



Spring 2010

Learn to grow your own greens at workshops

Workshops over the coming months will focus on practical, hands-on gardening – with an emphasis on eating.

The first features a presentation from Tetra Society of North America volunteers, who can invent and fabricate tools to enable people with disabilities to garden, which will be followed by a session looking at how to create a herb garden.

“Conway Lum, Garden Communicator award-winner will introduce culinary herbs that look beautiful and taste good,” explained DIGA Program Coordinator Betty Cheung. “He will guide us to prepare a planter with several perennial culinary herbs and tell us how to keep them happy.”

The workshop is held from 1:30pm to 3:30pm, Saturday, April 24 in the Seminar Room of GardenWorks at Mandeville (4746 S E Marine Drive, Burnaby – the intersection of S E Marine Drive and Nelson Street). There is free parking.

June’s workshop goes under the colorful title of *A Beautiful Salad Bowl for the Summer*.

This hands-on workshop will be held during the Rick Hansen *Wheels in Motion* event at Vancouver’s Pacific National Exhibition grounds on Sunday, June 13. Access the event alongside Hastings Park, at the northeast corner of McGill St.

“Joan Miller from the Greenhouse in Queen’s Park will lead us to create a planter with seedlings of gorgeous vegetables, herbs and edible flowers that will add extra colours to patio or window-sill,” continued Cheung. “She will provide tips on how to keep the planter productive all summer long.”

Participation in both workshops costs \$10. More information about the June event will be given nearer the time.

To reserve a place or ask questions about either workshop, email bcheung@disabilityfoundation.org or phone Betty at 604-688-6464 ext. 106.

Volunteer engineers from Tetra can create adapted tools to make anyone’s gardening more accessible. Contact Betty for more information, or visit www.tetrasociety.org.

Space for you at our community gardens

DIGA has space at its raised-beds plots in Vancouver community gardens.

The organization maintains three accessible plots at George Pearson Park, on West 57th Ave., Vancouver, and four at Pandora Community Garden, on Templeton Drive and Franklin Street, East Vancouver. One space remains available at Pandora, on a 1.6 ft. by 10 ft. raised bed.

Gardening experience doesn’t matter, as volunteers will be available, along with get-togethers for hints and tips.

Grants from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation supported DIGA’s Pandora Garden start-up, and Shell Environmental Fund enabled development of all both gardens.



Watch this space: One of DIGA’s raised beds at Pandora Community Garden, before soil and plants were put in place. Seen here are (from left) Magritta Morrison, Terry LeBlanc and Barry Londry



Annuals: March's meeting.



Cultivating: January's event.



Yule: November get-together.



Volunteers: October tea party.

Workshop reviews – adaptive gardening for everyone

DIGA events since publication of the fall 2009 newsletter have covered a wide range of ground.

At our most recent meeting, held in March, members got together at Vancouver's GF Strong Rehab. Centre boardroom for a lecture on choosing and planting annuals and perennials.

Guest speaker Emily Budinski, from BC Council of Garden Clubs, covered all aspects of annuals and perennials from planting to their long term care, explained DIGA program coordinator Betty Cheung. "Emily also brought enough cuttings from her huge scented geranium and provided pots and soil for participants to bring home – as homework, as Emily will return this summer for another hands-on workshop.

January's meeting, at Cameron Rec. Centre, Burnaby, considered plant cultivation in raised-bed and containers, which are better accessible and easier to maintain than ground-level gardens, and also the creation of water features. William and Carla Bischoff ran a slide show of the multi-phased cultivations around their house to illustrate the benefits of raised-bed gardening, and recommended the best plants to be grown in pots and containers.

Back in November 2009, DIGA members created festive centerpieces at an event held at Vancouver's George Pearson Centre.

"Amanda Jarrett, horticultural consultant, used a Yule log disc as base and demonstrated how to put in fresh greenery, decorations, cinnamon sticks plus a candle to create a centerpiece that would brighten up the winter days," explained Cheung.

And back in October of last year, DIGA held an *Afternoon Tea* at UBC Botanical Garden, Vancouver, to praise the volunteers that enable people with disabilities to benefit so much from gardening. Long-term volunteers Mary Jo Dawe, of New Westminster, and Eva Machalek, of Vancouver, spoke about their efforts to assist DIGA participants both where they live and at community gardens. They were presented with trophies to show everyone's appreciation of their work.

Thanks was also given to BC Rehab Foundation and the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation, for their extended support of DIGA.

DIGA news in brief

Special thanks

Thank you to developers ONNI for providing DIGA with the Seymour & Pacific Community Garden for the past two years. We have to say farewell this spring and participants and volunteers want to express how much they appreciate the gardening opportunity provided.

Volunteers required

DIGA needs volunteers to assist clients with their gardening. Please support our activities at community gardens or at home gardens if you can spare some time from your garden.

More accessible community garden space

Cottonwood Community Garden has accessible plots available. For more information, contact Jill Weiss at 604-608-0384 or jg3weiss@smarrt.com.

Vancouver plant sales and gardeners' events

The following events are taking place in Vancouver for gardeners. All are accessible. Admission is free, except where specified.

VanDusen Botanical Garden (5251 Oak Street, Vancouver)
Apr 25: VanDusen Plant Sale, 10am to 4pm.
May 8: Geranium & Pelargonium Society Plant Show & Sale, Floral Hall. 10am to 4pm.
June 5-6: Taguchi Bonsai Club Spring Bonsai Show, Floral Hall. 11am to 5pm both days. Admission \$2.
Jun 12-13: Desert Plant Society Show & Sale, Floral Hall.
Sat: 10am to 5pm, Sun: 10am to 4:30pm.

UBC Botanical Garden (6804 SW Marine Drive)
May 8: the UBC Spring Festival & Plant Sale. 10am to 4pm. Located at garden parking lot. Admission by donation.

More info: Betty Cheung at 604-688-6464 ext. 110

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