



# *Garden Club of Buzzards Bay*

## *From the Ground Up*

May 2022

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### **Presidents Message**

Dear all,



Spring greetings to you! I'm sure it's really here – the robin in the tree near my terrace is back and still mad at me for trying to garden nearby. There are more shades of green every day and some lovely blooms.

The club is busy, racing toward the end of the club year. As I write this, I am looking forward to our in-person meeting at Sandy Hall's (over by the time you read this), our annual plant sale (where now our members can shop freely and enjoy selections for the discerning plant shopper) and our annual meeting (another chance to meet in person while enjoying Lisa Mellgard's beautiful property). You'll read our committee news elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please join us for these events. We've weathered a lot in the last two years, and now there is finally a chance to get together, relax a little and focus more on the good things that last. I know from talking with other club presidents that we have held together better than most. Thank you for pitching in to make it work. I know it was worthwhile.

See you soon,

Janet

P.S.: The RJD has installed a lock on the door between the coach house “classroom” and our workroom. This is because the RJD sometimes asks to use the coach house space for their events – for performers, wedding parties, caterers and the like. We try to agree when we are not using the space ourselves. The lock is to prevent these outside parties from “touring” our workroom and greenhouse, which has caused a bit of trouble in the past. The plan is to lock the door during outside events but leave it unlocked otherwise. Should you ever encounter a locked door, though, please know that your key to the outer greenhouse door will work in this new lock as well.

## Table of Contents:

President’s Message	1-2
Changing of the Seasons	2
Committee News	
Boxwood	3
Greenhouse	4
Plant Sale	5-7
New Provisional Members	7
LCGC Event	7
From the Archives	8-9
Features	10-14
Accolades	15
GCA Website & Info	16
View from My Window	17-19
GCBB Together Again!	20
Tips & Tasks in the Garden	21
Link (s) of Interest	22-23
Miles Away	24-27
Just for Fun	28
May Calendar	29
A Gentle Reminder	30
Until Next Time	31

## Changing of the Seasons



*(Photo: Laura Campbell)*

## Committee News

### **Boxwood Committee**

Submitted by Marcy Busch and Barbara Brown



The Boxwood Committee has made real progress with our “Mapping Project”: Identifying and mapping the Boxwood in the collection, tracking their relocation, replacing name tags, and removing from the map the discarded Boxwoods. Since the previous plan was completed by Sue Fairfax in 2010, many plants have been lost due to disease, or relocated/transplanted to more suitable locations. Last Fall, Warren Leach, owner of Tranquil Lake Nurseries, brought in a team of landscapers who transplanted (or removed) approximately nine specimens. Those selected for transplant were either suffering from overcrowding or moved in anticipation of an

expanding growth habit. With a keen eye for design, and with guidance from Nan Sinton, the healthy Boxwood were replanted to their current locations. Two of the large boxwoods were moved to the Woodland Walk as part of the ongoing renovation of that quadrant. This was an enormous undertaking! Now, almost all of the Boxwood have been ID’d and overlaid on the design plan, however, there are about five that we have not identified with certainty, and somehow, name tags continue to go missing! Our long-term goal is to migrate the Map to an electronic format so that changes can be updated easily, and the Map can be printed and handed out to visitors. To keep the Boxwood healthy, Bartlett Tree has been hired to fertilize and apply miticide and fungicide to the plants as needed. On a final note, the Master Gardeners are back! Although their primary focus is on the Woodland Walk restoration, we can count on them to continue weeding, light pruning, and provide general maintenance of the Boxwood Gardens.



# Greenhouse Committee

Janet and Judi tending the annuals



Succulent City!  
Betsy and Lisa potting up succulents in fine china. Nothing but the best for GCBB succulents!!



## **Plant Sale Committee**

Submitted by Cheryl Gamsby and Anne Heller, 2022 Plant Sale Co-chairs

With spring's arrival, we're all thinking about our gardens and the upcoming Club's plant sale. Some of us got an early start when we picked up our Sylvan Nursery perennials! Now we're getting down to the business of planning and executing our newly imagined plant sale. This year's sale is a mix of tradition and innovation – a boutique sale of carefully curated annuals (supplemented by members' perennials) at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House (RJD) for members, family, and friends.

