

## Upper Lonsdale Garden Club Speakers List 2025

Date	
Jan 09/25	<p><b>ZOOM Meeting:</b>  <b>Kirsten Thomson. West Coast Seeds</b>  <b>Seed Starting, Soil and Successions for an Abundant Garden</b></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:kthomson@westcoastseeds.com">kthomson@westcoastseeds.com</a>  Phone: 705 220 6909  Address: 202-75 East 8th Ave Vancouver BC V5T 1R5  Website:  Contact: Kirsten Thomson</p> <p><b>Bio: Manager of the Trial Farm at West Coast Seeds</b>  Kirsten is the Farm Manager at West Coast Seeds, where she starts over 10,000 plants annually from seed. She will talk about seed starting for indoors and outdoors, with an emphasis on annual vegetables and flowers. Kirsten also has a degree in Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Science and cannot stress enough the importance of healthy soils for successful gardens! She will talk about improving soil health organically, crop rotations, and succession planting to maximize your garden space and yields.</p>
Feb 13/25	<p><b>ZOOM Meeting:</b>  <b>Karla Hoffman. Fire Smart BC, Landscape Consultant</b></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:asklandscaping@firesmartbc.ca">asklandscaping@firesmartbc.ca</a>  Phone: 250 371 1777  Address: 3680 Berry Road, Pritchard BC V0E 2P0</p> <p><b>Bio:</b> Karla - horticulturist since 1987 - has designed, installed and maintained landscapes - from small residential sites to commercial, university and municipal grounds. She also enjoyed teaching Soil Science and Landscape design for first year horticulture students. For over a decade Karla led a public education campaign about plant health, integrated pest management, and how to conserve landscape water. She worked on the original FireSmart Canada Guide to Landscaping and more recently to the FireSmart BC Landscaping Guide. Currently Karla Enjoys sharing information about creating and maintaining a fire-resistant landscape and is involved in ongoing development of education materials with FireSmart BC.</p>

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Mar 13/25	<p><b>In Person Meeting</b>  <b>Laura Marie Neubert</b>  <b>Beautiful Urban Permaculture for Human and Environmental Health</b></p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:hello@upfrontandbeautiful.com">hello@upfrontandbeautiful.com</a>  <b>Phone:</b> 604 729 0625</p> <p>Laura Marie Neubert is a West Vancouver based Urban Permaculture Designer, writer, photographer, and educational film producer. Her Garden To Table column appears regularly in the North Shore News. Following a career in corporate communications, she returned to university, studying permaculture design, silvopasture, forest farming, mushroom cultivation, and other regenerative land use systems at UBC and Cornell. Her goal is to educate and inspire people — by example — to invest time and energy in human and soil health now so that they can avoid investing later in sickness. Laura Marie is married, has three grown children, and when she isn't working in or writing about her garden, she is cooking, preserving, reading, or working in the community.</p>
Apr 10/25	<p><b>In Person Meeting</b>  <b>Ryo Sugiyama from Niobe Garden UBC</b>  <b>email:</b> <a href="mailto:rio.sugiyama@ubc.ca">rio.sugiyama@ubc.ca</a></p> <p><b>Bio:</b>  Ryo Sugiyama is a Japanese garden curator at Nitobe Memorial Garden in UBC. He holds a Bachelor of Horticulture and a Master of Environment Science degree from Chiba University in Japan. He came to Vancouver in 2005 and didn't plan to stay this long but he is still here with his wife and children. He has been working in Japanese gardens, public parks, nursery and environment education/research in the past. He has taken the current position since 2010. His job is anything about this Japanese heritage garden include garden maintenance. He loves spending time in nature with his three kids and still loves to play soccer against his body not being moved as he wished.</p>

