

THE NATURAL GARDENER NEWSLETTER

It's another cool day as I write this. March, and actually the whole year so far, has been cooler than normal and wetter too. In fact I think that our gardens are about 3 weeks behind in their growth. I noticed forsythia in full bloom on my way to the store this morning and normally they would be finished by now. I console myself with the fact that it hasn't snowed unlike what it did on March 28th, 2008. I take my blessings where I can find them. Even though the plants are a little late in getting going they are starting to appear. In my garden my *Arisaema sikokianum* has a good start and my *Arisaema griffithii* is just now emerging. My trilliums are all up quite a bit and all my Japanese maples are just starting to leaf out. However the star of the garden right now is my *Ribes sanguineum*. It is loaded in blossoms and looks stunning. If you don't have one in your garden you must get one. They are an attractive shrub, especially right now, but more importantly hummingbirds and mason bees love them.

April is always a busy month because everything seems to start to happen now and there are so many chores to do to get the garden back in shape. I find the best thing to do is to take it one step at a time. Pick one chore that needs to be done and do that then move on to the next. That way it won't seem so daunting. And don't forget to take time to admire and get reacquainted with all the plants re-emerging in your garden. It's like saying hello to old friends.

In this issue I will be talking about the Plant of the Month, more great plants for you to choose from, the Garden Tours, a special Fundraiser, Garden Classes, the bane of rhododendrons: the root vine weevil and of course the To Do List.

Enjoy!

Bob



Trillium cuneatum. How yummy is that! Yes, we have it.

THE NATURAL GARDENER 8th ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

It seems like only yesterday that I had the crazy idea to open a small, urban garden store and now here I am celebrating its 8th anniversary. It has been a challenging, rewarding, fascinating experience but the best part of opening The Natural Gardener has been you the customers. I believe that gardeners are special people and you have not proven me wrong. I have met so many amazing people through this store. Some of you have become my friends and all of you enrich my life every single day.

The Natural Gardener would not be here without your support and friendship so to thank you we're having a party. There will be wine, appetizers from Crown Street Catering, great company and of course lots of plants. There are going to be special draws throughout the evening for items donated by some of my suppliers. And most importantly you will receive **10% off** everything in the store and nursery.

Date: Sunday, April 17, 2011

Time: 5pm to 8pm

Location: At The Natural Gardener, 4376 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver

Please RSVP by April 15, 2009

Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer. ~Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

Just a reminder:

I have been writing a garden blog and wanted to remind you to check it out at blog.thenatural-gardener.com



We are also on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/thenaturalgardener). You can find us at The Natural Gardener Garden Store.

BOTANICAL LATIN

In our continuing quest to understand what the heck the latin names of our favourite plants mean here is the next word of the month:

Cuneatum – Meaning a wedge. Example: Trillium cuneatum. Cuneatum is probably referring to the base of the leaves.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Trillium luteum

I love the spring garden and one of the main reasons for that is the Trillium family. They are the queens of the spring garden with their beautiful blooms and interesting foliage, especially the species with mottled leaves. Trillium luteum is one of the outstanding trilliums available. As its name luteum suggests, it has wonderful yellow flowers atop a trio of leaves. Like most trilliums luteum prefers moist, shaded locations and if it is not allowed to dry out the leaves will remain until early fall making for a stronger plant next year. One thing to remember is that trilliums in general hate to be moved so make sure that you plant it in a location where you want it to remain. If you do have to move it the plant will probably sulk for a whole year before settling down in its new spot. Trillium luteum is usually slow to establish itself but if you provide it with shade, moisture and don't disturb it, eventually you will be rewarded with a wonderfully showy clump of flowers adding splashes of light to your shade garden.

Zone: 4

Light: Part shade to full shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained, humusy

Height: 12" to 18"

Spread: 12" to 18"



Trillium luteum. Beautiful isn't it. Yes, we have it.

THE NATURAL GARDENER 1st ANNUAL PARKINSON'S FUNDRAISER

The Natural Gardener is proud to be contributing to World Parkinson's Day on Monday, April 11th, 2011. The purpose of World Parkinson's Day is to bring attention to Parkinson's disease and to help people become more informed about Parkinson's. Approximately 11,000 British Columbians live with the disease every day.

