



Photographs by Djamila Moore

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue N° 6 | May 2012

A Poem

Electric Radicchio Flower

One day you appeared in the bed
where last year's vegetables grew.
In four weeks of summer rain
you shot up four feet:

tall
electric
purple petalled
leaning a little
against the blue fence,
waving.

Dear flower.
Your seed did not do
what it was supposed to.
Still you are

sunlight
morning dew
sky sometimes
electric blue –

even floating in water
in the living room
your cut flowers
open and close
between sun and moon

as if
still part of the heart

purple presence
beside the blue fence (you).

-Veronica Gaylie

A Recipe

Kale Blossom Pesto

Most gardeners are familiar with the delights of sweet, over-wintered kale and the broccoli-like flowers which shoot up in the early spring. For those of us who may only know kale as a leafy vegetable from the grocery store, try to find a fellow gardener who would be more than happy to hand over some kale blossoms before they remove the old stalks and plant anew... This recipe is a twist on traditional basil pesto and can be tossed with various pastas, grilled vegetables, fish or chicken.

Ingredients
large bunch of kale flowers on stems (try to get mostly buds and reserve any bloomed yellow flowers for garnish)
3 tbsp good olive oil
3 cloves garlic, loosely chopped
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 cup nuts (almonds, cashews, walnuts and pine nuts work well)
squeeze of lemon juice

Pull flower buds off of stems. Loosely chop the tips of tender stems- discard tough stems. Place all ingredients in food processor and blend until smooth. Adjust salt and lemon juice to taste. Sprinkle bloomed flowers on finished dish (pasta, grilled veggies, fish or chicken). Use immediately or keep in refrigerator for up to one week; can also be frozen. Enjoy!

-Djamila Moore

What's In Season

Fall Harvesting Time

Vegetables:
Asparagus, Celery, Swiss Chard, Kale, Mustard Greens, Green Onions, Peas, New Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb, Salad Greens, Spinach, and White Turnips

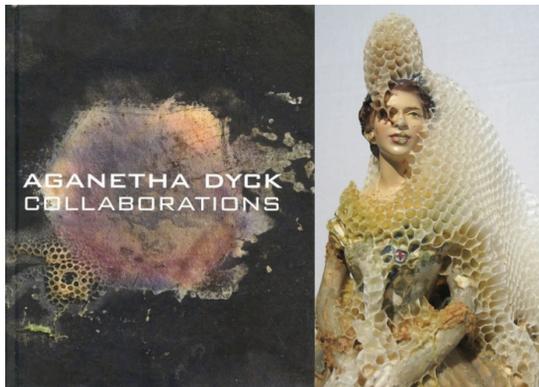
Herbs:
Bay Leaves, Chives, Chervil, Dill, Fennel Leaf, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Savory, Sorrel, Tarragon, and Thyme

Other Good Stuff:
Various Grains & Mushrooms



Pollination Research

By Lauren Everall



** Lauren Everall is a UBC teacher candidate who just completed her 3 week alternative practicum in the garden. Below is a summary of research she completed around pollination for her alternative practicum.

Although I have spent many an hour with my nose in articles and books over the past few weeks, I regret to say that I will not be writing about the solution to Colony Collapse Disorder, or to let you know that pesticides will no longer be legal to use on agricultural crops which our dear bees pollinate. No, I do not have the answers. I do, however, have a new interest and possible addition to learning about bees and pollination. I have found amazing visual artists, TED talks, novels, poems, and non-fiction books that all uniquely explore and question the world of pollination. Here are a few highlights from my research:

1) According to Susan Brackney's book, Plan Bee: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Hardest Working Creatures on the Planet, Voodoo practitioners believed that if you form small cakes of honey, amaranth seed, and a dash of whiskey, and then eat the cakes just before the new moon, you would be able to see into the future (p. 60).

2) Interested in learning about the current state of bees? This book is a non-fiction information packed page turner! It's informative and enjoyable to read. - Fruitless Fall: The Collapse of the Honey Bee and the Coming Agricultural Crisis by Rowan Jacobse.

3) The website www.pollination.ca is packed with information. I loved the clear and practical guide to creating and cultivating your own pollinator garden. This is one way that we, urban-dwellers, can contribute to a pesticide-free and nutrient rich habitat for our pollinator friends. Here is a list of native species to plant in your pollinator garden: cardinal flower, english lavender, cosmos, sage, fuchsia, mint, phlox, zinnia, bee balm, shasta daisy, honeysuckle, aster, verbena, angel's trumpet, sunflower, black-eyed susan, geranium, coneflower, lupine, nasturtium.

4) Canadian visual artist Aganetha Dyck is someone you should definitely google, or better yet go down to the VPL and immerse yourself in her two books in the Fine Arts Reference section. Her work explores the relationship between honeybees and humans. She places specific objects in honeybee hives and removes the newly formed collaborative sculpture as a site of exchange and interplay between the artist, the object, and the honeybees. The objects emerge with patterned holes on the surfaces, honey cone deposits, or delicate excisions; visual proof of the honeybees collective energy.