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May 8/25	<p><b>In Person Meeting</b>  <b>Janice Podmore and Peggy Heath</b>  <b>Garden Club of Vancouver</b>  <b>English Garden Tours</b></p> <p>email: <a href="mailto:podmorej@shaw.ca">podmorej@shaw.ca</a>, <a href="mailto:peggyh@telus.net">peggyh@telus.net</a>  phone: 604 323 3404 (Janice)</p> <p>Bio: Janice Podmore  Janice is an amateur gardener trying her best to keep on top of two very different gardens, a shady one in Vancouver and the other sunny in the Comox Valley. She's been a member of the Garden Club of Vancouver for 12 years and has held several positions on the Board.</p> <p>Her passion for visiting other people's gardens led her to organize the Club's first ever Garden Tour in England. By using a great tour company and inviting garden loving travelers, the tour was a huge success.</p> <p>Bio: Peggy Heath  Peggy, who grew up in England, has been a very keen gardener almost all her life and has made gardens in the various places she has lived in Canada - Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver, cities with very different climates and gardening challenges. She tries to grow as much as possible in her small East Van garden.</p> <p>Peggy has been a member of the Garden Club of Vancouver for 10 years and currently sits on the board as co-events chair responsible for finding good speakers and presenters. She jumped at the chance to join the fabulous Iconic English Garden Tour that Janice Podmore initiated as on her frequent visits home she had never got around to visiting most of the iconic and wonderful gardens we got to see.</p>
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Sep 11/25	<p><b>In Person Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Daniel Mosquin</b></p> <p><b>Topic: Lillies, Irises, Trilliums and their Relatives</b></p> <p>Email:<a href="mailto:daniel@danielmosquin.com">daniel@danielmosquin.com</a> Phone:604 842 7232</p> <p><b>Bio:</b></p> <p>I grew up on a grain farm near Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Some of my earliest memories were of gardening with my parents or bird-watching in places like Oak Hammock Marsh with my aunts and uncles. Mucking about in ponds or encountering birds while riding my bike on country roads were favourite daily activities.</p> <p>Trips with my parents to visit wildflowers like gentians or lady's slippers in bloom eventually honed my interests onto plants. An undergraduate degree from the University of Manitoba (with some time spent at the University of British Columbia) emphasized plant biology.</p> <p>A few years after receiving my degree, I started work at UBC Botanical Garden. I have had several roles there since 2000, including managing in areas such as research, education, and IT.</p> <p>After being encouraged to improve my photography of garden plants in early 2000s, I purchased my first DSLR in 2004. With camera lenses and other equipment in hand, I have since visited much of western North America and parts of the eastern continent as well.</p>
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Oct 09/25	<p><b>In Person Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Jennifer Zuk</b></p> <p><b>Dahlias</b></p> <p><b>Email:</b> jjzuk@telus.net</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 604 837 9598</p> <p><b>Bio:</b></p> <p>Thanks for inviting me to speak about A Year in the life of a Dahlia. I have been a member of the Vancouver Dahlia Society since 1987. I started out just planting a few and gradually increased my garden to 200 plants. What with downscaling my lot size last year I only plant 150 dahlias now. Being an ardent gardener, I planned my move so as not to lose a growing season. I became interested in judging and went through 3 levels of training to become a senior dahlia judge after 10 years. I've also trained through the BC Council of Garden Clubs to become both a Horticultural and Floral Design judge so I'm often at Lower Mainland garden clubs to judge their shows. I have taken the Rose judging course through the Canadian Rose Society and have been a Master Gardener since 2007.</p> <p>A Year in the Life of a Dahlia will cover a month by month summary of how to grow and overwinter your dahlia as well as tips to keep the plants growing vigorously for months. You can get beautiful blooms right up until frost. There are over 20 forms of dahlia bloom, 15 colours and 5 sizes. I'll bring a wide selection of varieties for you to see and help you identify some forms. There's a dahlia to appeal to everyone from micropeony type to grow in a pot, to a waterlily type you might not think is a dahlia, to the giants that are often referred to as dinnerplates (much to the chagrin of people who exhibit them in shows)</p> <p>I'm looking forward to introducing you to the wide world of dahlias.</p>
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