The Natural Gardener is going to donate **20%** of the days net sales on **April 11th, 2011** to the Parkinson's Society of British Columbia so please come by on April 11th and help support Parkinson's research and education.

The Parkinson Society of British Columbia's mission is to address the personal and social consequences of Parkinson's disease through scientific research, education, community outreach, advocacy and public awareness. Your generous support will fund research and essential programs and services for individuals living with Parkinson's in British Columbia.

If you are unable to visit The Natural Gardener on World Parkinson's Day you may also contribute online through CanadaHelps using the following link:

<http://www.canadahelps.org/gp/11757> and receive a tax receipt for your donation.

Date: Monday, April 11, 2011

Location: The Natural Gardener, 4376 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver

An event to benefit



Parkinson Society British Columbia
Société Parkinson Colombie-Britannique

**April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go.
~Christopher Morley**

GARDEN TOURS 2011

I love taking people on garden tours and sharing with them some of my favourite gardens to visit and learn from. This year I have the great good fortune to be adding some new gardens to my already wonderful regularly visited gardens. We will be visiting Dorina Palmer's amazing Point Grey Road garden, Margot Ketchum's fascinating and beautiful West Vancouver garden, Margaret Charlton & Charlie Sale's plant lovers dream garden in Deep Cove and David & Wendy Sellar's beautiful rock & alpine garden in South Surrey. In addition I am very fortunate to have

booked a date to see the stunning Elizabeth Miller Garden in Seattle. It's been a couple of years since we were last there and I'm very excited to be returning there this year.

The Margaret Charlton & Charlie Sale Garden

Margaret and Charlie's garden is located at "Woodlands" in the rainforest at the foot of Mt. Seymour on Indian Arm off Burrard Inlet. It is a steep woodland garden backing on to a large forested area that extends to the top of the mountain. The narrow road passes through four miles of stately trees. Annual rainfall is 8' to 10'.

The garden merges successfully with its magnificent surroundings. Planted broad-leafed evergreens blend with wild Salal and Mahonia which extend out from the forest. There are many under-story trees. Streams being an integral part of the local landscape, small to tiny ponds and streams are used to preserve the integrity of the woodland setting. Rocks and cliffs have been exposed for dramatic effect. A complex series of switchback paths lead one easily through two acres of peaceful solitude only 35 minutes from downtown Vancouver.

Clearing and planting began over forty years ago. Rhododendrons, mainly species, were used as the unifying element. Dwarf forms were planted on some of the steeper terraces and bigger shrub forms and tree rhododendrons used elsewhere. Many other trees are throughout the garden, particularly Magnolia and Sorbus in variety. On the sunny and dry upper terraces Mediterranean plants predominate. Perennial plantings and a large rock garden are also very important constituents.

For years Margaret has derived much pleasure from stretching the limits of what could reasonably be expected to flourish in her garden, raising from seed and cuttings a very great number of unusual and interesting plants. This garden has a seemingly endless number of treasures for both the serious and casual gardener, be it rare plants, topography, or landscape. Margaret & Charlie hope you will enjoy it.

Date: Thursday, April 28th, 2011

Time: 6pm

Location: will be announced just prior to the tour. It's a bit of a challenge to find so if you would like to carpool from The Natural Gardener let me know.

Cost: \$15.00

The tour should last approximately 11/2 hours. After the tour complimentary wine and appetizers will be provided for you to enjoy.

FREE SPIRIT NURSERY

Free Spirit Nursery is owned and operated by Lambert & Marjanne Vrijmoed. Lambert & Marjanne are dedicated plants people with a philosophy of gardening that is best described in their own words; **"At the nursery we show and share dynamic planting schemes in which not only colour and flowering time play a role but more so the character, texture and flower shapes in order to create a garden that continuously changes under the influence of light, wind, precipitation and time, demanding different levels of appreciation from the viewer"**.