Last year's popular innovation of offering members the opportunity to pre-order perennials from Sylvan Nursery was expanded to include herbs – to the delight of many. Tina Read, our herb guru, will be in touch with members who placed an order about pick-up details.

The plant sale has always been the highlight of the Club's year and its success a collective effort. This year's sale will give members an opportunity to purchase plants for their gardens, reconnect with friends, have some fun, and generate income for the Club. But we'll need your help to make it a success!

Here are the details about the sale

**Set-up Hours:** Tuesday, May 10, 9 a.m.-noon

Wednesday, May 11, 9 a.m.-noon

**Sale Hours:** Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 3:00-6:00 pm.

(Note: two shifts)

Friday, May 13, 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Greenhouse, Coach House and Garden at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House

(Entry and exit from the Coach House and gates on 7<sup>th</sup> Street)

**On Sale:** Bounty from our greenhouse  
(annuals, tomatoes, succulents, and orchids)  
Perennial donations from our members

Here are ways you can help:

### **SPREAD THE WORD**

Because of the location of the sale, we don't plan to advertise like we did in the past. The public is welcome to shop, but we're depending on members to invite family and friends to the sale. In a couple of weeks, we'll send you an email about the sale and ask you to forward it to relatives, friends, and fellow gardeners.

### **STAFFING**

We'll need your help setting up and working at the sale. We'll be setting up on Tuesday, May 10, and Wednesday, May 11, from 9 a.m.-noon. Sale hours have been spread out over two days with two shifts on Thursday and one on Friday. We estimate that we'll need 8-9 volunteers for set-up and 11 members for each shift at the sale.

Sign-up sheets can be found on the Club website.

### **PERENNIAL DONATIONS**

We'd like to continue the tradition of having members contribute a perennial or two for the sale and ask each member to donate at least one plant from their garden. We'll be receiving donations during our sale set-up on Tuesday. If that day doesn't work for you, drop off your perennial near the entrance of the coach house a few days before the sale – preferably by Wednesday morning when we'll be pricing the donations.

Please label your donation.

### **SUPPLIES**

The only supply we'll need this year is beer flats to help our shoppers carry their purchases. The greenhouse and garden aren't "red wagon" friendly unfortunately.

You can bring them to the coach house anytime during sale week.

### **SHOP!**

Members can now purchase as many plants as they wish. The greenhouse team has been nurturing an interesting array of annuals that will appeal to our more discerning shoppers (that's you and your friends!), and we hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity.

In the next few weeks, we'll be sending you information about the sale to forward to your friends and a reminder about perennial donations. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us at [heller.a@comcast.net](mailto:heller.a@comcast.net) and [ccgamsby@gmail.com](mailto:ccgamsby@gmail.com).



**Plant Sale hours:**  
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**Greenhouse, Coach House and Patio**  
**at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House**  
**(Entry and exit from the Coach House and gates on**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Street)**

## **New Provisional Members**

Please note the following **corrections** to the email addresses for Provisional Members:

Susan Perry: **susanlperry28@gmail.com**

Ellen Walsh: **eswnow@gmail.com**

We are delighted to welcome our newest member: **Natalie Mello**. Stay tuned for more about Natalie in our next newsletter!

## **Little Compton Garden Club Event - Open to the Public**

The Little Compton Garden Club has an upcoming program at the Little Compton Community Center on May 11, 2022 at 7:00PM which may be of interest:

### ***Using Native Plants in Traditional Landscapes***

Horticulturalist Lynn Steiner will address the topic of responsible gardening, where the goal is to create a beautiful garden where we can satisfy our love of tending plants while making a sanctuary for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife—without causing further damage to our natural world. Inspirational photos will show how to use native plants in more traditional landscape settings. Lynn will highlight plants that do exceptionally well in Little Compton gardens. She will also cover maintenance.

**More Photos From the Archives....A Trip down Memory Lane.**





milling  
around  
outside the  
R&D  
Greenhouse  
  
circa 1986



Spring  
1985  
"shredding  
the  
mortgage"  
party  
  
i.e. repayment  
to lenders of funds  
to repair and  
restore the  
greenhouse  
  
Toast given by  
Helen Goddard

Spring  
1986  
Bonds

**"Spring 1985 - Shredding of the Mortgage Party"**

## Features

### **No Mow May!!**

[In Wisconsin: Stowing Mowers, Pleasing Bees](#)

Photographs and Text by Anne Readel

As I drove last May through Appleton, Wis., the small city offered up a series of idyllic scenes: children playing on tree-lined streets, couples walking their dogs, and all the while, the wind carrying the sweetness of spring.

