the key morphological features of grasses, sedges and rushes, and learn how to use these characteristics and some insider tips to identify graminoids.

Instructors: Dr. Jim Pojar & Rosamund Pojar M. Sc.

Fee: \$200

Dates: July 25 & 26, 2001.

Introduction to Forest Mushrooms

Will compare mushroom types and work with keys to learn the basic taxonomy. A field tour the next day will look at more mushrooms in forests around Smithers, and provide opportunities to collect some good edible mushrooms as well.

Instructor: Marty Kranabetter,
MSc. P. Ag

Fee: \$100

Dates: September 15 & 16, 2001 §

Naturescaping in a prim and proper neighbourhood

By Edward van Veenendaal

When we bought our property on the dike along the South Arm of the Fraser ten years ago, the view from the rear of the house swept over a small meadow with ponies and an old wooden chicken barn to the side. The half-acre pie-shaped lot consisted of a stale landscape with rows of topped 30-year-old cedars, overgrown foundation plantings sheared into the dead-zone, and huge caterpillar-like boxwood hedges. The concrete parking space, which went right up to the front door, was enough to hold an RV and a boat, next to cars. Gnarled and decrepit hazelnut trees added some real character, as did a gigantic monkey puzzle tree. Yet, we sometimes wonder what attracted us to buy the property – it probably was its potential!

During the first six years we rented the house to tenants while we started to improve the landscape. Being new to British Columbia, we love the variety of plants you can grow in this corner of the country, and this included English laurel, Scotch broom (yes, I must admit it), and spurge laurel we got free from the lady across the road. On nature hikes, we discovered plants that reminded me of city parks in my home country, but that I had not seen in all those years I lived in Ontario, such as red-flowering currant, Oregon grape, and snowberry. What got us also very excited about being in British Columbia was the provincial government's intention to create many new parks as a commitment to the Rio conference on bio-diversity. Our contacts with

the naturalist community in Abbotsford, where the Backyard Habitat program was forerunner to Naturescape-BC, were another source of inspiration. We felt that, in Canada's most biologically diverse province, steps were being taken to counter some of the devastating consequences our modern way of doing things inflicts on the natural world. Our property, too, could be so much more.

Our garden evolved, like any garden tended by someone who cares for nature. When four years ago we moved into the house ourselves, we started in all seriousness the process of cutting our lawn – in half. Some of the cedars, too, came down so that there would be room for more deciduous trees. Diversity was needed. That first winter, a huge brush pile covered much of the driveway. The activity was amazing! Birds were preening on top on sunny

winter days, rufous-sided towhees and dark-eyed juncos darted in and out all over, as did a variety of song sparrows. It was hard to remove the pile because it was exactly as the books say – it is one of the cheapest and best things you can do for nature in your yard! Two other brush piles were constructed as replacement habitat.

Major road widening directly in front of our property, including the construction of a sidewalk with boulevard strip, made for a dusty and noisy Summer in 1998. I had been planting trees and extending mulched planting beds onto the 300-foot municipal right-of-way that sloped between the property line and the raised road. On the day the bulldozers came to clear things, neighbours offered condolences! Fortunately, later on municipal officers allowed me to dig out the road base from the three-foot-wide



The author building a sand pit to improve drainage for an arbutus tree. Note yellow cedar, red-flowering currant and sword fern in background.

Photos: Joyce van Veenendaal

boulevard strip and plant it so that it now harmonizes with the rest of the gardens along the 300 feet frontage. There are vine maples, saskatoons and highbush cranberries, a cascara tree, an Indian-plum and red-flowering currants growing in the strip between the road and the sidewalk harmonizing with the towering redcedars below on the property line.

The lush strip had organizers of the local garden club approach us the following year to see if we were interested in being one of ten gardens hosting the annual garden tour and raising money for our hospice society. We labelled a number of plants so the public could see what kinnikinnick, goat's beard, species of Oregon grape, wild strawberry as a solid groundcover, and sword, maidenhair, wood and deer ferns look like. Over 300 people strolled by that June Saturday observing the incorporation of native plants into an urban landscape.

The yard now has a butterfly garden in a sunny corner, brimming with colour from early spring (heath, candy tuft, creeping phlox, bulbs) to late Fall (*Verbena bonariensis*, which sows itself too abundantly but is the greatest butterfly plant, asters, black-eyed Susans). Sunflowers, big and bold, are crowd pleasers all Summer and goldfinch food in the Fall. The only butterfly to show up in numbers, however, is the western tiger swallowtail, because its caterpillars feed on willow and poplar, found unsprayed in abundance along the edges of the marshes of the South Fraser. Ladner is surrounded by agricultural land, which explains the loss of insect life as old timers with good memories will attest to.

Instead of a pond, I created a bog garden with both native and exotic plants that like their feet wet – skunk cabbage as a Spring centrepiece! Some real sphagnum has taken hold, next to Labrador tea. Passersby on



Rockery and bog garden in progress. Note how low property lies compared to new sidewalk.

the sidewalk can even marvel at two stems of devil's club at the edge of the wet zone. A short stream meanders through the soggy soil, flowing out of the rockery constructed against the raised new sidewalk. The rocks are rounded boulders, discarded from building sites. It is a rare builder who leaves erratics on site to be incorporated into the new landscape. I was also able to create a large sand pocket among the rows of stacked boulders, four feet above the property's river clay, allowing an arbutus tree and some oceanspray to flourish. Many living creatures hide in rockeries, we observed.