It has been open to the public for the past twelve years and has a unique way of displaying its plants for sale. On one side of the pathway are mature specimens planted in combination and on the other side of the pathway are the same plants in pots. That way you can see how the plant you are interested in will look in your garden. For more information about the nursery visit their website at www.freespiritnursery.ca.

Lambert will be taking us on a special, guided tour of their private gardens that should last about an hour and then we can wander the actual nursery and gardens. After that we will take a half hour lunch break at a lovely sitting area in the nursery so please pack a lunch to bring with you.

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Time: 9:45am

Cost: \$15.00

Location: Free Spirit Nursery, 20405 32nd Avenue, Langley, BC 604-533-7373

We will meet at The Natural Gardener at 9:45am, carpool out to Free Spirit and arrive at the nursery for 11:00am. Bring a lunch as there are lovely spots in the nursery to have your lunch in. We should be back at The Natural Gardener by 2:00pm

The Glen Patterson Roof Top Garden – SOLD OUT

Glen has one of the most beautiful roof top gardens I have ever seen and we are very privileged to have the opportunity to view it. Glen had an extensive garden at his home in West Vancouver filled with many unusual and rare trees and shrubs and when he moved to his condo on Coal Harbour he brought some of them with him. He used them as the focal features for his garden and by using Tufa rock for the bones of the garden he has created a plant lovers dream garden. There are hundreds of cultivars and species plants throughout his 800 square foot garden and everywhere you look are more plant treasures to admire. This tour will sell out fast so don't hesitate to book.

Date: Thursday, May 12th, 2011

Time: 6pm

Location: will be announce just prior to the tour

Cost: \$15.00

The tour should last approximately 11/2 hour. After the tour complimentary wine and appetizers will be provided for you to enjoy.

The David & Wendy Sellars Garden

Wendy and David Sellars started their garden 24 years ago on an undeveloped one acre lot. Working with a clean slate, they shaped the sloping site to create topographic interest and developed a waterfall, stream and ponds. Species rhododendrons, unusual rhodo hybrids and specimen trees such as *Davidia involucrata* and *Magnolia denudata* form the garden plant structure. A rock garden on a high bank built with local glacial boulders and featuring cliffs formed with large tufa blocks extends along the front garden. Plants likely to be in flower include *Edraianthus serpyllifolius*, *Lewisia tweedyi*, *Helichrysum sessiloides*, *Aquilegia bertolonii*, *Androsace studiosorum*, *Androsace villosa*, *Meconopsis betonicifolia*, *Penstemon rupicola* and many Silver Saxifrages.

If you would be interested in a tufa garden planting demonstration please let me know. David is kindly willing to share his expertise with us if we have enough people.

Date: Sunday, May 15, 2011

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: will be announced just prior to the tour

Cost: \$15.00

The tour should last approximately 11/2 hours. After the tour complimentary wine and appetizers will be provided for you to enjoy.

The Susan Koelink Garden

Susan Koelink is once again generously sharing her wonderful garden with us. The hardscaping was designed by Ron Rule but the plantings are all Susan. There are choice plants everywhere you look and wonderful surprises around every corner. This is the first time we are touring Susan's garden in mid spring with all the lovely spring flowering plants out in full beauty. Susan's garden has been featured in several garden magazines and was included on the Ballet BC Home & Garden Tour in 2006. Not to be missed.

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2011

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: will be announced just prior to the tour

Cost: \$15.00

The tour should last approximately 1 1/2 hours. After the tour complimentary wine and appetizers will be provided for you to enjoy.

The Dorina Palmer Garden

Dorina Palmers Point Grey Road garden started life way back in 1960 when Dorina and her husband bought the home. There wasn't much in the garden then except a few shrubs and trees including a Japanese Maple and a Lilac Tree that are still there. Over the years Dorina added slowly to the garden while her kids were growing up. Once they were gone she joined a garden club and then the garden started to take off. Now it is an established garden with wonderful plant surprises everywhere. Dorina's garden was featured in the September 2009 issue of Gardens West magazine and will be featured in GardenWise magazine this spring. A garden not to be missed.