But something was unusual here. The lawns of many of the homes were wild.

Resembling miniature meadows, they sported long grass, bright yellow dandelions and carpets of purple [creeping Charlie](#) — a far cry from the traditional American lawn. These homes were not abandoned or neglected, and no stacks of newspapers festooned their porches. Rather, the city had asked residents to put away their lawn mowers for the month of May. This allowed plants typically identified as weeds — including violets, white clover and dandelions — to flower.



Appleton's No Mow May initiative had a clear purpose: to save the bees — and not just honeybees (which are European imports), but also native bees, such as bumble bees, mining bees and sweat bees.

Bees are facing catastrophic declines. In North America, nearly [one in four native bee species is imperiled](#), according to the Center for Biological Diversity, partly because of habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change and urbanization.

Lawns typically provide poor habitat for bees. But if allowed to flower, lawn weeds — perhaps better characterized as plants other than grass — can provide rare spring food for bees emerging from hibernation.

Appleton, some 200 miles north of Chicago, is a small college city nestled on the shores of the meandering Fox River. Two assistant professors at a local liberal arts college, [Dr. Israel Del Toro and Dr. Relena Ribbons](#) of Lawrence University, knew that

[No Mow May was popular in Britain](#). They wondered if the initiative might take root here, too.

They began working with the Appleton Common Council, and, in 2020, Appleton became the first city in the United States to adopt No Mow May, with 435 homes registering to take part.



Dr. Del Toro and Dr. Ribbons studied the impacts of No Mow May on Appleton’s bees. They found that No Mow May lawns had [five times the number of bees and three times the bee species](#) than did mown parks. Armed with this information, they asked other communities to participate.

By 2021, a dozen communities across Wisconsin had adopted No Mow May. It also spread to communities in Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Montana.

I learned about No Mow May in the fall of 2020 when I was looking to make my own yard more friendly to bees. The following spring, I helped organize No Mow May in Shorewood Hills, Wis., where I live. When I realized how quickly the movement was spreading, I started photographing it across Wisconsin.

Mike Wiza, the mayor of Stevens Point, Wis., supported No Mow May last year. “It was successful — and I would say pretty widely successful,” he said. Stevens Point had around 230 people register for the event, which was double what they had anticipated.

I met Ana Merchak, a resident of Stevens Point, while taking photos in her neighborhood. Her two young children were picking dandelions in the front yard. “I go in my front yard and backyard and see bees every day,” she said. “It’s cool my kids can grow up being exposed to that.”



Ms. Merchak was also grateful for how the initiative had brought the local population together. “The community tie is awesome,” she said, “especially after this pandemic year where we couldn’t do things and celebrate our community in person with one another.”

Not everyone appreciated the unmown lawns. Allison Roberts, a resident of Prairie du Chien, Wis., participated in No Mow May even though her city hadn’t adopted it. After a few weeks, she awoke from a nap to find police officers pounding on her door.



“Apparently, they were here to ensure I was not dead,” she said.

Nor were her neighbors happy with her shaggy lawn. One of them, unable to stand the sight of it, eventually mowed it without her permission.

Still, despite the unanticipated antagonism, Ms. Roberts plans to participate in No Mow May again this year. “I’m not doing it to make anyone mad,” she explained. “I’m doing it because I have the right to, and because it’s the right thing to do.”

Recently, the Appleton Common Council voted to make No Mow May permanent. Many other municipalities throughout Wisconsin have either already adopted it for 2022 or are considering it.

