



Five Great Topics to Navigate our Changing Environment

Jeff de Jong: *A Garden Revival*

The Gardens of the PNW are in transition. Climate, weather, and a host of other situations are altering how we garden more than ever. The 'Ostrich Approach' of simply hoping for better days is not a sound decision. A renewed approach to gardening is needed. The benefits of gardening far outweigh the demands. Jeff will speak on practical and effective measures to keep our love for gardening alive. Design, plant material, and rethinking spaces will be addressed in this session. The glass is indeed 1/2 full! Join in this session to gain insights for a better tomorrow.

Thomas Hobbs: *Taking the Easy Road – Adapting My Garden to a New Climate*

Through images from his and partner Brent Beattie's 20-acre property in South Langley, BC, Thomas Hobbs will share with us how, due to colder winters and drier and hotter summers in the Pacific Northwest, he has created a whole new tapestry of plantings by favouring plants that "don't need me". Landscape redesign using hardier shrubs and perennials is only one of his many adaptations to today's changing world. This unique presentation is sure to be informative and engaging.

Carissa Kasper: *Plan and Perfect your Kitchen Garden*

A vegetable garden can be a feast for the eyes as well as the palate. Learn garden designer Carissa Kasper's top tips gleaned from creating sustainable gardens in backyards, penthouse rooftops, and Fairmont Waterfront's chef gardens to grow your own beautiful food in the city. Grow beyond functional and make your kitchen garden a focal point of your home landscape - all while increasing the health and vitality of your crops and the environment.

Nancy Shackelford: *Making Friends with the Land: Using Native Plants for Beauty, Health and to Give Back*

This talk will cover some of the "why" we grow native plants. It will cover a range of local producers, how a transition to native plant gardening might be planned, some species recommendations for getting started, and how this all intersects with restoration, biodiversity, and being good guests on the land.

Diane Watson: *Invasive Species Mastery: A Guide for Gardens and Communities*

During this presentation, we'll explore essential terminology for understanding and managing invasive species, actionable steps for control in gardens, and common invasive species in the Vancouver area. The audience will also gain insights from community examples to better navigate the challenges of invasive species in your local environment. Join us in fostering an informed community for positive environmental impact.



Speaker Bios – *Here is the Background on our Amazing Speakers*

Jeff de Jong: *A Garden Revival*

Jeff de Jong graduated from the Landscape Management Program at Olds College in Alberta and has since been a Horticulture Instructor for over twenty years. He coordinated the Master Gardener Program in Calgary for several years.

After moving to Victoria, BC, Jeff immediately became involved with the gardening community and, for nine years, hosted Victoria's only radio gardening program *Gardening 101*, on CFAX. He has taught the Master Gardener program at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific.

Jeff is a Continuing Studies instructor at the University of Victoria, offering various classes, including a course he developed called "Home Garden Design." He speaks about his passion for gardening and garden design across Canada and the USA".

As well as teaching, Jeff is an avid gardener and landscape designer and has won many awards for his own garden and other yards that he has designed. He is also a garden writer, photographer, and watercolor artist. He has a love for travel and leads garden tours to exciting places around the world.

Thomas Hobbs: *Taking the Easy Road – Adapting My Garden to a New Climate*

Thomas Hobbs is an entirely self-taught nurseryman and entrepreneur. He has been obsessed with plants from birth. In his own words, "like occasionally happens with piano, math, ballet, etc., I was a child prodigy with plants". Thomas started out by selling bedding plants from a greenhouse in his parents' backyard while in grade six! He opened his first plant store in Vancouver in 1972 which soon became the very first artistic florist shop in the city. In 1991, he acquired a struggling nursery in Vancouver and over time transformed it into the impressive Southlands Nursery that we know today. In 2008, he purchased the South Langley property, creating a vision of beauty through never ending projects. He is the author of two books, *Shocking Beauty* and *The Jewel Box Garden*."

Carissa Kasper: *Plan and Perfect your Kitchen Garden*

Carissa Kasper is the founder of Seed & Nourish which creates kitchen gardens for residential, restaurant and commercial clients to empower gardeners to grow beautiful food in the city. She has appeared in print and live with the Lonely Planet Travel Anthology, Vancouver Sun, CTV Morning Live, GlobalBC, The Nat & Drew Show, and CBC Our Vancouver. Carissa believes in the power of the kitchen garden to transform space into place, plants into nourishment, and challenge into discovery.

Nancy Shackelford: *Making Friends with the Land: Using Native Plants for Beauty, Health and to Give Back*

Nancy Shackelford is an Assistant Professor in the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria and the Academic Director of the Restoration of Natural Systems Program. She was born and raised in West Texas, in traditional Jumano and Apache territory and has been an uninvited guest in these territories for around ten years. Nancy is a fledgling native gardener, long-standing data nerd, and devoted student cheerleader.

Diane Watson: *Invasive Species Mastery: A Guide for Gardens and Communities*

Diane Watson is a Special Projects Coordinator on the Science and Research Team at ISCBC, supporting various projects throughout the organization by providing outreach and technical knowledge. With her educational background in Ecological Restoration (BSc) and diverse experience she's gained in the environmental sector of industry, local government and NGOs in a few years, she's driven to continue learning and sharing knowledge to encourage others to protect biodiversity where they live.

The Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) is a dynamic action-oriented organization, helping concerned stakeholders work together to stop the spread of invasive species in BC. We spearhead behaviour change in communities, organizations, governments, and industry to help protect our province from invasive species.