Date: Thursday, May 26th, 2011

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: will be announced just prior to the tour

Cost: \$15.00

The tour should last approximately 1 1/2 hours. After the tour complimentary wine and appetizers will be provided for you to enjoy.

The Katharine Nicol Garden

The Katharine Nicol Garden's hardscaping was also designed by Ron Rule but the plantings are all Katharine. In addition to her wonderful selection of perennials, trees and shrubs Katharine has also created a kitchen garden that supplies her family with vegetables all summer long.

Date: Thursday, June 2, 2011

Time: 6:00pm

Location: will be announced just prior to the tour

Cost: \$15.00

The tour should last approximately 1 1/2 hours. After the tour complimentary wine and appetizers will be provided for you to enjoy.

Abkhazi Garden and Lily Maxwell Garden

We will be visiting two of Victoria's most beautiful gardens this year. The Abkhazi Garden is located a short distance from Government House in Victoria and the Lily Maxwell garden is a private garden located down from the Abkhazi Garden close to the water. Here is a description of the two gardens:

Abkhazi Garden

The Abkhazi Garden is an exquisite heritage home and garden. Prince and Princess Abkhazi began creating their garden in 1946. This was the year they married and settled in Victoria, after living separate lives touched by both privilege and tragedy. They immediately began to develop their one-acre property, and continued to maintain and improve the garden throughout their lives together.

The garden is very discreet from the street, with only hints of what exists beyond the hornbeam hedge. What the visitor does find is a garden that embraces a natural landscape that is unique to Victoria. The garden is blessed with dramatic glaciated rocky slopes, magnificent native Garry oaks and gorgeous vistas. The garden is designed to make the most of these remarkable features and it is the Abkhazis' response to their landscape that qualifies it as a stunning example of West Coast design. The garden flows around the rock, taking advantage of deeper pockets of soil for conifers, Japanese maples and rhododendrons that over the last 50 years have grown to an impressive maturity. Carpets of naturalized bulbs, choice alpins and woodland companions provide interest throughout the year to the discerning plantsman, but it is the overall design that leaves the greatest impression.

The Abkhazis worked together on their creation for over 40 years, referring to it as "their child". After their deaths the Garden changed hands, and in February 2000, The Land Conservancy purchased the property to save it from becoming a townhouse development.

I have had the privilege of visiting this garden several times and it is a real joy to explore. They have rhododendrons that are nearly 100 years old and are more tree-like than shrubby. It was a unique experience to wander among them. This is definitely a must see garden. Please visit their website <http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/content.asp?sectionack=abkhazi> for more detailed information about the garden.

Lily Maxwell Garden

Lily Maxwell is a Garden Designer with a beautiful home and garden located in the Oak Bay area of Victoria. Lily's property slowly slopes down to the road in front of her house and commands a lovely view of the water. But it is the plants that draw your attention. In the front yard she has created sweeping garden beds anchored with shrubs and trees and filled with interesting, rare and unusual perennials. The east side of the house has a sweet little garden area that links the front yard to the back. In the back yard, gravel paths meander through the garden beds Lily has created. Here again a variety of trees and shrubs provide structure in the garden with perennials providing colour and interest. Lily's garden is toured by many garden groups throughout the year and you are really going to enjoy seeing what she has created.

Date: Sunday, June 5, 2011

Time: We will meet at The Natural Gardener at 7:30am to catch the 9:00am ferry to Swartz Bay arriving at The Abkhazi Gardens at 11:00am. We will leave the Abkhazi Gardens at 12:30pm and tour the Lily Maxwell Garden. From Lily's garden we are going to Richard Mosselman's garden. Richard and his partner have created a wonderful small garden that I know we will all find inspiring. We will catch the 5pm ferry and should be back at The Natural Gardener by 7:30pm

Cost: \$95.00 includes ferry, gas and tours of both gardens.

The Margot Ketchum Garden

A couple of years ago I had the opportunity and great pleasure of visiting Margot's Garden and was blown away by the lushness and richness of her plants. Everywhere I looked there were plant treasures, both big and small. The property, which Margot purchased in the mid 90's was a mess when she first bought it but by sheer hard work and imagination she has transformed it into

a garden of Eden. There is a pond in the front yard with a small bridge over it and the backyard is a shade gardeners paradise. Margot's garden has been featured in GardenWise magazine and she gets numerous requests each year to tour her garden. This is another garden you are not going to want to miss.

