

MEDIA FACTSHEET

EMBARGOED TILL 11:00 AM ON 28 NOVEMBER 2020

ANNEX H

COMMUNITY IN BLOOM AMBASSADORS

NParks' Community in Bloom (CIB) programme aims to promote a gardening culture among Singapore residents by encouraging and facilitating gardening efforts by the community. It is part of a larger effort to bring greenery and nature closer to the community which goes towards achieving NParks vision of creating a 'City in Nature'.

2 Through ground-up collaboration with gardening interest groups, CIB provides opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to come together and garden with their neighbours, friends and colleagues. While enhancing interactions and strengthening bonds as a community, it also allows people to enjoy gardening and share gardening knowledge and tips. The programme facilitates the creation of self-help networks among residents, schools and organisations as well as individuals.

3 There are currently more than 1,600 community gardens under the CIB programme. There have been 78 Community in Bloom ambassadors since 2008. More details can be found at www.nparks.gov.sg/cib.

Community in Bloom Ambassador Awards

4 The Community in Bloom (CIB) Ambassador Awards recognise individuals who promote the love for gardening amongst members of the community.

5 CIB Ambassadors are volunteers who go the extra mile to help others enjoy gardening and nature related activities. They contribute time, effort and resources selflessly to engage the community, and facilitate gardening-based initiatives.

6 Ambassadors were selected by a panel of judges comprising representatives from the National Parks Board (NParks), People's Association (PA), National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) and the Singapore Environment Council (SEC).

7 The selection process was based on the following judging criteria:

Promote love for gardening

- Organised initiatives that resulted in greater awareness towards the benefits of gardening
- Engaged the public on gardening during road shows, exhibitions, community events, and on websites, blogs etc.

Spread gardening knowledge to the community

- Organised or facilitated gardening seminars, talks or sharing sessions
- Provided gardening tips through articles in media, web-based gardening blogs or forums, opening up of community gardens for learning, etc.
- Conducted or hosted learning visits to gardens, connected community gardening groups, etc.

Facilitate gardening-based community projects

- Helped community groups in housing estates, schools and organisations to set up their gardening projects by providing guidance, resources, materials, etc.

Positive impact

- Conducted themselves in a manner that resulted in a sustained positive impact on the gardening movement.

8 These judging criteria were aligned with the following three main objectives set by NParks for the programme:

1. **Creates more opportunities for gardening** – individuals who are able to explore and establish new areas for growth in gardening including residential developments, places of worship, VWOs, Allied Healthcare Centres, Pre-Schools and Corporations among others.
2. **Sustains gardening efforts** – individuals who have good gardening and networking skills, creativity and a love for nature.
3. **Facilitates greater involvement among youth and children** – individuals who are able to form partnerships with schools & educators and heighten the profile of gardening among youth and children.

Recipients of the CIB Ambassador Awards 2020

9 The following eight ambassadors have been appointed as part of Clean and Green Singapore 2020:

- (i) Sharon Tay
- (ii) Tan Soon Keong
- (iii) Teng Boon Bee
- (iv) Daryl Tan
- (v) Victor Koh
- (vi) Shaji Maroli Vadara
- (vii) Dominic Seow Eng Poo
- (viii) Peggy Leow

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Profile of CIB Ambassadors for 2020

Sharon Tay / Garden Leader @ Punggol Cascadia Sky Garden



Sharon started her open roof garden through HDB's 'Friendly Faces Lively Places' fund. Together with the other garden members, she conceptualised the new community garden and developed a series of engaging gardening related programmes to enthuse residents and students. Her knowledge and enthusiasm in promoting edible gardening was notable and she was featured regularly in Punggol's community magazine which is disseminated to all residents in Punggol SMC. She also participated in an interview for urban farming research by Yale NUS on the Punggol Cascadia garden model. Sharon is able to contextualise the knowledge learnt from overseas homesteads and farms about organic farming which she had shared with more than 150 residents. Beyond the garden she initiated, she has also provided guidance to several other groups to start their journey in setting up community gardens.

