



August 2015 Newsletter

B e e F r i e n d l y . c a



Orange tail
bumblebee Queen
"Bombus
melanopygus"



Green Sweat
Bee "Halictus"

Bees to see in the garden now

The orange tail bumblebees will be looking for food and nesting sites at this time of year.

Sweat bees belong to the large family of bees known as Halictidae of which we have, native to our area, members of the sub groups, Sweat Bees (Halictus), Metallic Green Bees (Agapostemon) and Orchid Bees (Lasioglossum). Sweat bees (Halictus) are among the smallest of our many local bee species, averaging on 5 to 10 mm in length, and get their common nickname from the habit of landing on people to collect the salt from our skin during hot summer weather. These little bees, like most bees, have the ability to defend themselves with small stingers which they will use if harmed or roughly handled. Sweat bees are excellent pollinators of many of the smaller flower type of native plants which are often bypassed by the larger bees.

New Garden Sign



At the beginning of April, we finally had the unveiling of the new sign to recognize and acknowledge the hard work that Gerry has done in creating this Garden. This sign is the epitome of community. Someone in the neighbourhood donated a burl of wood which was then given to the City of North Vancouver and the sign makers created this amazing one-of-a-kind sign.

May 30 Day of the Honey Bee



On Saturday, May 30, there were a number of events at the Garden and Loutet Farm.

The North Shore Bee Club was there explaining about honey bees to the public with lots of beekeeping equipment and an observation hive with live bees. The Wilderness Committee was there explaining about the importance of native bees to our pollination. BeeFriendly had an information booth which included our amazing native bee boxes designed for us by Shain Jackson of Spiritworks.

And then there was a gardening party! 19 of us pulled weeds, talked amongst ourselves while doing so and drank LOTS of water. Some professional landscaping friends weedwacked the lupine embankment and then put bark mulch around each lupine so that grass wouldn't take over again! Big thanks to them for this!

We all shared a nice lunch and more water - it was warm but pleasant outside but it's thirsty work pulling weeds.

Ric then provided a presentation on native bees while taking everyone on walk-about around the garden and explaining the relationships between bees and plants. Everyone learned how they could help the bees. The bees even cooperated by putting on a show on the California Lilac.

We were so lucky to have Gerry join us and he very much enjoyed meeting everyone, especially a new 7-week old baby girl.

It was a great time and we want to thank all the volunteers who joined us.

New Video on our Website

We have a new video on our web-site - Plight of the Bee. A number of years ago, we were approached by a videographer who wanted to support us in our efforts to inform the public about native bees. Charley Miller produced an incredible video and we would love you to enjoy it. Here is a link to the video <http://beefriendly.ca/plight-of-the-bee/>.

A Farm Feast



Ric and Sharon were invited by Whole Foods to attend this year's Farm to Feast held on August 6 at Loutet Farm. It was an amazing evening with old friends, new friends, catering by Whole Foods, live music, wonderful weather and no rain!! Whole Foods and Loutet Farm Rock!!!

Upcoming Event



LOUTET FARM HONEYFEST

September 12, 2015 - 10 am to noon
East 14th Street + Rufus Ave, North Van

We offer the following at Honeyfest:
BeeFriendly information booth
Tours of our native bee garden to see native bees in action
Honey for sale at the Farm
For the first time ever, beeswax candles will be available for sale

Signing up for our newsletter

If you have a friend who might be interested in receiving our newsletter, please send them the link below to sign up.

<http://www.beefriendly.ca/schedule/bee-friendly-schedule-2015>

Our mailing address is:

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