We also have waterfront property on the north side: the ever fluctuating drainage ditch along the dike, constructed some 80 years ago to keep us dry. Here salmon-berry showed up on its own, and I have added hardhack, shrub willows, red-osier dogwood, red elderberry, and even stinging nettle. We have chipped away at the oceanic parking lot over the years, and trees will eventually cover much of it with their branches. The

sloped driveway is left in permeable gravel, giving somewhat of a country feel. Its scree conditions allow lewisia, penstemon species and succulents to eke out a living.

In spite of the fact that they offer berries for successive flocks of robins that move through the area, two holly trees were removed. I notice their numerous seedlings under every tree in the garden. Even along the slopes of the dike along marshes of the Fraser where it is dry enough for native trees to grow, they have invaded. Holly seeds are able to sprout in deep shade. The two hollies have been replaced with western hemlocks that give us privacy and muffle tire noise from the traffic flow on the dike which is substantially higher than our yard. Two volunteer English hawthorns elsewhere on the property were allowed to stay and they are now supplying vitamin C all winter long to the robins.

Our "borrowed landscape" provides mature black poplars hosting bald eagles in Winter. A year ago, a western screech owl took up daytime residence for awhile in one of the never-topped-again cedar trees, leaving its perch each day exactly the same time in relation to the setting of the sun. As the

days were lengthening, this occurred just a few minutes later every day, like clockwork! Dense shrubbery (think thicket!) offers shelter for smaller birds. Last year, while pulling some undesirables out of the mulch I accidentally discovered a rufous-sided towhee's nest with four eggs on the ground, hidden in the tangle of sprawling honeysuckle vines. It is such a discovery that makes you think: the garden works! The other week a pile of feathers below a hazelnut tree indicated the presence of bird of prey enjoying a meal on the property. This, too, is nature at your doorstep, although it takes getting used to.

Not everything that drops by is welcome, however. In the mid '90s, black and grey city squirrels moved into our village. No longer do we see the Stellar jays feasting on the hazelnuts in October, because there are none left by that time, as the invaders begin harvesting non-stop per August first. English house sparrows and European starlings do not buy my trick to deter them from the suet feeder by having it hung upside down. Crows destroyed a robins' nest. Bullfrogs in the ditch put native frogs on the endangered species list. We keep a water pistol on hand for roaming cats. And then, during nesting season, Queen Victoria has her birthday, enthusiastically celebrated by local youth for days – with firecrackers.

Where the meadow with ponies used to be, there are now nine large houses on small lots. Concrete curbs around planting beds, some covered with lava rocks,

are common. As a landscaper and naturescaper, I am well aware that many people are unconsciously drawn to shrubs and trees planted in rows, looking all uniform, kept small and under control, and that they prefer black soil (with weeds) over mulched beds. Somehow, our culture instills that man-over-nature approach. Trees are considered pretty things to fill an empty spot. Some of our neighbours even cut perfectly healthy trees down, the ones planted by the builder to receive his permit, for the love of sun. I doubt if they ever give a thought to the important place trees have in the natural systems that keep all of physical life going, even in urban centres.

What is most interesting, though, is that our naturalistic and diverse yard catches people's attention. The mossy logs from old BC Hydro poles, the rocks placed throughout, the meandering lawn edges, and the beds

thick with mulched-up leaves, needles and free wood chips from tree companies, do spark interest. As yet, the Winter seedpods in the butterfly garden have not translated into a municipal order to "get rid of the weed patch"! I told the passerby, who with a concerned voice let me know that there were lots of aphids on the highbush cranberry, that she beat the ladybug beetles in discovering them. There may be weeds in our lawns, but regular mowing and crisp edges hide them well enough. Exotic plants such as the *Viburnum bodnatense*, PJM rhododendrons, Uxbury azaleas, a sourwood tree and paper bark maple add interest in Winter and early Spring. The beautyberry shrub stops people in their tracks until the robins polish it off in early December.

All of this helps to make the busy, informal gardens accepted in our bedroom community, just south of

Richmond. At least I have come to that conclusion, as when on Saturday mornings people walk and jog by, it is actually hard to get much work done. Many stop to comment and ask questions. We hope that others too will want to add attracting benign wildlife to their reason for gardening, extending the patchwork of naturescaped yards further into the community. §

Edward van Veenendaal is a horticulturist specializing in habitat garden design and landscape renovation. He can be reached at 604-946-2210 or vanVeenendaal@paralynx.com



Application of wood chips onto boulevard strip between sidewalk and road. Plantings there include vine maple, saskatoon, Indian-plum and highbush cranberry.

Gardening with native plants in the city

By Eva Antonijevic

“Environmental heroes in this century will be humble gardeners, gardeners who believe that it is their responsibility or even destiny, to promote richer evolution of life on Earth through a new, ecologically wise landscape art.”

~ Janet Marinelli

As Janet Marinelli so eloquently states in the above quote, choosing to return sections or the whole of our gardens into rewilded spots is the right choice for 21st century gardeners. As more and more of our cities encroach upon surrounding wilderness, it is increasingly important for gardeners to realize how we can re-address this imbalance.

