



Synopsis of Presentations

GARDENING AS A PRACTICE OF BELONGING – David Tracey

Every garden is an invitation to combine practice with philosophy. Joy arises when our actions align with our beliefs, and gardening offers an opportunity to realize first-hand our intimate connection to the living Earth. Beyond a how-to-garden talk, this why-we-garden talk will explore some of the history, culture and philosophy behind our obsession with plants. Examples will range widely from Zen monk garden designers whose creations have lasted centuries to contemporary Indigenous thinkers sharing the traditional ecological knowledge involved in "all my relations." David will provide take-home tips with a goal to inspire more understanding, appreciation and reverence for the sacred obsession we call gardening.

PLANTWISE: SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE GARDENING - Megan Blackmore

The Grow Me Instead Guide is an excellent resource that informs gardeners of invasive species to avoid planting and includes a list of alternative native and non-invasive species to grow instead. Fusing their knowledge, experience and expertise together, ISCBC and the current Grow Me Instead Advisory Team are working to update the Grow Me Instead Guide to best reflect current invasive plants in the horticulture trades and alternative plants that are accessible to the gardening community.

The Recognized Retailer Program is an educational and support initiative for the horticulture industry that aims to raise awareness about the impacts of invasive plants and responsible plant ownership. Megan will share exciting news on the program including updating and promoting the Recognized Retailer Program to garden centres across the province of BC while working in partnership with regional invasive species organizations.

RESTORING AND SUSTAINING SOIL HEALTH – Jo Tobias

The life in our soil is often overlooked, yet the invisible world beneath our feet drives plant growth, resilience, and overall garden health. In her presentation, Jo will show how soil microorganisms support your plants and how to cultivate them using well-made, biologically rich compost. She will explain when and why to use compost, compost extracts, and compost teas, clarify their differences, and highlight how timing and application are essential for getting the most benefit from these tools.

Attendees will come away with practical, gardener-friendly strategies to restore and sustain soil health by incorporating biological inoculants into their gardening toolkit.

FOODSCAPING: HOW TO GROW MORE FOOD IN LESS SPACE – Erin Berkyto

Learn how to grow more food in less space with an inspiring and practical introduction to Erin's signature approach to foodscaping, the art of blending vegetables, herbs, fruit, companion flowers and ornamentals to create a garden that is both highly productive and visually stunning. Erin will share simple techniques from her own compact urban garden for choosing the right plants, using vertical and structural elements, and creating layouts that make small gardens feel abundant.

Attendees will leave with practical, science-backed strategies, plant ideas, and layout techniques they can use to grow more food — beautifully — no matter the size of the space.

CRACKS & CREVICES: THE ART OF ROCK AND CREVICE GARDENING – Paul Spriggs

From its original beginnings in Europe, rock gardening has captured the attention of adventurous gardeners looking for a dramatic landscaping style, and the challenge of growing some of nature's most interesting plant treasures. In this talk, rock gardener and author Paul Spriggs will explore all things rock garden, with a special focus on his specialty and relatively new style, the crevice garden. Paul will discuss its history and inspiration from nature, through design and construction, and, of course, show lots of pictures of mouthwatering rock and alpine plants.

Join us for a great day!