Tan Soon Keong / Garden Leader @ Our Kampong Farm



Desmond has been involved in "Our Kampong Farm" a rooftop community garden in Bedok for about 7 years and has hosted many gardening groups in his garden to share his extensive knowledge on edible growing. Together with his fellow gardeners, he converted the peg trays previously growing grass to a wide array of leafy edibles. He has actively guided groups from diverse backgrounds such as schools for special needs students and private estate community gardening groups to grow edible plants. He is also knowledgeable in DIY irrigation set-ups and often guides new gardening groups that are interested to start irrigation and water conservation projects in their gardens. Beyond hosting visits, Desmond also assists other new groups with designing of community gardens including rejuvenation of Kaki Bukit Green RC and Geylang Serai CC community gardens. Desmond regularly conducts gardening workshops for his new and existing community gardeners at least twice a year.

Teng Boon Bee / Garden Leader @ Hill View Vantage NC



Mr Teng is the garden leader of Hillview Vantage NC and has been gardening for 20 years. Despite having many years of experience, he is a strong believer of lifelong learning and has attended urban farming courses by ITE East. He actively applied his knowledge to better grow edible plants and shared the knowledge with more gardeners. Mr Teng enjoys experimenting with innovative ways to grow plants such as creating planters with used pots and even created an orchid display wall with wine bottles. In addition, Mr Teng also believes in the therapeutic benefits of gardening. He received training on therapeutic horticulture from NParks and today he leads therapeutic horticulture sessions for seniors and caregivers living in the vicinity. Some of these sessions are aimed to improve fine motor skills through involving the seniors in soil mixing or simple propagation techniques such as stem cutting.

Daryl Tan / Garden Leader @ Tampines Arcadia RC



Daryl has been a key leader of Tampines Arcadia RC garden since 2014. He often shares his gardening knowledge with the other community gardeners in Tampines GRC. Working with Peoples' Association, he also helped to launch the Community Fridge at the café corner near their RC sharing excess harvest with residents in the vicinity. He became the project leader for the community garden when the estate was going through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP) programme in Tampines Central in 2019. After 8 months of rejuvenation, Tampines Arcadia RC garden was transformed into a fenceless, wheelchair-friendly garden for the enjoyment of all the residents. Constantly looking to introduce new programmes, Daryl introduced vermicomposting to his garden group. He continues to conduct regular gardening and harvesting sessions for both his garden group and residents.

Victor Koh / Garden Leader @ Chartwell NC



Victor is the affable garden leader of Chartwell Neighbourhood Committee community garden. He has been gardening for over 40 years and participated in various NParks events such as Gardeners' Cup where he gained new plant knowledge and shared it with fellow gardeners. He manages two open concept community gardens in the Chartwell neighbourhood parks which he takes loving care of with his fellow gardeners for the benefit of all residents in Chartwell. Victor enjoys sharing his gardening knowledge through regular sharing sessions particularly about indoor gardening techniques at community events such as Gardeners' Day Out and Chartwell NC events.

Shaji Maroli Vadara/ Garden Leader @ Fantasia Garden



Shaji has been the garden leader at Ayer Rajah Teban Gardens RN for about 8 years. Having successfully experimented with hydroponics and DIY planter beds, he was able to share his knowledge of irrigation systems and vertical greenery with all his gardeners and residents that are keen to start similar projects. Beyond this garden, Shaji also helped to start community gardens at foreign worker dormitories including JTC Recreation Centre where he helped with the design, plant choices and DIY irrigation system. Shaji enjoys sharing gardening knowledge and often conducts workshops such as orchid propagation, and use of drainage cells as planters for residents and students.

Dominic Seow / Engineer @ Hewlett Packard



Dominic is the garden leader at Hewlett Packard (HP) community garden. Trained as an engineer, he is passionate about gardening and led the set-up of the hydroponic vertical greenery system in HP's rooftop by leveraging his engineering knowledge. He also applied his knowledge in 3D printing to create the pot holders for vertical planting and developed software to monitor the nutrient levels of the water in the system. To date, he has hosted several gardening groups in HP to share about the hydroponics and DIY vertical greenery systems and his gardening journey. Dominic has shared his horti-tech knowledge with other gardens including preschool gardens. Together with pre-school teachers, he built irrigation systems and DIY composting bins for the children to learn about food waste composting.

Peggy Leow / Garden Leader @ Tampines Palmspring RC



Peggy is the garden leader at Tampines Palmspring RC garden, and she has been gardening for 30 years. Despite her hearing impairment and having to care for a special-needs child, she actively engages with the residents to share her love and experience for gardening. She is proficient in sign language and is able to lip read and interact with other gardeners through body language. Through her action, she inspired other residents to join her in gardening and her bubbly personality, enables her to interact well with kindergarten children to share her harvest and knowledge.