To Bee or Not to Bee

By Alison Krahn

The Nature of Things episode 'To Bee or Not to Bee' is an informative exploration of the role bees play in nature, science and agribusiness. David Suzuki guides viewers through learning facts about bees (there are more than 19,000 species of bees!), the pollination process and the stresses bees are facing today. The majority of the episode focuses on the alarming decline of the global bee population, and how the unprecedented 'die-offs' of domestic and wild bees endangers biodiversity and threatens our food supplies. According to Suzuki, scientists and beekeepers consider the collapse of bee populations to be the 'canary in the coal mine' for the ecological health of our planet. The episode takes viewers to various laboratories, bee yards, orchards, and breeding grounds in North America, Germany and France in order to see how bees are being affected on a global scale.



"Busy Bees" Photograph by Djamila Moore

Unsurprising to some, the worldwide use of chemical pesticides and dependence on monoculture in agribusiness has led to the loss of natural bee habitats, as well as the emergence of viruses such as Colony Collapse Disorder. Dr. Paul Ehrlich, a conservation biologist from Stanford University, effectively sums up our problematic history of farming practices: "the biggest ecological damage done by humanity overall has been done through agriculture." After much discussion of our agricultural practices, the episode takes an interesting turn in asking if science can find solutions to the problems bees face, rather than furthering the discussion of how humans can change our behaviours to better the ecological health of our planet. Overall, 'To Bee or Not to Bee' is an engaging and informative 45 minutes of television that brings home the point that a world without bees would be unrecognizable.

Happenings In The Garden

A Party and a Workshop Review

The Orchard Garden Summer Celebration

Friday June 15, 2012 – 1:00pm to 4:00pm
The Orchard Garden team would like to invite you to a Summer Celebration event in order to celebrate the summer, sun and all the dedicated garden work that happened this year. Please join us for music, activities and garden themed snacks made by The Orchard Garden team.

Cost: **FREE!**



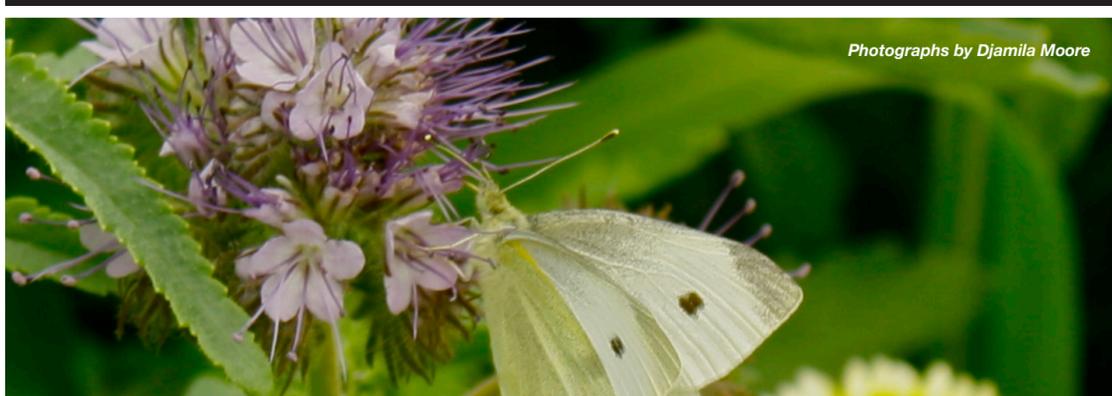
Sweet Education in the Garden: Pollination

The Orchard Garden hosted an education workshop which focused on pollination and how this important process can be integrated across the curriculum. Two teacher candidates from the Faculty of Education (Lauren Everall & Alison Krahn), who just completed their 3 week Alternative Practicum with The Orchard Garden, were able to share some of their experiences, research, curriculum, and resources. Lauren and Alison gave the workshop and participants a tour of the garden during which they explored the different types of plants bees use as forage and how these plants have evolved to attract the bees they depend on. Lauren & Alison discussed three different types of bee hives/houses The Orchard Garden has on-site (a mason bee house, a Langstroth hive, and a Warré hive) and the group discussed possibilities for having bees at elementary and secondary schools. The workshop ended with some hands-on activities (creating seed bombs) and honey themed snacks!



Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"
~Robin Williams

"I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden."
~Ruth Stout



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The Orchard Garden aims to cultivate a living outdoor classroom that invites learners across disciplines to explore and connect theory to practice through the relationships between teaching, learning, and growing.

<http://outdoorclassroomubc.blogspot.com/> | <http://www.landfood.ubc.ca/undergraduate/lfs-orchard-garden> | blogs.landfood.ubc.ca/lfsog/



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA