

Aquilegia formosa



The Lions Bay Native Plant Garden

January 2017 (Submitted by Mary Miles)

Once again time has flown by and we find ourselves welcoming in a new year. During 2016 many residents responded positively to our volunteers at the Native Plant Garden. Would any of you care to help us? We are a small but congenial group and would very much welcome other plant lovers who would enjoy participating in the upkeep of the garden!

The mixed weather was a significant gardening challenge in 2016, especially during the spring and summer months. As a result of an unexpected heat wave in April, several beds of newly planted flowers suffered significantly. We often found it a challenge to keep all the plants properly watered. We are hopeful that watering timers set to come on during the night will help to solve any potential drought issues in 2017.

One of our main goals is to help to inform residents about the diversity of native plants in Lions Bay. To this end we were very pleased to welcome a delightful group of Sparks and Guides to the garden in early June. The girls were very diligent in completing a scavenger hunt which helped them to recognize some of our local plants and become more aware of the differences among the plants. It was wonderful to see that they were reluctant to leave the garden at the end of their scheduled time! We also greatly enjoyed hosting the grade 2/3 class from our local school at the end of their school year. At the garden they participated in biology activities that reinforced some of the concepts that they had been working on in the classroom, and they were happy to each take home a native strawberry plant that they could plant in their own yard. One of our volunteers is a retired biology teacher who enjoys organizing these events for the students. We would like to increase the number of groups that visit the garden and we encourage you to contact us if you have a group that would be interested in having a visit. In this context, Mary toured a few groups through the garden from other neighbouring native plant gardens. It is exciting to see the interest in the importance of preserving biodiversity in many different BC communities, including Lions Bay!

During 2017 we are hoping to add additional plants to the garden and construct supports for growing our beautiful native orange honeysuckle - Lonicera ciliosa. Many of you have possibly seen this climbing plant in the forest around Lions Bay, or might even have one in your own garden. (Please see the photo by Ian Cumming at the end of this article.)

Please do feel free to phone Mary at 604-921-7842 if you have any further questions or would like to arrange a tour of the garden.

(Look on the following pages for some photos of our visiting youngsters!)



Guides and Sparks



Grades 2 and 3



Lonicera ciliosa (Orange honeysuckle) Photo courtesy of Ian Cumming
For more native plant photographs visit the E-Flora BC website.
(<http://ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/>)