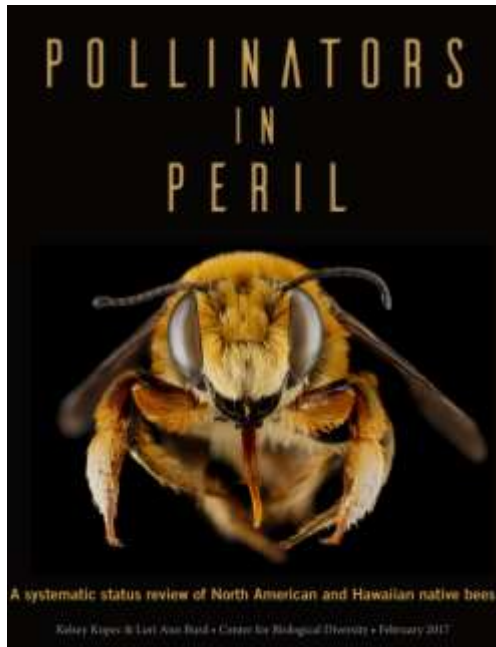
The efforts may be paying off. A rusty patched bumble bee, a federally endangered species whose [range has shrunk precipitously since the 1990s](#), was spotted for the first time at a downtown Appleton home last year.

But experts caution that the initiative is only a starting point for bee conservation. “What you did for one month, that’s cool, that helps,” Dr. Del Toro said. “But what are you going to do the rest of the summer, or the rest of the year, to make sure that our pollinators are protected?”

The role of urban and suburban environments for bees is “absolutely huge,” explained Dr. Del Toro, who said he now receives emails from Appleton residents asking how to

incorporate other bee-friendly practices, such as planting native flowers, creating bee nesting habitats and reducing herbicide and pesticide use.

“We have to start thinking about what our role is in this urban ecosystem,” he said, including how to strike a balance between development and biodiversity. For many of us, that may mean sitting back and watching the grass grow.



[Pollinators in Peril: A Systematic Status Review of North American and Hawaiian Native Bees:](#)

**Research:**

[“No Mow May lawns have higher pollinator richness and abundances: An engaged community provides floral resources for pollinators”](#)

**Abstract:** No Mow May is a community science initiative popularized in recent years that encourages property owners to limit their lawn mowing practices during the month of May. The goal of No Mow May is to provide early season foraging resources for pollinators that emerge in the spring, especially in urban landscapes when few floral resources are available. We worked with the city council of Appleton, Wisconsin, USA, to allow No Mow May to take place in May 2020. Four hundred and thirty five property owners registered for No Mow May in Appleton. We measured floral and bee richness and abundance in the yards of a subset of homes (N = 20) located near regularly

mowed urban parks (N = 15) at the end of the month. We found that homes that participated in No Mow May had more diverse and abundant flora than regularly mowed green spaces throughout the city. No Mow May homes had three times higher bee richness and five times higher bee abundances than frequently mowed greenspaces. Using generalized linear models, we found that the best predictor of bee richness was the size of the designated unmowed area, and the best predictors of bee abundances were the size of the unmowed area as well as floral richness. While our findings cannot conclusively attribute increases in bee abundances and richness to the No Mow May efforts, our data does show that bee pollinators make use of no mow spaces as key floral resources during early spring in the upper midwestern United States. A post-No Mow May survey revealed that the participants were keen to increase native floral resources in their yards, increase native bee nesting habitat, reduce mowing intensities, and limit herbicide, pesticide, and fertilizer applications to their lawns. The No Mow May initiative educated an engaged community on best practices to improve the conservation of urban pollinators in future years.

To read the full article:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344340220\\_No\\_Mow\\_May\\_lawns\\_have\\_higher\\_pollinator\\_richness\\_and\\_abundances\\_An\\_engaged\\_community\\_provides\\_floral\\_resources\\_for\\_pollinators](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344340220_No_Mow_May_lawns_have_higher_pollinator_richness_and_abundances_An_engaged_community_provides_floral_resources_for_pollinators)

## Teaching Kids About the Importance of Honeybees

<https://www.avasflowers.net/teaching-kids-about-the-importance-of-honeybees>

National Geographic Kids: [10 Facts about Honey Bees](#)



How to build a Bee Hotel: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees/make-a-bee-house>

## Accolades

One of the unsung heroes of the GCBB is Susan McLaren. Susan isn't the loudest member in the GCBB so she doesn't get much deserved attention. Susan has always worked behind the scenes to ensure something fun (remember the mens underwear garden trick? Or the growing root vegetables inside on your windowsill?) as she co-chaired the Horticulture Committee. Susan is also responsible for bringing in those amazing cannas below the bench in the greenhouse for the plant sale. Did anyone know about that? Under the cover of darkness they arrived, were potted and gifted for our sale. Thanks for all you do, Susan!



