

A WALK IN MAGGIE'S GARDEN

The heather is in bloom, pinks, white and deep red. They are waiting for you at the top of the driveway. Welcoming you. "Come in" they say, come walk with Maggie through her garden.

It will amaze you how hard this grand lady worked, adding nutrients and love to her soil. Pathways meander through rhododendrons with buds ready to explode with colour. A small pond reflects the beauty of the surrounding trees and a stone heron is waiting, wondering when his next meal will swim along to the edge of the pond.

Viburnum and sumac blend together in regal style reminding you of this lover of plants.

A patio surrounded by nourishment for the eyes and the body reaches out across the water to a snow capped Mount Baker. The smell of herbs and plump raspberries fills your soul. From tiny plots vegetables abound in the summer. Beans hang like ornaments blending with the roses. How graceful they look. Strawberries rich and red are picked every morning. A reward for the gardener? Or is it a thank you for being so kind and gentle to all that grows.

A small area on the patio is lovingly prepared by a son who later places yellow rose bushes together, she loved yellow roses. A memory of the day that she became Mrs. Vance. They called them 'Irish Gold' but I like to think of them as 'A Scottish Lass'.

I was fortunate to spend time in Maggie's garden over the years, she shared it with me. I know she is continuing this love of nature and its beauty somewhere where the heather blooms.

Gloria Taylor

IN MEMORY OF MAGGIE a tree (Robinia) will be planted at the Community Hall sometime in the fall. As we get closer to the date we will announce it in a flyer.

THE MOZZIES ARE COMING!

It's hard to miss news about the **WEST NILE VIRUS**, but even for those of us who are not news junkies, this is one item we should probably be alert to.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

- Wear baggy, long-sleeved shirts and pants in light colours
- Use mosquito repellent. WNV has been found in both daytime and dusk-to-dawn mosquitoes. The BC Centre for Disease Control recommends DEET. Ensure that you read the instructions before application. Beyond Pesticides recommends products containing geraniol (MosquitoSafe), citronella (Natrappel), or a combination of soybean, geranium and coconut oils (Bite Blocker)

- Destroy common mosquito breeding sites around your home. Anything that can hold water is a potential development site - an inch depth of water could, in theory, produce 1000 mosquitoes a week.

I spoke to Bob Davies. Both he and Roy Pickford monitor the salt marsh here on Thetis. The marsh is the habitat for at least two types of mosquito species; the salt marsh mosquito, a sandy coloured specimen with a good bite, and the *Culex pipiens* which is the one primarily linked to the WNV.

"Neither are friends," Bob reports. "Our normal variety produces 10 generations in a season. They are mostly found in small ponds and enclosures where the water is shallow." Bob and Roy have been monitoring areas of the swamp that are dead end serpentine bends and have been blocked off by dead trees. The open areas of the swamp can't be treated. Two days ago Roy discovered a bucket-sized hole made by a backhoe, loaded with *Culex pipiens*, on the road into the swamp, and promptly treated it with a larvicide. The larvae itself, are not "too big, about 1/2 inch long, with whiskers at the head end and a tail, and swim along with a serpentine motion." They hesitate to treat areas of the swamp and nearby ponds aggressively because of the tadpole-frog population that also live there, and are looking into a treatment that will not harm other life forms. Thank you, Bob and Roy, for keeping us informed and up to date.

We will also be asking to be kept in the loop by the province and our local regional district. Watch the notice board for updates over the summer.

Jean Tannahill

BC Centre for Disease Control: www.bccdc.org

West Nile Virus: www.beyondpesticides.org/MOSQUITO/ALERTS/

Health Canada: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/wnv-vwn/>

Information on DEET: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/English/pdf/rtd2002-01-e.pdf>

Bob Davies has been actively looking for **ways to kill mosquito larvae** in his rain barrels. He tried a little vegetable oil on top of the water, but that failed because the oil stayed in its droplet form. Then he mixed vegetable oil, detergent and water, shook it up and poured it into the barrel. Not only did he kill all the larvae but he also killed off the live mosquitoes as well! Here's his recipe for success:

2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
A couple of pinches of detergent
Water
Shake up well and pour in the rainbarrel

J.T.

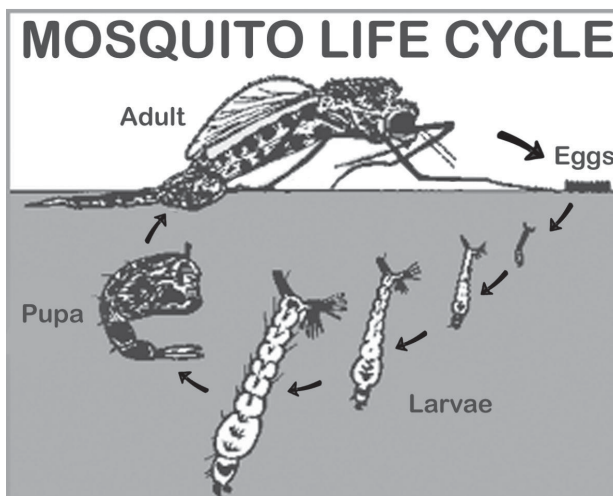
ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES

Recently the media, including radio, newspapers, magazines and even TV (which probably shows a poor little mosquito on the end of a pin) have been discussing the dangers of the West Nile disease. As your resident mosquitologist I have been asked to put a note or two in the Q.

