

BLG Newsletter for Week of March 30, 2026

Thank You – to Helga (below left) for all the work she put into establishing our “latest addition”, a hardy kiwi plant, in its own spot to the right just inside the gate. A trellis will be built later.



Our New Transplant Soil-Mixer - Nearly perfected, thanks to the brains and muscles of many volunteers, notably Lisa and Les, our new mixer (above right) is almost perfect and has already churned out many flats of our secret recipe, ready for transplants. All it lacks is more air in the wheelbarrow tire or....a sturdy 4-wheeled wagon instead. Volunteers, please keep a lookout for a wagon.

Needed – The occasional use of a laminator if someone has one at home. We have some pouches, but no machine!?

Peanut Project – Lisa is in search of 2 or 3 people to work on “the peanut project”. Talk to her if you are interested. Lisa says peanuts are a very unusual crop! “Peanuts are legumes, their plants look like small bushes with pea-like yellow flowers that self-pollinate. Once fertilized, the delicate petals fall away. Then flower stalks (“pegs”) grow longer and bend toward the earth, pushing the flower’s pistil into the soil 1 or 2 inches. While underground, the pistil at the tip of each stalk enlarges to form a peanut pod.”

Fertilizer Teas – Thanks to Becky, our fertilizer tea expert, who has written up and explanation of what these teas are, what they do, and how to make them. This document has been added to the part of NCGS website where BLG newsletters are posted.

Claire's Report – Thanks to Claire for the following advice she wants to pass on from her first aid course on Saturday and to NCGS directors who paid her course fee:

I had the First Aid course yesterday...lots of stuff...a full day...I had 100% in the testto my surprise!

If someone collapses, send someone to get the AED while you do an **abc** assessment...open **airway**, check for **breathing**, check for **circulation** (pulse, color and condition of skin, responsiveness)... If no breath, tell someone to call 911, start CPR, then use the AED as soon as it arrives. You might not need the machine if someone just fainted but it will be there if needed.



Editor's Note: The speediest volunteer would be best choice for going to the Golf ProShop to get the AED (just inside door to right...Don't ask, just take it!) AED stands for Automated External Defibrillator...an amazing machine equipped with the voice of an expert who explains just what to do with the thing!

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 **Everyone welcome!**

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

- **potluck lunch moved to next week**

Thurs., Apr. 16 – group from Nan. Brain Injury Society will be coming to take part in garden activities and a light lunch **Lisa and Claire still need a few more volunteers to assist.**

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

Wed., Apr. 22 – 12 - 1:30 - potluck lunch

Sat. Apr. 25 - First BIG plant Sale **Roster sign-up 2 weeks before.**

Thurs., May 7 - 9:30 to 10:30 Pre-school visit, activities **Volunteers needed to assist.**

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.