

BLG Newsletter for Week of March 23, 2026

Thank You – to everyone who spent time at home sticking labels on blinds...All have been returned! Don't forget to include the time you spent by writing it on the calendar, either added to your workparty amount or written separately at the bottom of the sheet...it matters not.

- and to those who have brought egg cartons for Dorothee...But she no longer needs them as she no longer has hens :(
- and to Heather and Pat's brother Bob who donated some gently-used tarps

Potluck Lunch – We had a lovely cozy, social time in the greenhouse and enjoyed another marvelous variety of tasty dishes.

Still Wanted – a used wagon and a few more 2 litre pop bottles

Oops! – What is wrong in the picture on the left?



If a volunteer needs a clean rag for some reason, then this is the drawer to go to... “CLEAN RAGS ONLY”. But where should it go afterwards? (Not back in the same drawer, please.)

- if it is really dirty, it can be thrown in the garbage
- if it is still good for some job that does not require a clean rag, and if it's wet, it could be draped over something temporarily until it is dry
- and there is now a bag for those dry, slightly used rags ...see bright orange bag :)

Nanaimo Brain Injury Society Joining Us – On Thursday, April 16, a group from NBIS will be coming to help us in the greenhouse, doing such things as mixing soil, filling pots and trays, and sowing summer and winter squash seeds. And, as with visits in the past, there will be harvesting and preparing done in aid of fixing a light lunch for all to enjoy. Claire and Lisa have volunteered to host. **We could still use some more helpers please!**

Bee Homes (contributed by Becky)



With the help of good team work, we now have 2 colourful Mason bee houses hanging on the Center pole in the pollinator garden. The houses were donated a few years ago by a couple who made them in Cedar. But our initial attempts at breeding Mason bees were not very successful. However with the encouragement of Jay and her inspiration to paint them in a colourful, bee - attracting style, we're hoping to make the bees happy. We were also supported by Lee at Pine St who had enough cocoons from last year to generously share with our 2 houses.

Watch for the larger male bees to emerge very soon. They hatch first and come out to scout the territory while they wait for the females to hatch. As soon as they mate, the male dies and the female is left to do all the work of preparing the tubes to contain the egg she lays in a small space that is then enclosed with mud. She then repeats this work until the paper tube is filled end to end with a series of eggs. In the fall we will harvest the tubes and store the cocoons in a cool, dry place until next spring when the cycle begins again. Jay is a rich source of info re the life cycle and activities of the bees.

Dates to Remember -

Thurs., Apr. 2 – BLG is temporarily closing intake of new volunteers, from Apr. 2 to May 19Our volunteer time is at a premium and we feel our time is better spent seeding, transplanting, growing, maintaining our garden, plus mentoring/supervising the new volunteers we intake up to the end March.

Thurs. Apr. 9 -10:30 to 11 - Wellington Life Sci class for tour

Sat., Apr. 11 - 1:30 to 3:30 Workshop: “Starting Seeds Indoors” presented by Connie Kuramoto
Randi will be hosting. For others interested in this workshop, register through Nanaimo Activity Guide

Tues., Apr. 14 – NCGS AGM & Potluck Dinner - 5:30pm to 8pm – at First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo at 595 Townsite Road

Wed., Apr. 15 - 10:30 to 11 - Wellington Earth Sci class for tour

- 12 to 1:30 potluck lunch

Thurs., Apr. 16 – group from Nan. Brain Injury Society will be coming to take part in garden activities and a light lunch

Sat., Apr. 18, Mon., Apr. 20, Wed., Apr. 22 - Plant Donation pick-ups

Sat. Apr. 25 - First BIG plant Sale

Thurs., May 7 or May 14 - 9:30 to 10:30 Pre-school visit, activities - TBA

Sat., May 9 - Second BIG plant Sale

Wed., May 13 – 9am to 12pm? - VIU kinesiology class integration into regular workparty

Wed., May 20 – 10:15 to 1:15 Re-Opening of New Volunteer Intake & Potluck

Sat., May 23 - Third BIG plant Sale

Mon., May 25, Wed., May 27, Sat., May 30 - Plant Donation pick-ups

Sat. Jun. 13 - 1:30 to 3:30 Workshop: “Pest and Disease Prevention in Your Yard & Garden” presented by Connie Kuramoto. If a volunteer would like to host this workshop, please contact Pat or Lisa. For others interested in taking this class, register through Nanaimo Activity Guide.