

BLG Newsletter for Week of June 8, 2026

Thank You in Advance!— to the volunteer who will stand in for Joan H. who cannot attend this Wednesday. What does this mean? Arrive around 9:30. Do a walk around, making notes about what is ready to harvest and update harvest list on white-board. Lisa can help you identify ready crops.

Farm Report - Thanks to Lisa for this:

Randi, Joan B, Eric and I cleared much of the winter growth in our 2 rows and seeded three kinds of bush beans (for dry beans) and Blue Hopi Corn, plus we transplanted a small patch of upland rice. We found some of the bicour Shiso has self-seeded!

July 18 Event – First organizational meeting for this event may be held this Wednesday. We need volunteers. All are invited to attend. Lisa has last year's action list, minus names, printed out. As well we will be looking for input on topics for workshops, speakers, displays!

Next Saturday's Workshop – is about garden pests and diseases and Connie, the facilitator, would welcome photos or actual samples of any of these to use during her session. So bring them in or email photos to Pat. There are lots of spots left at this workshop if you would like to attend:

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/parks-recreation-culture/register-for-a-program>

Team Responsibilities – You will find, at the end of this newsletter, the condensed list of everyone signed up for these responsibilities. Please get in touch with Lisa or Pat if your name is on the list but shouldn't be, if your name is not on the list but should be, or if you would like to volunteer for a new responsibility.

Here is Becky's news from our Pollinator Garden....

Lots of activity and good team work happening in the Pollinator Garden at BLG. Shelagh, Joan B., Diane C, Linda, Alex and Becky have been planting some new varieties of pollinators as well as dividing and transplanting offspring for sales to the public. It has been very gratifying to see the increased public interest in plantings that will nourish the bees.

Speaking of bees, we have had our first success this year in providing housing for Mason bees with the support of Lee at Pine St and Jay at BLG. There is a nice bundle of filled tubes with Mason bee cocoons, ready to harvest, clean and store for the winter.

The visit from the VIU Kinesiology class was a huge help in getting 2 truckloads of composted bark mulch onto the beds which were getting low on soil and in need of mulch. Now they can

better withstand the heat of summer. We also have the irrigation system repaired and working thanks to the help of Judy and Lisa.

With the help of Shelagh and Joan B, the sign posts for each variety of plant is nearly complete so be sure to check it out and see how many of the 30 varieties you can recognize and name!



Ideas for the Herb Team – Perhaps members of the herb team could start communicating ideas among themselves concerning what needs doing, who is going to do it, and so forth. It might be a good idea to make a list of all the herbs we are growing at BLG and research when and how they should be harvested, what care they might need, their uses. Perhaps you might want to experiment ways of drying and distributing them among volunteers. Here is just one of the many useful sites you can access with the tap of a few keys:

<https://www.hortonfarmersmarket.ca/hortonblog/making-the-most-of-midsummer-herbs>

Nanaimo Peach Saga – Dorothee just recently received the following message from someone in the Master Gardeners' network:

I am reaching out because I recently acquired a very special peach tree, and I wanted to see if you know of anyone in the VIMGA network that could provide a good home for it (perhaps in one of the community or learning gardens?). I would love to keep it myself, but I would have to plant it in a pot, and I really want to give it the best shot at growing and thriving!

This peach tree variety was cultivated and named after the city of Nanaimo (and was subsequently trademarked and can only be purchased in the US) so I think it would be lovely to have one growing in Nanaimo. The tree is bare root, about 4 feet tall, and needs to be planted ASAP. I am driving up island in a couple of days and could deliver it then.

Please let me know if you have any leads on a home for this tree- feel free to give me a call or share my number with someone who might be able to help.

And now, only days later and after a brief discussion, Helga has begun digging the planting hole for said tree, below the south wall of the clubhouse!....Saga to be continued.

Dates to Remember -

Sat. Jun. 13 - 1:30 to 3:30 Workshop: “Pest and Disease Prevention in Your Yard & Garden” presented by Connie Kuramoto. **Thank you to Julia who has offered to host this one.** For others interested in taking this class, please register through Nanaimo Activity Guide.

Tues., June 23 – Seeding Seminar for Master Gardeners

Sat., July 4 – teens from Quest/LIT programs will start attending Saturday workparties and continue throughout the summer

Sat., July 18 – 10am - 1pm “Grow All-Season Vegie Fest” event featuring plants appropriate to fall and winter growing

“...We encourage everyone to volunteer to be responsible throughout the year for some job they give some continuity to” BTW this is less about your expertise and more about your engagement! So if it is a specific area in garden, walk over and see if anything needs doing there. Communicate about it, learn about it, do it, coordinate it, write a job slip for it!

Berry Lane -- Pat, Becky, Helga, Liz, Linda, Stef, Ranj Randi

Clean and Tidy Team - Claire, Pat, Loring, Helga

Community Engagement - Shelagh Lisa, Sandra, Lee

Community Transplant Donations - Pat, Lisa, Shelagh

Coordination (overall) of Volunteers and Programs: Lisa, Pat

Compost: John

Compost Bin Covers - Bill

Construction, Site Repairs and Projects – Les, Becky, Lisa, Pete

Crop Health and Nutrition (incl.compost teas) Lisa, Melanie, Becky, Georgina, Diane, Teri

Crops and Crop Rotation for BLG – Judy, Lisa

Fruit Trees - Helga, Dorothee.

Greenhouse Systems/Tech - Lisa

Greenhouse Transplant flats re-organizer + quality control - Lisa, Shelagh, Judy, Sandra, Helga

Harvest (Wednesdays): Joan H. Dorothee, Lisa, Monique, Andrea, Melanie, Linda

Delivering produce to GFB - Kelly

Herb Team - Shelagh, Marilyn, Linda, Stef, Ranj and Dorothy

Irrigation Systems and schedules, Water supplies: Judy, Lisa, Bill

Jobslips - Seeding - Randi, Loring, Lisa

Jobslips - Transplanting. - Lisa, Sandra

Mason Bees. - Jay, Becky

Membership Registration and Contact List – Pat

Native Plant Hedgerow – Christine U., Judy, Loring, Lisa

Newsletter (weekly) – Pat. With Lisa, Becky, Dorothee and Christine U.

All invited to contribute to the newsletter.

Ordering/Organizing Supplies/in-kind donations – Claire Jay

Pest Management, Integrated and Otherwise? - Lisa, Joan H, Helga Pat

Pettycash Account - Andrea

Pine Street Transplant Supply - Sandra and Lisa

Plant Labels – Chris S., Pat, Kelly, Marilyn, Jay, and Explorers group

Planting Planning - 2026 Monday work party collectively

Planting Crew - Diane C., Judy, Andrea, Ranj

Pollinator Garden Team – Becky, Shelagh, Judy, Joan B, Linda

Sales- cash and square during work parties - Kelly, Pat, Becky, Andrea, Lisa, Judy

Seed Saving/Germ. testing/Seed Quality/excess seed distribution - Becky, Dorothee, Lisa

Seed ordering, Organization, Inventory, Seeding Schedule - Loring Christine U. Heather H, Melanie, Pat. Lisa
Becky

Signage- Joan B, Penny, Randi

Soil mixing and Readying Pot-flats – Melanie, Stef, Teri, Georgina, Lisa, Bill, Eric, Diane

Tool Maintenance – Les, Helga, Kelly

Truck Drivers – Mike, Lisa, Les, Rick, John, Becky, Bill

Volunteer Hours Tally from Calendar - Dorothee

Waste Management – Pat, Explorers group

Watering Rosters/Watering Jobslips - Pat

Worm Garden - Helga and Kelly