Date: Thursday, June 16th, 2011

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: will be announced just prior to the tour

Cost: \$15.00

The tour should last approximately 1 1/2 hours. After the tour complimentary wine and appetizers will be provided for you to enjoy.

The Lisa O'Donnell Garden

The Lisa O'Donnell Garden is a plant collectors dream. Lisa has created an amazing collection of plants, trees and shrubs and one of the most extensive collections of dwarf & miniature conifers I've ever seen. Lisa's garden has been featured in several garden magazines during the past few years. Come and be inspired.

Date: Thursday, June 23rd, 2011

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: will be announced just prior to the tour

Cost: \$15.00

The tour should last approximately 1 1/2 hours. After the tour complimentary wine and appetizers will be provided for you to enjoy.

THE ELIZABETH MILLAR GARDEN – SOLD OUT

The Miller Botanical Garden is located just north of Seattle. It was the private home and garden of Elizabeth and Pendleton Miller. The garden is known for its exceptional collection of fine trees and shrubs in addition to an expansive collection of woodland herbaceous perennials. The Millers purchased the five-acre piece of land north of the Seattle city limits on a bluff above Puget Sound in 1948. The site commands spectacular views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula, and offers unique microclimates for growing plants. There are over 4,000 taxa, or different kinds of plants, in the three acres of this uniquely landscaped garden.

The Miller Botanical Garden is still a private garden and is available for tours only on Wednesdays & Thursdays from March until November with a maximum of 500 people each year so I was thrilled to be able to actually book a date and share with you this fascinating and very special garden. For more information on the Miller Botanical Garden please visit their website at www.millergarden.org.

Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2011

Depart Vancouver from The Natural Gardener at 8:30 am

Arrive at The Miller Botanical Garden at 12:45 pm

Tour starts at 1:00pm

Tour ends at 3:00pm

Depart for Vancouver at 3:15 pm

Arrive in Vancouver at 7:15 pm

Cost: \$40.00 includes car, gas & tour

THE CLAUDE LEDOUX & ADRIAN MICHIELSEN GARDEN

Claude is the Parks Horticultural Manager for the city of New Westminster so you can just imagine what his garden is like. Both the front garden and the back garden are beautifully laid out and full of some of the most interesting plants you'll ever see. The hardscaping Claude and Adrian have done is also quite something. This is definitely a garden worth travelling to New Westminster for.

Date: Saturday, July 9, 2011

Time: 1:00pm

Location: will be announced just prior to the tour.

Cost: \$15.00

**The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day. ~Robert Frost**

APRIL GARDENING TO DO LIST

- Prune winter-flowering shrubs and vines after bloom
- Plant summer- and fall-flowering bulbs
- Spray for peach leaf curl, peach leaf blight, and canker
- Plant permanent ground covers
- Plant ornamental grasses
- Plant bare-root and container roses
- Plant or transplant warm-season annuals
- Plant fruit trees
- Feed houseplants that are growing or blooming
- Plant perennials
- Plant ornamental and evergreen trees, shrubs, and vines
- Prune spring-flowering or tender shrubs and vines after blooming
- Plant vegetable seedlings
- Plant balled-and-burlapped and container fruit trees
- Apply a mulch of compost, mushroom manure or steer manure to your garden beds
- Deadhead your daffodils. Don't tie up the leaves, let them go brown naturally
- Divide summer blooming perennials such as Hostas, Daylilies and phlox
- Plant or repair lawns
- Aerate your lawn
- Over seed any thin or bare patches of lawn
- Stay on top of the weeding. If you do it now you won't have to do it later
- Check your roses for aphids. If there are any squish them or apply Safers Insecticidal Soap. Doing this now means relatively aphid free roses later
- Clean out your pond and plant new perennial water plants
- Start feeding your fish once the water temperature reaches 10 C.