The first question that springs to mind is how native do we go with our gardens? I had an illuminating experience a couple of years ago when I attended a Naturalistic garden conference organized by *Gardens Illustrated* magazine in the UK. Throughout the one-day conference scores of speakers and panelists presented their viewpoints on the topic of naturalization. It was very interesting to see that there was such a vastly divergent opinion on the subject. Mary Keen, a renowned British gardener and author, played devil’s advocate and presented opposition to naturalization in city gardens because she felt it defeated the central joy of being a gardener, which to her meant the ability to potter about nurturing one’s exotic plants. Penelope Hobhouse interjected and suggested that we at the very least fight to save native plants in the wild, and also pointed out that creating a naturalistic garden

requires an extensive knowledge of plant behavior. Dan Pearson came at the topic from yet another angle and strongly expressed his interest in gardens that are designed to emulate nature with a strong sense of place.

As we can see, the topic of naturalization is by no means simplistic and continues to be hotly debated. However, we individually have to come to our own understanding of what we feel will work within the context of our gardens given our available knowledge and resources. The lack of information and the erratic availability of native plants in city nurseries are challenges we face. Hence I am writing this article to share some of the information and experiences I have dealt with in introducing native plants into the residential community.

My first suggestion is a field trip to nearby wild areas to get ideas. One of the first things I did when I arrived to the Pacific Northwest 12 years ago was take a course at SFU on the plants and animals of British Columbia. Armed with this new knowledge, my understanding of BC wilderness forever changed. Hence this is my first recommendation: acquire confidence and skills by improving your knowledge of our local ecology.

After venturing into the wild we must learn to adjust and process what we have just seen. Unfortunately it is near impossible to recreate the original rainforest in an urban setting. The ecology of our urban sites has been entirely changed. When we urbanized we stripped the existing rainforest, thus exposing the ground to extreme weather conditions. Due to the

degree of direct sunlight, reflected sunlight from concrete surfaces and runoff from constructed surfaces, the resulting local conditions now have more in common with those of the Gulf Islands and southern Vancouver Island.

Hence doing a detailed site analysis is the right place to begin when thinking about naturalization. It is rare that any of us get the opportunity to create gardens on a blank slate, most of us are forced to work within an existing garden and seek innovative ways of incorporating native plants into this standing framework. When I visit my clients I am aware that it would be overwhelming to discuss radically changing the entire garden. We usually begin working on specific sections and looking at aspects such as damp vs. dry, sunny vs. shady, clayish vs. sandy and then choose plants accordingly to create natural communities.

I would like to walk you through a specific example. One of my West Vancouver clients had a visit from a local arborist who came to examine an ailing coastal redwood, *Sequoia*



A section of the low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plantings along East 14th St in North Vancouver.

Photos: David Hutch

sempervirens. The arborist pointed out that the tree was suffering from root compaction due to foot traffic. He recommended that the existing lawn around the tree be replaced with plantings. We decided to create a native plant community using the redwood as an overstorey canopy and underplant it with the following plants: tall Oregon grape, *Mahonia aquifolium*; dull Oregon grape, *Mahonia nervosa*; creeping Oregon grape, *Mahonia repens*; sword fern, *Polystichum munitum*; ceer fern, *Blechnum spicant*; salal, *Gaultheria shallon*; red-flowering currant, *Ribes sanguineum*; evergreen huckleberry, *Vaccinium ovatum*; coastal strawberry, *Fragaria chiloensis*; red columbine, *Aquilegia formosa*; hair grass, *Koleria cristata*; and woodrush, *Luzula multiflora*.

We took extra care in removing the old lawn to ensure that we didn't disturb the redwood's root system. We planted as shallow as it was practicable, again to preserve the root system. We finished the planting by covering this new bed with composted hemlock tree bark mulch. The mulch reduced the evaporation of water from the soil and prevented weed germination. The planting has now been in place for one year and is thriving.

A common problem many urban gardeners face is how to deal with the eradication of pre-existing inappropriate plantings. The more we learn about global weeds, the less comfortable we are in seeing Scotch broom and ivy present in our residential landscapes. One of my clients had a front garden that consisted of a weedy lawn surrounded by ivy. We decided to take the plunge and set about removing the lawn and carted away over 600 kg of ivy. The garden was then resculpted with composted city soil. We created a dry creek that doubles as a path and newly created

beds were planted with a mixture of native and exotic plants requiring similar conditions. The owner is originally from the Prairies so we planted a "prairie meadow" (little blue stem, *Schizochyrium scoparium*; prairie dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepsis*; Indian grass, *Sorghastrum nutans*; Idaho fescue, *Festuca idahoensis*; needle grass, *Stipa tenuissima*; northern sea oats, *Chasmanthium latifolium*; common camas, *Camassia quamash*; common yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*; wild indigo, *Baptisia australis*; *Rosa multiflora*; and western trumpet honeysuckle, *Lonicera ciliosa*. Again the whole garden was mulched with the decomposed hemlock mulch. Note, grasses rot if their crowns are covered with soil, so one has to be careful when mulching these types of plantings. This section of the garden is now in its third year and was featured in the North Shore Recycling Natural Garden Tour.

Another excellent way to get ideas for our gardens is checking out public examples of successful native plantings. In North Vancouver we have a superb example of a drought-tolerant planting created by the City of North Vancouver (landscape



Perennials and grasses with low water requirements in streetscape.

architect David Hutch, an NPSBC member) These unique mixed plantings of native plants and ornamental grasses were created using a series of sidewalk plots and are located on East 14th Street just off Lonsdale. The plantings were completed in 1996 and haven't needed irrigation since 1997. The plantings include hairy manzanita, *Arctostaphylos columbiana*; saskatoon berry, *Amelanchier alnifolia*; false box, *Pachystima canbyi*; lingonberry, *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*; nodding onion, *Allium cernuum*; broad-leaved stonecrop, *Sedum spathulifolium*; and coastal strawberry, *Fragaria chiloensis*. The planting received BCLNA's Environmental Stewardship Award 2000.