The tip of our gardening hats go to Carolyn Willard and Tina Read this month. As co chairs of the membership committee AND during a pandemic and the *residuals* of a pandemic, we have been blessed to have new members sign on. We realize that these new provisionals have had sponsors (we are very grateful for them as well!) but if not for our co-chairs and the



behind the scenes work involved, we think the job would have fallen short. Thank you Carolyn and Tina for your enthusiasm, continued patience, and love of the GCBB for bringing our newest members into the warm embrace of this very special garden club.



## **Garden Club of America website**

**2022 Photography Conference - [Videos are now available!](#)**



***Each presentation, morning and afternoon, is followed by a Q & A.***

***Even if you don't want to watch the video of [Clive Nichols](#) ('Britain's Best Garden Photographer'), "The Art of Flower and Garden Photography" you simply must click on this link to see Clive's presentation slides. The photos are truly breathtaking! [Clive GCA Masterclass.pdf](#) . Perhaps it will inspire you to carve out 48 minutes to watch the video of his presentation. You won't regret it!***

**Other [videos](#) include:**

***Morning Session: [Robert Rodriguez, Jr](#), "An Introduction to the Magic of Lightroom"***

***Charlotte Gibb, "Getting Intimate: The Intimate Landscape"***

***Afternoon Session: [Melissa Groo](#), "Wild at Heart: Capturing Birds and Wildlife with Passion, Patience and Respect"***

***Lee Anne White, "Making Better Plant Portraits"***

***David Perry, "The Smartphone Gardener"***

## **A View from my Window**

As the seasons change, please share your photos!

Email photos to Linda ([lindyc@davecornellcharters.com](mailto:lindyc@davecornellcharters.com)) or Laura ([LCampbell64@comcast.net](mailto:LCampbell64@comcast.net))

Beautiful flowers at Fran's:



Beautiful containers at Susan Mead's:



Breathtaking sunrise at Linda's:



**GCBB together again!!** The April Meeting at Sandy Hall's Barn - Adam Wheeler from Broken Arrow Nurseries talked to us about how to become deer resistant!



## **Tips & Tasks for the May Garden**

- Dead-head tulips.
- Mow grass when it reaches 3-4 inches. Set the mower to 2 1/2 to 3 inches.
- Hold off mulching until the soil is warm.
- Plant lettuce, beans, corn and carrots.
- Plant tomatoes when the lilacs bloom. Sprinkle a teaspoon of Epsom salts into the hole where they go to provide magnesium.
- Plant marigolds, zinnias and nasturtiums in and around vegetables and flower beds to repel insects. Plant gladiolas at 2 week intervals.
- Fertilize any bulbs that are up.
- Stake peonies and other tall growing plants before they get too big.
- Cut back tall perennials like bee balm and phlox to control height.
- Harvest rhubarb by grabbing it at the base of the stalk and pulling firmly away from the crown, twisting just a bit. Be sure to throw the leaves into the compost as they are poisonous. Prune spring blooming shrubs just as soon as the flowers have faded. Deadhead lilacs. Check lilies for red lily leaf beetles. Dispose of them by crushing them.
- Don't forget to deadhead bulbs as well. Leave the foliage, but take out the spent flower heads. Slugs chewing the hostas? Combine 9 parts water to common household ammonia and spray it on just before dark. When the slugs hit this, they will dissolve.
- Check apple, cherry, and other fruit trees for tent caterpillars. As soon as the tender new leaves emerge so will the caterpillars. If you have to spray with insecticide do it after bloom is finished to protect the bees.
- Plant annuals no sooner than May 30th.

With thanks to: <https://www.andovergardenclub.org/a-new-england-garden-by-the-month>

## Links of Interest



From the Martha's Vineyard Pollyhill Arboretum "[Plants Not Favored By Deer](#)". It includes information on native plants not favored by deer, plant swaps (alternatives to "deer candy"), and a comprehensive list of locally appropriate perennials, shrubs and trees.

