

JUNE 2022

Dunsmuir Community Garden Newsletter

Our Blog: www.dunsmuirgardengroup.blogspot.com
Our Website: <https://www.dunsmuircommunitygardens.ca>
Email us: dunsmuircommunitygarden@gmail.com

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Photographers: Bryant Avery and Sharon Lightstone

President's Message

When you live in a rain forest you can expect that it is going to rain from time to time, but this spring has to be one of the wettest on record. In spite of the soggy conditions, gardeners are out in force whenever the sun does show its face. Gardens are getting planted and some of those cool weather crops are flourishing!

In spite of the wet, volunteers are making best efforts to carry on the work of the various garden committees. The one obvious hindrance has been the drainage of the garden plots and the grassy parking areas. The Board is exploring possible drainage projects to help dissipate standing water. The City Engineering Department has conducted survey transits to indicate ground levels above sea level. This is the first step in engineering a drainage plan to install new piping, catch basins and drainage swales. Surrey Engineering will provide physical assistance to get this project underway, but some Dunsmuir volunteer time will certainly be needed. Be ready for the call!

Recently, we had to make repairs to a main line connection of the new water supply system. The damage was found under an area with a deep tire tread. This was most likely made by one of the several service, or delivery trucks that come to the Garden. If you are ordering materials that need delivery by a heavy vehicle, over 1000 g.v.w. Be sure to instruct them 1.) to stay on the gravel road at all times, 2.) to not exit by circling through the garden, and 3.) exit by backing up to the main road.

Progress is being made on the new Outreach Room and Tool Shed. Both should be fully operational by the end of June. The long term plan for the big shed is to continue to upgrade the structure and make it rodent proof.

Many projects and programs are described further in this newsletter, but please keep an eye on email notices and the Information Board under the shelter. As projects get close to implementation, the Board or program coordinators will be putting together teams to get things done.

Let the sun shine in!

Craig Regan,

President.

We acknowledge that the land on which we garden and harvest is the unceded territory of the Katie, Semiahmoo, Kwantlen and other Coast Salish Peoples.



Save the Date!

Summer Picnic



When: August 14th, 2022

Time: 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Where: Beside the undercover area
Please check the notice boards and chalkboards for more information.

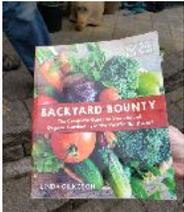
New Location for Free Plant Table

If you have extra plants that you want to offer to fellow gardeners, please put them on the "Free Plant Table" now located at the kiosk by the garden entrance.



A Great Way to Sprout Large Seeds

Recently, I was visiting a fellow garden member, and noticed that she had a carton full of healthy looking bean seedlings. I thought the method of propagation she had used would be of interest to others.



The idea came from "Backyard Bounty" The Complete Guide to Year-Round Organic Gardening in the Pacific Northwest.
By Linda Gilkeson.



Start your pea and bean seeds indoors, in trays of vermiculite.
Plant your pea seeds from March onwards, and beans in early May.
The seedlings do not need soil, as they can grow for 2 to 3 weeks using the food stored in the seed.

How to sprout seeds: Grow up to 30 seeds in a 1 litre milk carton

- * Lay the carton on one side and cut out the top side of your carton. Then punch drainage holes in the bottom side. Fill the carton with vermiculite. Poke in the seeds to about two and a half centimetres deep.
- * Put the container in a warm place and keep the vermiculite moist. When the tips of the sprouts appear, place the carton on a windowsill with good light. Let the seedlings grow for 2 more weeks.
- * When planting out, gently untangle the roots to separate the seedlings. When you plant the bean seedlings keep the shrivelled leaves above the surface of the soil.



Happy Gardening!

Diana Wood

OUTREACH SCHEDULE FOR 2022

The Outreach deliveries will again be 4 days per week this year, Mondays through Thursdays (holidays excluded) starting on Monday June 27th and continuing into October, with the last pickup being October 13th.

We are in the process of having a new shed built solely for the use of the Outreach donations. Please check the bulletin board closer to the first delivery date for more information about the location of the donation chute.