We should all try to include native plants in our gardens to reflect our region and to increase biodiversity. Although thought, time, patience, research and planning are all necessary components of a successful urban naturalization project, the rewards are many. Not only can naturalized gardens be aesthetically pleasing, but we can also take pride and comfort in knowing that we are choosing a gardening style that is resource and time efficient. It was amusing to note that at the end of the Naturalistic garden conference Mary Keen did admit that since she naturalized a large section of her garden, she can now devote more time to her true passion, growing primulas from seed. §

Eva Antonijevic is a director of the NPSBC, and operates a garden design/maintenance company in North Vancouver. She can be reached at 604-984-4346 or evagardener@home.com

Reference: Marinelli, Janet; 1998; *Stalking the Wild Amaranth: Gardening at the Age of Extinction*; Henry Holt and Company, Inc., New York.

Wildlife habitat gardening in the South Okanagan

By Eva Durance

As most readers know, the low elevation dry grasslands and pine forests of the South Okanagan Valley constitute one of Canada's four most endangered ecosystems. Human occupation and extensive destruction of much of the area's native vegetation and the wildlife dependent upon it are the main factors of degradation, in which, as elsewhere, the replacement of native plants with exotic species in home landscapes plays a significant part.

Conservation of native plants on urban or small rural properties and the conscious attempt to landscape using at least some plants of this region are in their infancy in the Okanagan, though interest is increasing. There are a few serious hurdles, aside from builders who treat house sites as if they were parking lots:

- most newcomers to the Okanagan are not from semi-arid areas and neither know the native species nor appreciate their more subtle beauty
- dryland species require very different conditions from those found in most home gardens and a different attitude from the gardener especially to attract wildlife; low fertility, dry and porous soil, and benign neglect are what most of the available species need, not the standard garden care
- many of our native species are quite difficult to propagate, information on many species is sparse, and many species have low seed viability, discouraging even experienced gardeners from growing their own
- only two small-scale nurseries in the South Okanagan, Grasslands

Nursery (mine) and Sagebrush Nursery in Oliver, concentrate on native species, although some tree and shrub species are available at standard nursery centres

Not all is gloom however. Public education programs have increased people's awareness of habitat loss and how they can help stem it. The Ruth St. John Memorial Habitat Garden at Okanagan University College, Penticton campus, a joint project of the South Okanagan Naturalists and the College, is an excellent place for people to identify the species and see how they grow under controlled conditions. For three years I have written a weekly column in the Penticton Herald on our native plants and wildlife in which readers are encouraged to consider wildlife habitat gardening, and this past winter, my wildlife habitat landscape design course at OUC attracted eight keen students.

Some of the main reasons people

say they want to use native and/or dryland species are:

- water conservation
- convenience and less work
- have property look more like the surrounding wild
- shore up banks or vegetate lands denuded in house construction
- attracting birds, especially hummingbirds, and butterflies; deer, bear, wasps, and coyotes are less welcome, but often arrive uninvited

Wildlife is usually low on the list of reasons, with the exceptions of butterflies and birds, however, which can be used as a lever to persuade people to plant native species. Most people I deal with, including those who seriously want to attract wildlife, though, still prefer a mix of native and climate-adapted non-natives. They want colour and few of our low-elevation species bloom over the summer, few have really spectacular flowers, though massing them helps, many are perceived as a bit messy in their growth habit, and there's a definite lack of deciduous trees that will tolerate drought conditions. The interest in natives grows each year, however, and the probable drought this summer will only enhance it.



Arrow-leaved balsamroot is a showy, drought-tolerant perennial whose seed heads provide forage for overwintering birds.

Native plants for gardens in the South Interior

The following lists the most popular and reasonably available species with their main importances for wildlife.

Trees and large shrubs

a) Drought tolerant

The large conifers provide seeds for birds such as red crossbill, evening grosbeak, and Clark's nutcracker, and nest holes and homes for insects that feed nuthatches, woodpeckers, and creepers

- Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
- Interior Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*)
- Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) - shelter for birds, berries for grouse

Deciduous species provide reproduction facilities, food, and shelter for birds, small mammals, and insects. Many butterflies and moths require various deciduous shrubs as hosts for their larvae. Wax currant is particularly important as the first nectar source for returning hummingbirds and butterflies overwintering as adults.

- Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum*)
 - Mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)
 - Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)
 - Wax currant (*Ribes cereum*)
 - Saskatoon berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
 - Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)
 - Common rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*)
 - Antelopebrush (*Purshia tridentata*)
 - Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*)
 - Tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)
- #### b) Riparian or damper conditions
- Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
 - Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
 - Blue elder (*Sambucus cerulea*)
 - Wild rose (*Rosa woodsii* or *nutkana*)

- Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)
- Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*)
- Buckbrush (*Ceanothus velutinus*)
- Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) is an excellent ground cover readily available in nurseries. It is host for the brown elfin butterfly and its berries feed (yes!) bears and birds.

Seed or plants of most native bunchgrasses are hard to obtain, but giant wildrye (*Elymus cinereus*) is readily available and highly ornamental.



Ceanothus velutinus on the hills above Naramata in the Okanagan.

