

Open Gate Garden Kimberley Newsletter

Spring 2017



wildsight

Hi All,

The ski hill just closed for the season and the snow is slowly melting in Kimberley. If you missed Seedy Saturday no worries, Chris and I have replenished the seed library that is located at the Kimberley Library. The snow at the Open Gate garden is almost gone and there are already some school classes that are planning their visits to the garden. We are starting the year off with an exciting workshop. Please see information on this workshop below. We will keep you informed on things that are happening in the garden.

I hope to see you all sometime this year in the garden,

Dirk

We are honoured to welcome permaculture specialist Javan K. Bernakevitch to Kimberley as host of the workshop Hugelkultur Unearthed.

The workshop runs on Friday, April 21, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., starting with theory at the Kimberley Aquatic Centre and finishing the afternoon with hands on construction in the Open Gate Garden (just behind the Aquatic Centre). Registration is available online at:

<http://wildsight.ca/events/hugelkultur-unearthed/>

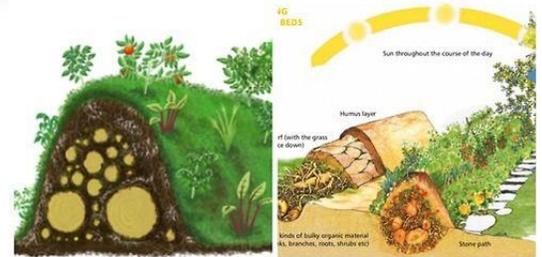
\$35 for early bird and \$45 after the 17th of April

Javan is a land designer, consultant, writer, educator and speaker who created and manages Permaculture BC, a growing hub of permaculture education, practitioners and projects in similar bioregions. In relation to hugelkultur, Javan studied with Sepp Holzer, an Austrian permaculture expert noted for further developing this method of growing that is hundreds of years old.

Hügelkultur, pronounced *hoo-gul-culture*, is a raised bed replicating the process of decomposition that occurs on the forest floor. The word is German, meaning mound culture or hill culture, and that is what the end result looks like, a mound.

A Hugelkultur bed (pictured above) is an incredibly productive garden bed that is designed to act as a windbreak, sound berm and dynamic growing system for your annual and perennial veggies and shrubs. As an ideal application for a dry temperate climate, this type of planting system collects excess moisture from rain and snowmelt throughout the cool season and stores that moisture for use during the dry months when plants need it most. Another great benefit is the dynamic nature, as the beds are always slowly breaking down and generating heat, which helps plants grow faster through the process of decomposition and nutrient release.

Javan is a wealth of knowledge and has a fun upbeat teaching style that is bound to leave people grinning from ear to ear. This one day hands-on workshop will pass along the skills needed to construct a dry land hugelkultur bed that can be used to grow all kinds of crops including trees and berry bushes.



The Open Gate Garden

This is an edible community garden based on sharing knowledge, ideas, tasks and food. There are no allotted plots in this garden and the use of the garden is free to anyone. We ask you to please use the garden with respect, so it will still be there for generations to come. There are gardening tools in the shed for you to use. Please sign the logbook in the shed as this helps with funding for the garden. If you have any questions, ideas or wonder how you can be involved, please feel free contact us at 250-422-3579

