BLG Newsletter for Week of Sep. 21, 2026

Thank You – to Marilyn for donating the ideal spring for our gate...It works like a charm! (We will keep using the bungee cord as well since Lisa discovered that "a strong N wind can still open the gate just enough for a rabbit to sneak in.")

– and to Robert Kieser for all the garden stakes he has cut up and given to us

Workshop Hosts – We are still looking for a volunteer (or 2) to facilitate one of two October workshops with Connie Kuramoto that we run through the Nanaimo activity guide. This would involve 12:30 to 3:30 on either Sun., Oct.4, or same times on Sun., Oct. 18. Hosting a workshop would allow you to attend free. Being a host involves making sure chairs are set up in the greenhouse, letting Connie in and helping her set up, welcoming participants, and packing up and locking up afterwards. Let Lisa or Pat know if you are interested.

Rabbit Report – Helga and other volunteers continue to arrange rocks on the ground outside the south fence which are meant to discourage rabbits from digging tunnels. We seem to be rabbit-free at the moment.

VIExhibition in Beban Park – will take place from Fri., Sept. 25 to Sun. Sept. 27. Please be aware that equipment for the rides, etc. will start to arrive in "our" parking lot as early as Monday, September 21. If the parking lot is getting full/busy consider parking by the Centennial Building!

Juicing Plans – As explained last week, some of the Monday work crew will go with the community gardens' truck to Dorothee's to pick up apples and some of the pressing equipment on Mon., Sept. 21.

The actual Apple Pressing will happen at the regular BLG Wednesday work party on September 23, 10 am - 2pm... But may continue on Thursday or even Friday??? If you wish to take home a sample of the juice, bring a 1 litre-size, plastic or glass container with a screw cap; it is a good idea to bring several of these as no doubt some will forget or there might be more juice than one litre per person. It is also a good idea if you bring your own knife (labeled with your name) to use in preparing apples for juicing and a cutting board.

Applefest Trip Update – We have 2 drivers (Joan H. & Pat) and 4 passengers – Shelagh, Helga, Christine G., & Julia and that will be just right.

Seed Cleaning Trailer Visit – is set for Mon., Oct. 5, from 11 to 2:30. As a result the Monday work party will meet in that time slot. Monday crew members would, of course, also be welcome to come near the end and stay on to do BLG garden tasks at your leisure. And, of course, ANY volunteers are welcome to come and see what this is all about.

To find out more about what the seed-cleaning trailer does, click on:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DPS16AfDgBK/

Harvest News – If you were a volunteer at BLG last year, you might recall that there were, for a while, little ziplok bags of colourful dried beans on offer on the harvest-sharing table. Looks like that will be happening again this fall. I had the pleasure of joining Lisa "down at the farm" and spending a couple of hours helping her harvest the dried pods of beans such as Oland, Portuguese Pink, Mrs. Kohl, Mayan Red. In a few weeks, after further drying in our greenhouse, these will get cleaned with the help of another Lisa who is coming with the seed-cleaning trailer on Oct. 5. Our Lisa says, "We hope to thresh the beans using a variety of threshing equipment available on the seed cleaning trailer! We have requested a tryout of the bicycle thresher this year. In previous years we used the Winnow Wizard, and the Threshing box (think a not so messy grape stomping)."

The weather was glorious and the setting picturesque. Here is a photo of Lisa among the sunflowers carrying a carton of beans:



Next Saturday's Work Party - To avoid the hassle of navigating through the fairgrounds, the work party on Saturday, Sept. 26, will happen at Craig Evans Community Garden at 945 Park Ave., aka "the farm".

Dates to Remember –

Wed., Sept. 23 – Apple Pressing Day

Wed., Sept 23- 1:30 - 2:30 at Evanmoor Acres. Native plant seed saving and processing with biologist Elodie

Fri., Sept. 25 to Sun., Sept. 27 – Vancouver Is. Exhibition in Beban Park

Sunday, Sept. 27 – Salt Spring Apple Fest – Here is a link telling about this event: http://saltspringapplefestival.org/

Sunday, Sept. 27 - "Fall into Gardening" workshop (See Aug. 31 Monday Link for further info.)

Sun., Oct. 4 - 1 - 3pm – "Planning next Year's Garden on a Budget" with Connie Kuramoto at BLG ...a volunteer host/facilitator is required.

Mon., Oct. 5 – from 11 to 2:30 at BLG – Seed-Cleaning Trailer

Mon., Oct. 5 – Monday workparty from 11 to 2:30 (or later, if you are willing to possibly work on your own)

Wed.,Oct 7- 1:30 - 2:30 at Evanmoor Acres. Fall Harvest Creative Project with textile artist Becky

Thurs., Oct. 8 – VIEX Grounds will have no power from 8am to 4pm (Overhead transformers will undergo testing.)

Wed.,Oct 14 - 1:30 - 2:30 at Evanmoor Acres. Fall transplanting and winter seed sowing

Sun., Oct. 18 - 1 to 3pm – "Fall Propagation" workshop with Connie Kuramoto, at BLG... A volunteer host/facilitator is required.

Sun., Oct. 25 - 1 to 3pm - "Winter Sowing" with Connie Kuramoto at BLG ... Thanks to Christine U. who has volunteered to host this workshop.