Herbaceous flowering plants and grasses

The following is a basic list with associated birds and butterflies.

a) Nectar for adult butterflies and moths

- Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*)
- Red columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)
- Aster (*Aster* spp.)
- Arrow-leafed balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)
- Brown-eyed susan (*Gaillardia aristata*)
- Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
- Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elymus spicatus*)

b) Host plants for butterflies and moths

Swallowtails - desert parsley (*Lomatium* sp.)
Painted or west coast lady, Red Admiral, satyr anglewing, fire-rimmed tortoiseshell - stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*)
Fritillaries - violets (*Viola* sp.)
Blues, sulphurs - wild lupine (*Lupinus* spp.)
Stella orangetip, Western white - Holboell's rockcress (*Arabis holboellii*)

c) Hummingbird favourites

- Shrubby penstemon (*P. fruticosus*)
- Scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*)
- Nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*)
- Beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*) §

Eva Durance operates a native plant nursery in Penticton, BC, and can be contacted at 250-492-0158 or edurance@vip.net

“Where’s your garden?” cont’d

including native species that will feed and shelter birds, insects, and other wildlife – the elements that *animate* our gardens and make them so much more enjoyable.

When you’re growing seed-propagated native plants, rather than mass-produced cultivars, it’s fun to watch how plants of the same species develop differently, flowering or ripening fruit at slightly different times – attributes that allow them to meet the needs of wildlife that depend on them and on which they depend for pollination and seed dispersal. If you plant only “garden varieties,” what your garden will be lacking is variety.

Having never been a purist about anything, I’m continually re-assessing which non-natives I can’t live without, and which natives my garden shouldn’t be without. But more and more my little green space is one which reflects *where* in the world it is. And it’s a garden in which the once lowly red elder now has pride of place. §

A North Island hedgerow

By Rose-Marie Silkens

The hedgerow at the back of my Sayward property came into existence because of owls. Owls of various species frequented my neighbourhood for many years, but about 15 years ago it became a novelty to hear or see one. In the interests of luring them to return, I thought that nurturing an old-style hedgerow would provide food and shelter for the small creatures that in turn feed owls, and would of course feed and shelter other birds as well. Since this idea has developed, I have become increasingly interested in native plants as well, so the rewards of the project are multiple.

Most of the plant material for my hedgerow has come from other areas of the property. Many native seedlings volunteer in my garden, which is in a rural area. Some plants were purchased. Only seeds were collected in the wild, although I have taken some cuttings from plants in roadside ditches. Plants grown from cuttings or seeds were established in a nursery bed for a year or two before facing the rough-and-tumble of the hedgerow.

The 150-metre property line which became the hedgerow has an exposed, sunny north end, a low-lying mid-section, and a higher section under tall trees. Except for a small section at this south end, the soil is rich alluvial silt, generously left by the frequent flooding of the Salmon River. I began the project at the sunny north end ten years ago. The first year I planted only a few hazelnuts (horticultural varieties) and brambles, traditional hedgerow material. I wanted to include the sloe (buckthorn), but couldn't find seeds or plants, so I added wild roses, our native *Rosa nutkana*, to the mix. Once these were established, I filled in some

gaps with red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) and mountain ash (*Sorbus sitchensis*), twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*), saskatoon berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) and wild crabapple (*Malus fusca*) – all plants that offer food to wildlife. Behind the hedgerow, on the neighbour's property, are some wild apple trees, seedlings from an old orchard. The roses and blackberries have climbed into these trees, and the long blooming period of the combined plants is a delight, not just to me but to hummingbirds and butterflies.

In the southern, semi-shaded part of the hedgerow I have planted some non-native material to supplement native shrubs and trees. A few cuttings of forsythia and flowering quince have taken hold, and an ornamental Norway maple punctuates the end of the hedge line. Spring-flowering bulbs push through carpets of miner's lettuce (*Claytonia sibirica*), bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), and creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*).

In the middle section I have experimented with some native plants that do not appear in this area. Paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) was salvaged from a construction site in Campbell River. Indian-plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis* – I believe

the Comox Valley is the northern limit of its range), is thriving after three years on site. Less successful are my efforts with native honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*).

Most of the native plants in the hedgerow are doing very well, contributing attractive flowers, foliage and fruit through a long season. Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), crabapple, cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*), Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum*), red-osier dogwood, mountain ash, ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*), red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), and wild cherry (*Prunus emarginata*) are all capable of surviving each other's push for space and light. I do not provide any compost or fertilizer for the hedgerow, but in early winter I rake all the leaf-fall and apply it as mulch.

The hedgerow is fulfilling much of its promise. It has become a home to many local birds and small animals. It also provides a constantly changing display of leaf, bloom and fruit: a hedgerow walk offers something new to examine on every day of the year. However, after ten years, there are still no owls. One early spring, a northern saw-whet called through the night

proclaiming (I hoped) the hedgerow as its own. But that was one spring only. The hedgerow has brought many other joys, but I wish that a return of the owls might soon become one of them. §

Rose-Marie Silkens has been gardening for 50 years, most recently near Sayward, BC, where she also operates a small nursery. She can be reached at 250-282-3868 or rsilkens@oberon.ark.com



Saskatoon berry in blossom

Central Interior/Cariboo

A native garden in north-central BC

By Barbara Rayment

With over a foot of snow still on the ground and months to go before the first early bulbs show their faces, the garden should be a bleak place, but in fact it is anything but bleak. Chickadees hop about in the alder bushes, shredding the nutlets for the seeds, and pine grosbeaks – attracted by a steady supply of sunflower seeds – decorate several small lodgepole pines near the house. A optimistic sharp-shinned hawk visits occasionally and lights on top of the bird feeder, but the small birds just hop deeper into the dense branches of the surrounding trees and shrubs, and wait for him to leave. Squirrels and ruffed grouse seem to be in a constant squabble with each other over the spilled seeds beneath the bird feeder, beside the bright red stems of wild rose and red-osier dogwood, but there seem to be enough to go around and keep half a dozen of each fat.