### **Is this bug bugging you? It shouldn't!**

Hi, I'm a tippie, NOT a mosquito. You kill me without me being a danger to anyone, actually I'm a help. I don't suck blood, but I feed on the nectar of flowers helping to pollinate them. Now that you know me please don't kill me, if I mistakenly enter your house, walk me out, don't be like everyone who destroys what they can't understand.



Do you have an aspiring Entomologist in your family (AKA: a curious kid or kid at heart)? Check out <https://www.knowyourinsects.org/insectlist.html> and [https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/401Book/pdf/order\\_pictorial\\_key.pdf](https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/401Book/pdf/order_pictorial_key.pdf)

[BeCause](#) - If you love pollinators from bees to hummingbirds, this is the comfy, environmentally conscious shirt for you!



100% Recycled (60% recycled cotton / 40% post consumer recycled polyester). Plus the company donates 10% of every sale to environmental and humanitarian causes as well as planting 10 trees for every shirt sold. Win/Win/Win!

**Need some inspiration for your container gardening this year?**



Check out: <https://www.finegardening.com/article/designing-long-lasting-containers>

## Miles Away

Christel just returned from a visit to her daughter in Kenya...





Ruth Jolliffe shares:

In mid-April I took a tour along the Camino de Santiago with a small group of ten. We started in Seville with the amazing processions of Holy Week. Floats with sacred figures, carried by 40 to 50 men hidden underneath, paraded through town on Maundy Thursday from afternoon through the night and into Good Friday. The processions continued through every town through Easter Day. We traveled by bus and on foot up along the Camino de Plata (Silver route) to Santiago de Compostela. Some of the Camino routes were wide and open, some harder to navigate through wooded areas. Early spring meant lovely flowers and blooming trees along the paths, planned and unplanned. Gardens were a mix of wild and formal. On buildings there was a total mix of real and plastic flowers. In fact, most of the flowers in the churches were plastic! The Moorish influence was visible throughout. The fields were ablaze in yellow rapeseed, miles upon rolling miles. Storks built their nests on telephone poles, church steeples, chimney pots or anything tall. The weather ranged from hot and sunny to cold and rainy. The food and wine flowed easily and abundantly. Santiago was awash in pilgrims arriving in the main square morning and night. It was a good trip.



View from my hotel courtyard from my room in Seville

Narrow streets offer glimpses of terraced gardens





The garden of the hotel in Merida



A teeny-weeny orchid along The Way

The arrow and shell (symbol of Santiago/St. James), indicating the route:



**Just for Fun**



May 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Greenhouse (Sign up online)	4	5	6	7
8  Mother's Day	9	10 Plant Sale Set Up 9:00 - Noon	11 Plant Sale Set Up 9:00 - Noon	12 <b>PLANT SALE 10-1:00 &amp; 3-6:00</b>	13 <b>PLANT SALE 10-1:00</b>	14
15	16 Full "Flower Moon" 	17 Greenhouse Cleanup/Close up (Sign up online)	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day 	31				

**Plant Sale Schedule**

**Set-up:** Tuesday, May 10, 9 a.m.- Noon and Wednesday, May 11, 9 a.m.-Noon

**Sale Hours:** Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 3:00-6:00 pm.  
Friday, May 13, 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Location:** RJD Greenhouse, Coach House and Garden  
(Entry and exit from the Coach House and gates on 7<sup>th</sup> Street)

## ***A gentle reminder...***

Ever the source of wisdom and sage advice, Fran Levin shared the following from Anne Lamott's [Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life](#):

The garden is one of the two great metaphors for humanity.

The garden is about life and beauty and the impermanence of all living things.

The garden is about feeding your children, providing food for the tribe.

It's part of an urgent territorial drive that we can probably trace back to animals storing food.

It's a competitive display mechanism, like having a prize bull, this greed for the best tomatoes and English tea roses.

It's about winning; about providing society with superior things; and about proving that you have taste, and good values, and you work hard.

And what a wonderful relief, every so often, to know who the enemy is.

Because in the garden, the enemy is everything: the aphids, the weather, time.

And so you pour yourself into it, care so much, and see up close so much birth, and growth, and beauty, and danger, and triumph.

And then everything dies anyway, right?

But you just keep doing it.



*(Photo: Laura Campbell)*

*Until next time...*



“Catch me if you can!”