There's lots to do but isn't it wonderful to be back out in the garden helping your plants grow and thrive.

MORE GREAT PLANTS

I just want to keep tempting you so here are a few more plants to help support our plant addiction:

Trillium pusillum

This dwarf trillium (3" – 12") from Eastern North America is a sweet addition to any shade garden. The foliage emerges a deep purple then changes to dark green. It likes the same conditions as most trilliums.



Arisaema triphyllum

Another Eastern North American native this arisaema does great in a shady garden with acidic, well-drained soil.



Tricyrtis formosana 'Samurai'

I love tricyrtis (Toadlily) and they should be grown more in the garden. They love the woodland garden, bloom in the fall with exquisite, orchid-like flowers. What more could you want. They reach a height of about 20 inches.



Ligularia 'Dragon's Breath'

A fairly new addition to the Ligularia family, Dragon's Breath adds a touch of the exotic to your shade garden. Highly dissected leaves, purple stems and yellow flowers, what's not to love.



Frittilaria lanceolata

This frittilaria is native to the West Coast prefers sunny, well-drained, grassy fields. It is an ephemeral meaning it blooms in early spring and then disappears by summer. A beauty for the spring garden.



Erythronium revolutum

Found on Vancouver Island this delicate beauty is another ephemeral that prefers sunny to dappled light locations with good drainage. Once established it will develop a good sized clump of gorgeous flowers.



Lilium formosanum var. pricei

This lily is the dwarf form of the much taller Formosan Lily. It is short lived lasting about 3 years but self seeds fairly easily. It has beautiful, richly scented flowers that appear in summer. Give it a sunny, well-drained location.



Macleaya cordata – Plume Poppy

Macleaya is best suited for a larger garden as it is a large perennial reaching 6 feet in height. It will grow in full sun to part shade and does not like to dry out. For a dramatic addition to your garden Macleaya is perfect.



Root Vine Weevil and Beneficial Nematodes.

I'm sure you have all noticed those strange notches on the leaves of your rhododendrons and pieris japonicas. They are not very attractive and can seriously damage the leaves if it is not stopped. Those notches are created by a beetle called the Root Vine Weevil. It feeds at night and hides out during the day. Its larvae are found in the soil around the base of the plants the adults are feeding on. The larvae feed on the roots of the plants.

The beneficial nematodes *Heterorhabditis*, *Steinernema kraussei* and *Steinernema* ssp. are one of the best ways to control root vine weevil. What the nematodes do is attack the larvae of the weevil and kill them thus preventing them from becoming adults. It is a very effective, safe, non-toxic way of controlling this annoying pest. The *Heterorhabditis* nematode also attacks cutworms and the larvae of the newly introduced Chafer Beetle.

The *Steinernema kraussei* nematode can be used when the soil temperature is only 5 C and the *Heterorhabditis* and *Steinernema* ssp. are used when the soil warms up to 10 C. The *Steinernema kraussei* nematodes are not available this year due to problems at the suppliers but we will be carrying the *Steinernema* ssp. nematodes starting in mid April and the *Heterorhabditis* nematodes to control Chafer Beetle in July. If you would like to apply nematodes to your garden this year The Natural Gardener is the place to come to.



Nematodes



Root Vine Weevil



Root Vine Weevil larvae

THE NATURAL GARDENER GARDEN CLASSES SCHEDULE

SPRING 2011

Now in its 9th season, The Natural Gardener will be holding our popular Spring Garden Classes to help you in your quest for garden knowledge. If you're like me you just can't get enough information about plants and gardening. There always seems to be something new to learn about or a new plant to discover.

We will be offering classes on everything from Organic Vegetable Growing to Summer Container Gardening. Take a look at the following class schedule and decide which one(s) you'd like to take.

This year we are doing something a little different. We will be holding all classes on SATURDAYS in the morning. This way all you folks who couldn't make the evening classes will have the opportunity to join us on Saturdays. All classes are held at The Natural Gardener Garden Store, 4376 West 10th Avenue, begin at 11am, fill up fast and are limited to 15 people. So don't hesitate, book your class(es) today.