The natural forest works in layers, and so does my garden. It is really in two quite different parts – an acre that was a gravel pit, that is in the process of development as a display garden for the nursery, and about six acres that is mainly ravine and hillside, and still covered with relatively undisturbed native systems. The ‘gravel pit’ is an international blend, with both species of our native mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina* and *S. sitchensis*) rubbing elbows with Asian and European species, and Douglas maple tucked in a corner with some interesting northern Asian maples which may or may not turn out to be hardy. Native

viburnum, saskatoon and assorted wild blueberries are growing in nicely as an understorey to four species of decidedly non-native oaks, and kinnikinnick and bunchberry do excellent service as groundcovers in association with naturalized Celandine wood poppy and an assortment of hostas and native as well as non-native ferns. When this is completed, there will be over a thousand species of plants from all over the northern hemisphere – and a few from the southern.

The plants aren’t all native, but the design is – deciduous and evergreen trees in the upper storey, an understorey of smaller trees and large shrubs, than smaller shrubs at the edges, all interwoven with perennials and groundcovers. Fortunately, I can see this living tapestry very clearly in my mind, because it will be a while before the oaks and magnolia mature and the design is complete!

My favourite summer refuge, though, is a wedge of fairly flat, semi-shaded land out behind the shop, with an esker sheltering one side and a steep shady ravine dropping off to the other. This I can’t take credit for planting – I merely caretake this patch, harvesting a few seeds and taking a few small ‘divots’ for transplanting. It is rich in native plant species – a condensed version of Mackinnon et al “Plants of Northern B.C.”

There are a dozen different miniature ecosystems in less than an acre, ranging from the Douglas fir, juniper and kinnikinnick of the dry south slope to the deep mossy richness of the north-facing ravine

side. There are birch and poplar and spruce and pine, three or four kinds of wild blueberries, viburnum, baneberry, elderberry, wild Solomon’s seal, two or three *Streptopus* varieties, three or maybe four *Pyrola* species, Hooker’s fairy bells and rough-fruited fairy bells, and a thick carpet of mosses, bunchberry, queen’s cup, bastard toad flax, foamflower, and at least a hundred other species.

Everything useful that I know about gardening I have learned from this piece of ground; by standing still, looking and listening, and trying to understand how it works without interference or control. No weeding, no watering or fertilizing – just a perfectly balanced plant community, occasionally disturbed by a falling tree or a browsing moose. This garden has taught me to plant my native seeds fresh, as soon as they are ripe, in mix that resembles the forest floor under the mosses more than it does any sterile mix purchased at the garden centre. It has taught me that bare soil is an invitation to weeds, as well as a waste of nutrients and water, and that plants grow quite happily all jammed together as long as they are sharing resources in time as well as space.

It has also taught me that the ‘pests’ don’t really matter, because they are part of the system too, as are the populations of toads, frogs, salamanders and garter snakes. Plants live and die, but the system is always full. I would be happy if I could achieve anywhere near the same balance in the cultivated area – maybe in a hundred years. §

Barbara Rayment owns and operates a nursery in Prince George, BC. She can be contacted at 250-964-6684 or birchcreek@telus.net

Native plants for coastal drought-tolerant gardens

By Brenda Costanzo, M.Sc. R.P.Bio.

The south-east coast of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands lay within the dry Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone. The native plants found in the Garry oak ecosystems within this dry zone can be excellent drought-tolerant garden plants. Here's a sampling of some of the easy to grow native plants from Garry oak meadows and associated plant communities.

***Allium cernuum* - nodding onion:**

This evergreen perennial will multiply easily in your garden either by bulb offsets or through self-sowing. This non-invasive perennial has pink umbels of flowers on nodding stalks that bloom from late May to August. When crushed, the evergreen leaves and bulbs smell like onion and the leaves can be used as a substitute for chives in cooking. This is a good perennial for a sunny mixed border, or for use in rockeries and containers. Combine nodding onion with *Sedum spathulifolium* (stonecrop), *Eriophyllum lanatum* (woolly sunflower) and *Heuchera micrantha* var. *diversifolia* (alumroot). Nodding onion can be propagated easily from seed sown outdoors in the fall, or by division of the bulbs in the fall.

***Eriophyllum lanatum* - woolly sunflower:** This herbaceous perennial is a favourite of mine for late summer colour. Woolly sunflower is a member of the Aster Family and has yellow daisy-like flowers from late May through October. The leaves are silvery gray and these can be cut back to 10 cm above the ground in the fall. The first crop of flowers can also be

sheared back to encourage reblooming. *Eriophyllum lanatum* requires excellent drainage, so ensure that there is ample gravel in the soil to prevent crown rot. To propagate this species, take shoot-tip cuttings in the early spring or divide mature plants in the fall. They will also grow quickly from seed.

***Heuchera micrantha* var. *diversifolia* - alumroot:**

This member of the Saxifrage Family is an excellent choice for rock gardens, rock walls or sunny borders. This perennial (30-90 cm tall) has evergreen leaves that are slightly lobed and hairy. Dainty spires of pinkish-white flowers appear from mid-May until June. Seeds can be sown as soon as ripe or the rhizomes can be divided in the fall and transplanted directly into new sites. When separated, the rhizomes can be wedged into rock walls with a bit of soil mixed with gravel or sand. This native is the parent of the popular ornamentals 'Palace Purple' and 'Chocolate Ruffles' sold in nurseries.

