

BLG Newsletter for Week of April 13, 2026

Thank You – to Randi for hosting Saturday’s workshop

- to Joan B. for offering to assist with NBIS visit
- to Teri and Joan B. for stepping up to do extra watering for next while
- to Joan B. and Penny who have been working at home to make plant sales signs which are more windproof and easier to manage

Quick Meetings at Workparties – This week at 10am Wed. and Sat., and at 4pm next Mon., there will be short gatherings of all to introduce/remind everyone about various important things.

GH Padlock – It would be extremely helpful if everyone who unlocks the greenhouse door could automatically hang the padlock on the inside door handle. ...even if you only plan to stay a minute or two. Then whoever leaves last and locks up knows exactly where to find it.



Watering Duties – As the weather warms up and we have more and more plants, watering starts to take up more and more time. As a result, we need as many volunteers as possible to pitch in and take their turns at this task.

In the last few years we have broken down plants needing hand/hose watering into these 3 groups:

1.Sales plants refer to all the clamshells/soil-flats containing the youngest/tiniest seedlings, plus all the flats full of 4” square pots, as well as some gallon and hanging basket plants. These can be found in the greenhouse, the screenhouse, and on a few tables outdoors. All these require more frequent watering because they are in small containers and dry out faster.

2.Plants (mostly outside) which have **no driptubes** and therefore need hand or hose watering.

3.Red-flag plants which are outside and, for a limited time, need extra hand-watering because they have just been seeded or just transplanted and need extra care to get started, even though they are in a box with timed drips.

From now until mid-September plants in groups #2, and #3 will need watering but, for the most part, that watering can be done during workparties and will be covered by jobslips or clipboard lists.

But from now until the end of August there will be sales plants which need watering on a daily basis...meaning on workparty days and non-workparty days! On workparty days they will be covered by jobslips and on non-workparty days they will be covered by the **“watering roster”**.

For the last 6 weeks, it has been mainly Lisa watering sales plants on non-workparty days and now Teri and Joan B. are pitching in, but I think we should aim for starting the **“Watering Roster”** in the last week of April. With that in mind, here is the proposed schedule:

SALES PLANT WATERING ROSTER FOR 2026:

SESSION #	DATES	SUNDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	Apr. 27 to May 23				
2	May 24 to June 21				
3	June 22 to July 12				
4	July 13 to Aug. 9				
5	Aug. 10 to Sep. 13				

Doing a decent job of all watering required can take an hour or so. If you sign up in one of these squares, that amounts to 4 hours of watering over the 4 weeks. Signing up in two squares is not unheard of :) You might like to buddy-up with another volunteer and share the task. A GH key will be issued and training will be given, as needed. A copy of this roster will be on the clubhouse table for you to fill in or you can email Pat and let her know which session (#1 thru' #5) and which day you can take on.

Plant Sale Roster for Saturday, April 25

Working at one of our BIG plant sales is great fun and lets us see how much our customers appreciate the plants we have worked so hard to grow. Duties may include:

- welcoming customers, showing them around, making sure they know where things are, giving them a beer flat, pointing out the cashiers' table
- helping customers find specific plants
- keeping plant tables organized and stocked
- working at the cash/tablet table (Instruction as needed.)
- helping customers carry plants back to car
- or carrying on with regular Sat. morn. workparty tasks and helping with sale as needed

SHIFT	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
9 – 10:30				
10 – 11:30				
11 – 12:30				
12:30 – 1:30				

There will be a copy of the above on the clubhouse table to fill in OR let Pat or Lisa know by email which time you can do.

Dates to Remember -

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 Sec. Earth Science class for tour

–Reminder: No potluck

Thurs., Apr. 16 – group from Nan. Brain Injury Society will be coming to take part in garden activities and a light lunch [Lisa, Claire, and Joan B. will host this visit.](#)

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

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

Sat. Apr. 25 - First BIG plant Sale [Sign-up now available](#)

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 – 11am to 12 noon - Re-Opening of New Volunteer Intake with an orientation session; welcome to stay for our regular monthly potluck

Thurs., May 21 - 10:30 to 11am - Wellington Sec. Life Sci class for tour

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.