You must pre-register for a class either in person, by phone or by e-mail. When phoning or e-mailing, a credit card number is required.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call the store at 604-224-2207 or e-mail us at info@thenatural-gardener.com.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our great classes.

THE NATURAL GARDENER GARDEN CLASSES SCHEDULE

SPRING 2011

April 9

Growing Native Plants in Your Garden

Instructor: **Bob Tuckey**, owner of The Natural Gardener

- Native plants add interest and texture to your garden and provide food and shelter for a wide variety of local birds and animals. Bob will talk about the types of plants that are available, how to integrate them into an existing bed and how to create a bed composed entirely of native plants. You'll even get to take a small plant home with you.

Cost: \$15.00 **Class starts at 11 am**

April 23

Planting an Alpine Container

Instructor: **Bob Tuckey**, owner of The Natural Gardener

- Alpines are the tiny treasures of the gardening world and they are more widely available now than they have ever been. Using containers of alpines on your patio or deck is a terrific idea since the little plants are easily viewed from a comfortable height, and they have so many interesting features when seen close up. Bob will be talking about alpines and their care and then we will plant up an alpine

container. Plants, soil and container are included. Just bring your gloves.

Cost: \$50.00 **Class starts at 11am**

April 30

Planting an Herb Container

Instructor: **Bob Tuckey**, owner of The Natural Gardener

- With their flavours, textures, culinary and medicinal uses herbs are more popular than ever. Bob will give an overview of the many types of herbs, including some of the more interesting varieties that are available and their cultural requirements. Then we will put together an herb pot for you to take home. Bring a 10" – 12" container, your gloves and secateurs.

Cost: \$30.00 **Class starts at 11 am**

May 7

Organic Vegetable Gardening

Instructor: **Emi Do**, Staff Person at The Natural Gardener

- Growing your own vegetables can be so rewarding. Sweet carrots, luscious tomatoes and delectable peas are just a few of the vegetables you can grow in your own backyard. Emi will talk about where the best location is to locate your vegetable patch, soil preparation, choosing the right seeds, organic fertilizer, companion planting and natural pest control. There will be an organic vegetable seed pack to take home so you can get started.

Cost: \$15.00 **Class starts at 11 am**

May 14

Summer Container Gardens

Instructor: **Bob Tuckey**, owner of The Natural Gardener

- There is nothing like a spectacular container garden to brighten your patio or deck. Bob will share his extensive knowledge about the different kinds of plants that can be used in containers, the special requirements for keeping them healthy and full of colour and he will talk about shade and sun containers. Bring a 12" – 14" container and you will make your own planter filled with annuals, perennials and grasses. You'll be the envy of the neighbourhood. Don't forget your gloves & secateurs. This is the most popular class we offer so book early.

Cost: \$50.00 **Class starts at 11 am**

May 21

Vegetable Container Gardening

Instructor: **Emi Do**, Staff Person at The Natural Gardener

Vegetables don't only have to be grown in the ground. If you live in an apartment, condo or townhouse space is limited but you would be amazed at what you can grow in a container. As long as you have a sunny spot you can grow vegetables. Emi will talk about how easy it is to do and what some of the special requirements are for growing vegetables in a pot. Then you will plant up your very own vegetable container to take home. Bring a 12" – 14" container and we will supply the soil and vegetables. Don't forget your gloves.

Cost: \$45.00 **Class starts at 11 am**

May 28

Contemporary Container Annuals

Instructor: **Bob Tuckey**, owner of The Natural Gardener

- The choice of annuals is growing as quickly as the choice of containers to plant them in. Learn to create vibrant containers filled with contrasting texture for that WOW effect. Bring along a 12"-14" container and you'll plant it up. A fun filled morning with great ideas. Don't forget your gloves & secateurs.

Cost: \$45.00 **Class starts at 11 am**

One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides. ~W.E. Johns

There you have it, another newsletter for your enjoyment. There's lots going on this month and I hope to see you on April 11th for the Parkinson's fundraiser and definitely hope to see you for my 8th anniversary party. Have fun in your garden this month and have a Happy Easter as well.

Bob