***Sedum spathulifolium* - broad-leaved stonecrop:**

Also known as sedum, this is another good rockery plant. The leaves are evergreen and can be either bluish-gray or tinged with red in some varieties (e.g. 'Rubra' has reddish leaves). The iridescent yellow flowers bloom from May to June, and their nectar attracts a variety of insects. This plant is easily propagated at any time by a piece of stolon or leaf stuck into a pot of soil. It can easily be used to fill in rock walls or rockeries. It is also a great container plant especially in a strawberry pot on a sunny patio.

***Triteleia hyacinthina* - fool's onion:**

Fool's onion blooms in late spring to early summer. This lily has umbels of 20 white to pale blue flowers that are 1.5 cm in length. These cormous perennials can reach 60 cm in height and have long, thin leaves that die back in the fall. *Triteleia hyacinthina* will easily self-sow without becoming a problem plant, and will also produce bulb offsets. Sow seeds outdoors in the fall and plant out the seedlings in the second spring. Use fool's onion planted in clumps at the base of *Quercus garryana* (Garry oak) trees or in rockeries and sunny perennial borders.

***Camassia quamash* and *Camassia leichtlinii* - Common and great camas:**

Both species of *Camassia* are excellent bulbous perennials to use in sites that are moist in the spring and dry by summer. They can be planted in clumps in borders, or in meadow-type settings, and *Camassia leichtlinii* is particularly nice around the edges of ponds. The 6-petalled purple flowers bloom from April to June and are a lovely spring combination with *Ranunculus occidentalis* (western buttercup) and *Dodecatheon spp.* (shooting stars). Camas can be grown from seed sown outdoors in the fall, but will take approximately 5-6 years to mature to blooming size.

***Ranunculus occidentalis* var. *occidentalis* - western buttercup:**

This herbaceous perennial is a meadow species found in combination with common camas and chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria lanceolata* = *F. affinis*). Western buttercup blooms from late March through June in open meadows, and reaches up to 60 cm in height. The five-petalled, yellow flowers have sepals that are folded back from the base. *Ranunculus occidentalis* var. *occidentalis* requires, moist but well-drained soil, and it will die back after setting seed. Seeds can be sown outdoors in the fall.

***Quercus garryana* - Garry oak:**

This is a deciduous tree up to 25 metres in height. Garry oaks can be grown

from acorns collected in the fall and sown in PVC tubes (30 cm long) filled with organic soil and oak mulch. As oaks initially develop a long taproot, it is best to transplant them as small seedlings in the first year after germination. *Quercus garryana* requires organic soil that is well drained, and a lot of space in which to grow. Underplant Garry oak with *Camassia spp.* (camas), *Dodecatheon spp.* (shooting stars), and *Ranunculus occidentalis* var. *occidentalis* (western buttercup).

***Holodiscus discolor* - oceanspray:** This deciduous shrub (1-5m) blooms with faintly fragrant 'sprays' of cream flowers in June. The graceful arches of the branches make this shrub a nice subject as either part of a hedgerow, or as a specimen shrub in a perennial border. Combine with Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*) and the native honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*), to create a hedgerow for attracting wildlife in your garden. Take cuttings in late summer using the current year's growth, or sow seeds outdoors in the fall.

The best time to plant all these species is in the fall when the natural rainfall will encourage proper root development. This will ensure their long-term survival. An application of oak-leaf mulch will help retain water and feed the plants. This can be applied up to 10 cm in the fall and spring if available. For rockery locations, use a mix of gravel and organic soil in the planting hole then periodically add gravel instead of mulch at the soil surface. §

Brenda Costanzo is Assistant Curator of the Herbarium at the University of Victoria. In addition to instructing community education classes on native plant gardening and wildflower identification, she does garden design consultations. A member of the NPSBC board, she can be contacted at 250-472-6142 or costanzo@uvic.ca

Botany BC 2001

This year Botany BC will be held near Smithers in the heart of the rolling farmland of the beautiful Bulkley Valley. The agenda is jam-packed with exciting botanical adventures, talks and fun events (botanical contests, skits, entertainment, etc.). Because we would like everyone to be together in one place – to socialize, get to know each other, and talk botany – we have arranged for all activities (talks, meals, socializing) to be based at Glenwood Hall. Field trips will also leave from Glenwood Hall.

Registration: The registration fee after March 31 is \$105.00. The deadline for all registrations is June 30, 2001. The registration fee includes wine and cheese reception, 3 breakfasts, 2 packed lunches, 1 supper and all other associated costs (hall rental, van rental etc.).

To receive a registration form, please write Rosamund Pojar at P.O. Box 3089, Smithers, BC, V0J 2N0, phone (250) 847-9784, or e-mail rpojar@bulkley.net

Transportation: The organizing group will have the use of some 12-passenger vans for transportation to and from the hall. These will be used to

See "Botany BC" on page 15

Join the BC Plantwatch team!

Imagine a nation-wide survey where botanists, gardeners, high school students, bird-watchers or dog-walkers could contribute valuable information simply by recording bloom dates of some common plant species. The BC Plantwatch program is looking for volunteers who may be willing to do just that.