Thank you again for all your generous donations. They are very much appreciated. Please see the thank you letters from both the South Surrey Women's Place and the South Surrey Food Bank posted at the garden.

Happy gardening everyone!

Your Outreach Committee



Farewell and thank you to the Hoffmans

Have you ever wondered who started some of our notable Dunsmuir Community Garden programs? Since joining in 1995, Dunsmuir Garden members Dave and Eva Hoffman have played key roles in initiating and developing significant projects and helping to ensure the success of Dunsmuir Gardens.

Our apiary was started 15 years ago by Dave Hoffman, Jerry Mares, James Hewitt, Linda Miller, and John Verheul. Dave was Bee Coordinator for 10 of those 15 years. Eva created the Honey Helpers group and coordinated that project for 14 years. Dave also did a lot of the "behind the scenes-crazy night hours" in preparation for and clean-up after, on honey extraction days.

Our worthy Outreach Program was created by Eva, and she was Outreach Coordinator for the first 14 years. Eva also contributed in numerous other ways to Dunsmuir Garden by initiating and coordinating the Helping Hands and Mona's Garden committees, serving as Secretary for 9 of the 23 years she served on the Board of Directors, and participating on other committees such as the Newsletter, Social, Plot Coordinator, and Fundraising Committees. She also worked with other Board members to create our first Dunsmuir Garden By-laws.

Dave and Eva will soon be moving away from Surrey, and we are sad to lose such important members of our garden community. We are grateful for their valuable contributions that will continue to benefit garden members for decades to come.

We wish them much happiness in their new home and community.



Have you seen the "Ghosts of Dunsmuir Gardens"?

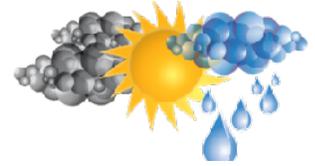
This netting is to protect our young apple trees from the local deer.

Photo by Bryant Avery

The Challenges of Climate Change

We have all been challenged by this cold, wet spring in getting our plants in the ground. This highlights the difficulties climate change is causing and will be posing;

- More rainfall in the winter, so flood risk and waterlogged soils increased
- Less rainfall in the summer, so longer dry periods and more stress on water resources
- Increasing storm intensity, so more wind damage



What we can do?

1. Choose resilient plants

- Plant species well adapted to soil & site, more tolerant to winter cold & summer heat, low summer water requirements or can sit in waterlogged soil in winter
- Choose disease resistant seeds/plants, avoid cultivars prone to disorders

2. Timing:

- Cool weather: Wait until soil is 15°C to sow. Don't be impatient – seedlings planted too early will falter or die, and those planted at the right time will catch up quickly.
- Keep records – garden journal will help guide planting over the years, but we also have to adapt to weather for that year. Listen to the local forecasts and be ready for weird weather!

3. Water-wisely:

- Install water conserving irrigation systems (dripper or soaker hose)
- Mulching helps conserve moisture. Mulch is helpful all year round - use leaves, straw, crop residue, compost, shredded paper.... In addition to providing organic matter and controlling weeds these will reduce evaporation in summer, and protect soil from erosion & nutrient loss in winter rains.

4. Creating Microclimate to protect your garden

- **Cool weather:**
 - Warm soil with clear plastic before sowing.
 - Raised beds drain better and warm earlier.
 - Cover with moveable Mini greenhouses or tunnels made with plastic sheets, cloches, floating row cover.
 - Provide strong trellises/supports to mitigate wind damage
- **Hot weather:**
 - Sow seeds slightly deeper.
 - Shade seed beds until mature with shade cloth, beach umbrellas, etc. Don't use row covers as they will increase the temperature underneath.
 - Increase irrigation

Reminder newsletters for planting schedules:

Linda A. Gilkeson West Coast Gardening info@lindagilkeson.ca (send an email here to be included on her mailing list which is updated for each season according to the current weather)

<https://www.westcoastseeds.com/pages/our-newsletter> (not updated for local conditions)

Reference:

Linda Gilkeson : Resilient Gardens for a Changing Climate

Article by Ben Zhang (Student Master Gardener)

Thank you to all those who came to help at the Spring Clean UP



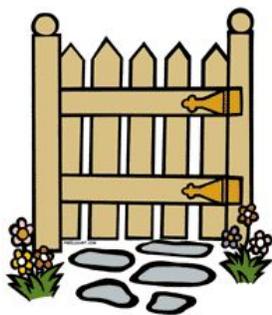
Together we accomplished a lot!