One of the first things an entomologist considers when investigating any insect is its life cycle. Elementary perhaps, but you

would be surprised at the number of persons I have met who really believe that mozzies emerge from the grass. Eggs are laid in or near water, and after hatching into a tiny worm-like larva (often quite difficult to see) will moult about four times into a crescent shaped pupa from which the adult mosquito will emerge.

The time spent in the larval stage may vary



substantially depending on the temperature of the water ; if shallow and very warm several days is sufficient, whereas in colder conditions it may take a week or two.

It therefore becomes obvious that control must be accomplished during the water phase and not when these insects are flying. One of the most useful things to do is to check your property for anything that might hold water such as garden buckets, rain barrels, bird baths, old tires, eavestroughs and even hunks of plastic. My own compost pile is covered with a sheet of clear plastic to keep in the moisture ; the other morning after the rain there were several shallow puddles sunk in the plastic which would be ideal egg-laying sites. A useful anti-mozzie method that I use is a water filled, shallow white enamel basin that is placed nearby and examined daily. The larvae are readily spotted in such a basin and are easily killed by emptying it over the driveway.

There are a number of mosquito species that appear to be involved in the transmission of the West Nile virus, but the primary one identified so far appears to be the crow chewing mozzie with the name *Culex Pipiens*. So if anyone spots a larva that looks as if it fits this name, give it an extra stomp so that he won't hurt anyone. Incidentally, it so happens that only females are capable of such dastardly disease-producing deeds.

One other item; for the first time I noted in my Mason Bee colony a number of adults with a strange brown fuzz over their usually blueish-black body. Under magnification this proved to be a large number of tiny mites which can be deadly for a colony. Therefore I would strongly advise anyone who has such bee houses to thoroughly clean out the holes using a drill with a 5/16 bit when all or most of the adults have emerged.

Roy Pickford

THE PIE CRUISE

There's surely no better way to spend the day than on a cruise aboard the yacht Grail Dancer.

April Fool's Day notwithstanding, four intrepid voyagers took to the seas of Stuart Channel and Houston Passage as the guests of Wayne and Maureen Loiselle, for a day long to be remembered. The warm friendliness of our hosts, coupled with the outstanding cruising capabilities of the trim gaff-rigged schooner, served to provide a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Departing from Telegraph Harbour marina at 9 a.m. sharp, our vessel nosed her way southward, destination Conover Cove, Wallace Island Provincial Marine park. While Wayne busied himself with the myriad sailhandling duties of a "skipper-cum-deckhand" (which are many on this beautiful ship), Maureen manned the helm. All this, while responding to the questions of her guests and keeping a weather-eye open for drifting debris, approaching boats and most of all, subtle wind shifts, a threat to keeping a sailing vessel moving smoothly. The wind was fitful that day, requiring help from the "iron mainsail" down below; that is, until we sailed along Houston Passage. As we rounded Saltspring's Southey Point we encountered the southeasterly humping up Trincomali Channel, at which point Grail Dancer lifted her skirts and flew.

It took several tacks to take us past the long reef which guards the entrance to Conover Cove. Under power we entered the smooth waters of this protected anchorage and berthed alongside the unoccupied wharf, a hugely popular stopover during the summer cruising season. Once secured, the sun broke through clearing skies, and as her



guests stretched their legs on the park paths, Maureen laid out a delectable buffet on the wharf table.

The clearing skies were, however, short-lived and as Grail Dancer nosed her way back into the choppy waters heading homewards, brief rain squalls chilled the air. Houston Passage was less accommodating on the return voyage offering only fitful winds of sailable quality. Nevertheless the ship moved well under the less-than-ideal conditions and good conversation carried us homeward, laying alongside at almost precisely 6 p.m. to end a memorable day.



What brought all this about, you may well ask. TICA and the Pie Auction last Fall were the motivating forces. A feature of this event, aside from the auctioning of island-made pies, is a prize draw for many interesting and unusual gifts offered by the talented Thetis craftspeople and supporting merchants from Chemainus. A vigorous ticket sale program

had been conducted in advance of the event and it was that persuasive seller, Dave Knowles, who inveigled me into participating. To my astonishment this resulted in a bounty of interesting gifts donated for the surprise bag which came my way. And the premier prize was a daysail for four on the Grail Dancer, thanks to the generosity of the Loiselles. Maureen and Wayne were up the coast at the time and not expected back until later in the Fall, so

they suggested that the cruise be postponed to the Spring. So on April 1st I was joined by Barbara Findlay and Pat and Lucy Hayward (who had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.) All of us are unanimous in our praise for the enjoyable trip and would urge our readers to take advantage of the service if Loiselles proceed with plans to offer commercial cruises. What better way, for example, to celebrate a wedding or anniversary than a cruise on Grail Dancer?

Les Saul



DON'T FORGET!

THE ANNUAL JULY 1ST SAILPAST

EVERYTHING THAT FLOATS IS WELCOME! IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BOAT, FIND A FRIEND WHO DOES. THE MOTLEY FLOTILLA LEAVES THETIS ISLAND MARINA AT 1:15 pm TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THETIS, KUPER AND TENT ISLANDS. THIS IS CANADA DAY, SO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF NOISE AND COLOUR IS EXPECTED OF YOU! AFTER THE SAILPAST, THERE WILL BE DINNER AT DON & GWEN HUNTER'S BEACH - \$5 PER PERSON. DON'T MISS IT!