BC Plantwatch is an extension of a nation-wide phenology (study of the seasonal timing of life cycle events) program based out of the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden in Edmonton. Although the BC program is still in the formative stage, we hope that this spring volunteers will keep an eye out for the blooming times of species such as saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), aspen poplar (*Populus tremuloides*), prairie crocus (*Anemone patens*), and western trillium (*Trillium ovatum*). Information about surveying the plants, reporting bloom times, and observing other species, can be found at the national web-site at www.devonian.ualberta.ca/pwatch

or by contacting Amanda Bond.

In the future, the information gathered may be used to understand the effects of global climate change and to implement management practices in response. For example, farmers and foresters will be able to predict, more precisely, the best time to combat pest insect species that emerge in step with certain plant stages. As the BC Plantwatch program is developed, more plant species will be identified to use as indicators to represent BC's diversity of ecosystems. Survey results will be available for everyone to view on provincial and federal web-sites that will be designed later this year.

If you would like more information about the BC Plantwatch program, have any suggestions for future plant species or ideas for possible funding sources, please contact:

Amanda Bond, BC Plantwatch Coordinator

Department of Biological Sciences
University College of the Cariboo
Tel. (250) 579-5677

E-mail: adl_bond@hotmail.com

Recovery strategy for Garry Oak and associated ecosystems and their associated species at risk

In May of 1999, Delegates to the First International Garry Oak Symposium, held in Victoria, BC, unanimously passed two resolutions:

- The Garry oak meadow ecosystem deserves to be recognized as a nationally endangered ecosystem; and
- A recovery plan should be developed and implemented to provide direction for protecting, sustaining, and restoring Garry oak ecosystems. In response to the second resolution, the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT), a partnership of a number of governmental and non-governmental agencies, was founded.

Over the last year, GOERT has worked to establish its operating principles and to develop an ecosystem-level recovery strategy. The many agencies that have supported and continue to support the initiative with active representation on the team demonstrate the broad-based commitment to the development and implementation of a coordinated program for Garry oak ecosystem recovery.

GOERT has reached general consensus on a draft strategy and is now inviting your assistance in its review and refinement. In this regard, there are three opportunities by which you or your organization can assist the team:

1) Access the online version of the Recovery Strategy at <www.bc.natureconservancy.ca>. Review and submit comments and feedback via email, post, or fax. Contact information is posted at the website. Also available at the website is the background document "Towards a Recovery Strategy for Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems: Ecological Assessment and Literature Review."

2) If you cannot access the online version, request a copy of the Recovery Strategy from:

Marilyn Fuchs, GOERT Chair
c/o A-954 Queens Street
Victoria, BC, V8T 1M6
Fax (250) 385-6686
E-mail foxtree@islandnet.com

Upon review, you may provide written or email comments and feedback to the above address, fax, or e-mail.

3) Attend the GOERT-sponsored Recovery Strategy Public Review meeting to be held Saturday 31 March, 2:00-4:00 pm, at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 835

Humboldt St., Victoria. This meeting will provide an overview of the process and the intent of the strategy. The meeting will be an opportunity to provide open discussion and comment of the draft strategy.

You may choose any or all of these opportunities for comment. The team would appreciate your input by the earliest possible date. It would also be very useful if your agency or organization could consider providing an endorsement of this recovery strategy. §

"Botany BC" continued

transport people to some of the field trip destinations. However, we assume that some participants will use their own vehicles.

Participants arriving without their own transportation (e.g., by plane) who will need assistance getting around are asked to fill out the appropriate section on the Registration Form OR contact Rosamund Pojar at with full details (e.t.a.; where staying, numbers etc.)

Accommodation: Camping – People can camp on the lawn at Glenwood Hall OR bed down on the floor of an adjacent building. **Motels and lodges:** There are several motels in town. Contact the organizing group for information.

Information – If you would like to be sent more information about Botany BC or Northwest Field School courses being offered in Smithers this coming summer, please contact Rosamund Pojar (see Registration section). §

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edurance@vip.net

Opportunity to get involved!

The Native Plant Society of BC Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for September 16, 2001 in Victoria at the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary (3873 Swan Lake Road). Volunteers and/or nominations from the membership are now being accepted. Persons interested in participating in the society as a board member must notify the secretary, Brenda Ramsay, at bramsay@kermode.net, phone: 250-638-8436, fax: 250-638-8480, of their intent to stand for election.

This year we are particularly looking for someone to represent First Nations concerns and interests on the board as Verna Miller will be taking a one-term break after many years of serving as an NPSBC director.

Don't be shy, we are a friendly bunch who share your interest in the natural world around us. A background in botany is not required - only an enthusiasm for native plants. Get involved, there's lots to learn!

Membership renewals

In an effort to save paper and postage costs, renewal receipts will not be issued unless requested. We will continue to mail out receipts for new members, because we also send out a welcome letter and a survey form.

New members

Lucille Anderson, 150 Mile House*
Rod Backmeyer, Fort St. John*
Nelda Bennett, Baldonnel*
Sandra Lee Burton, Farmington*
Keith Carroll, Fort St. John*
Sarah Coulter, Invermere*
Julie Craig, Nelson*
Sue Crowley, Invermere*
Leslie Drew, Duncan
Tobi Fenton, Vancouver
Tracy Fleming, Victoria
Laura Grafton, Prince George*
Ross Green, Fort St. John*
Cindy Haddow, Victoria*
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Mission Statement

The purpose of the NPSBC Native Plant Society of British Columbia is to encourage knowledge, appreciation, responsible use and conservation of British Columbia's native plants and habitats.

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