Photos by Sharon Lightstone

Be careful where you park!

Increasingly, some garden members are finding it difficult (and sometimes impossible) to enter their own garden because a car is parked too close to their gate. Please also be mindful of not blocking garden pathways with your car.

Thank you!



Please check out the bulletin boards and the chalkboard in the undercover area.

Information on the boards includes:

- Master Gardener Schedule
- Calendar of Events
- Inspection dates and expectations
- Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
- Summer Picnic Information

You are welcome to use the "Member's Board" to communicate with fellow gardeners.

June Bee Report

I'm very happy to report that all hives came through winter beautifully. One hive lost its queen during the winter but we were able to purchase an imported, mated queen (from Quebec), which was quickly accepted by the bees. That hive took right off and now has a very good population of bees.

Another hive came through winter so strongly we were able to split it by taking frames of eggs, brood, bees, honey and pollen and putting those into an empty hive body, along with a few empty frames.

Instead of waiting the several weeks it takes for the bees to produce their own new queen and for her to become mated and start laying, we purchased another new queen and this split took off and is also doing very well. That brings the total number of hives to four.

The empty hive on top of the shed in the beeyard was put up there to attract any passing honeybee swarms that might have vacated some hapless local beekeeper's overcrowded apiary. A great way to get free bees! Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't.

Because of this long, cold, wet spring we've had to monitor the bees closely to ensure they do not run out of food. Normally the bees would be out foraging, but this weather has forced them to remain in the hives and there's always the risk of them eating all their food stores and then starving. In a few weeks the blackberries will be blooming all over the Spit and the surrounding neighbourhood. This is an excellent source of nectar for our bees and we should see them producing a fair bit of honey...if the weather allows them to get out to forage.

We expect this to be a great year. I'll be turning the reins over to Pixie Hobby, our returning Bee Coordinator, and wish her much success. I'd like to thank our wonderful group who have so faithfully come out to support the bees over the years. I know that I leave them in the very capable hands of these very experienced and super keen beekeepers, all my very good friends.

It's been such a pleasure working alongside you all.

Dave Hoffman
Past Bee Coordinator



From Archives- September 2012

Baked Kale Chips -Lily-Ann Nassey

They are a low calorie nutritious snack. You cannot stop at just eating one.

1 Bunch of kale

1 tbsp. olive oil

1 tsp. seasoned salt or sea salt.

1. Pre heat oven to 350 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper

2. Shear leaves from thick stem and tear into bite size pieces. Wash well and dry in salad spinner or let dry before using.

Drizzle kale with olive oil and sprinkle with salt.

Bake in 350 degree oven till edges are slightly browned, but not burned. About 10 to 15 minutes.



From Archives-Summer 2013

Sour Cream Rhubarb Muffins by Joan Arnott (from Rhubarb and Roses)

Preheat your oven to 400F

2 Cups Flour

3/4 Cup Sugar

2 1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp. salt

Whisk together the dry ingredients in a mixing bowl. In a separate bowl whisk together till smooth:

1 Cup Sour Cream

8 Tbsp. melted butter

2 lrg. eggs

1 tsp. vanilla

Add the wet ingredients into the dry mixture, stir gently just until moistened. Do not over mix. Fold in:

1 1/2 Cups of fresh finely chopped rhubarb

Line a muffin tin with 12 large baking cups and fill with batter. Sprinkle each cup with the topping:

Topping

3 Tbsp. sugar mixed with 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Place in preheated oven and bake for 18-20 minutes



<http://rhubarbandroses-rosella.blogspot.ca/2012/05/rhuby-tuesdays-sour-cream-rhubarb.html>

Happy Gardeners



Photos by Bryant Avery