

# JUNE'S GARDEN

Good huswives in summer will save their own seeds,  
Against the next year's, as occasion needs.  
One seed for another, to make an exchange,  
With fellowie neighbourhood seemeth not strange.

The above advice on points of good husbandry is from a poem  
by Thomas Tusser in the 18th century...  
(A Countrywoman's Year, by Rosemary Verey)

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Last year when I mentioned to Judy Osburn that I had collected an abundance of seed from my flower garden and would like to share some with others, she asked if I would like to package some to contribute for the Cannon Beach Library Club's annual harvest sale. I packaged several different kinds of flower seeds, and a lady who had purchased a variety of seeds sent some to her mother in Kansas. The report from Kansas was that the mother's favorite flowers that grew from the seeds were Poached Egg, *Limnanthes douglasii*. She had sown the seed to grow in a 12 ft. bed with daffodils and in the spring the large bed of buttercup-like "Poached Egg" blossoms with the daffodils was a bright spot in her neighborhood after the cold Kansas winter. She also had saved the seed to share with some of her friends.

This year's Cannon Beach Library Club's Harvest Sale will be held October 27 and 28th at the Cannon Beach Chamber building. Besides a garden booth that will have plants, dried arrangements, packaged seeds and other garden materials, there will be a Barbie doll with outfits, Christmas decor, handmade scarves, mittens, the Library's cookbook, baked goods, and a quilt to be raffled. They also will have hotdogs, tea and coffee for sale. The ladies have worked hard this past year to get ready for this sale, as all proceeds are needed to continue the operations of the library. Cannon Beach is fortunate to have such a fine library. We can all do our part to help the Cannon Beach Library and Women's Club by attending the sale.

Reading the history in the cookbook the Library Club published some years ago, the Library's beginnings go back to the year 1927. In October of that year eight ladies who were year-around residents formed the Cannon Beach Civic Club whose purpose, in the words of one of the founders, was "to try and do things worthwhile for the betterment of Cannon Beach as a whole. It was unanimously agreed that a library would be very beneficial and also a welcome addition to the small village of then 50 families."

February 15, 1929, the Cannon Beach Civic Club changed its name and became the Cannon Beach Library and Women's Club, "for they dreamed a dream and a library was born." For 66 years the Club has celebrated its birthday on February 15th. With thousands of hours of volunteer labor, annual sales of donated goods, generosity of benefactors, and support of the community and visitors and a membership that has grown through the years, there now stands an attractive building filled with an extensive library for all to enjoy.

Autumn: a season to harvest and store herbs before the cold weather turns some of the tender, green leaves to brown. I gathered oregano, rosemary, thyme, parsley, chives and basil, dried some in bunches to hang in a dry, warm room, and chopped some of the leaves of parsley, chives and basil to store in the freezer. A friend gave me a bunch of leeks that I also have chopped and stored in the freezer. My raspberry patch produced six quarts of berries I made into jam. The garlic and shallots I grew now hang in my garden room braided together for future use. Next year I plan to plant more herbs among the flowers. I also successfully grew many different kinds of lavender and dried the flowers to use for potpourri. The flowers of pansies, borage, feverfew and other small flowers can be preserved, by using a press, to create framed pictures of bouquets or add to wreaths made from dried material.

Several years ago, in the fall, searching for wild Chanterelle mushrooms in the forest, I heard activity near a huge spruce tree. Investigating, I saw a yellow-bellied squirrel scamper off with a spruce cone and a few minutes later run back to the tree to gather more. A cone came pelting down out of the tree. Looking up into the branches, I saw another squirrel literally grabbing a cone, twisting it with its paws and hurling it to the ground for the other squirrel to carry off to their lair. They were so busy they never did become aware I was watching. I slowly crept away so as not to startle them. That winter we had snow and cold enough weather to break some water pipes. I've often wondered if the squirrels had sensed the cold winter that was to follow their industrious activity. There are other signs the woodsmen observe... the orange stripe of a black and orange (woolybear) caterpillar is wider than usual and much fluffier... the winter fur coats of dogs and cats are thicker... or are these "old wives' tales"? Do any of you readers know other signs to indicate what kind of winter we might have? If so, I'd like to hear from you.

My garden is decorated for Halloween! A windstorm turned my lawn into a patchwork of colors. Fallen leaves of the large-leaved maples that had turned golden, leaves of the purple plum mixed with different colored petals of the few dahlias that still are in bloom. At dusk the skeletons of the branches are silhouetted against the darkening sky and take on haunting patterns. A large grey cat with a Cheshire grin perches on top of the fence, holding my dog at bay, daring him to come one step closer. At dawn the cool autumn mornings leave moisture to outline the spider webs that cover the garden like a lace canopy. I haven't seen a witch fly through the garden, however, I'm thinking of contacting Barnum and Bailey's circus about a flying spider I found in my yard. I was amazed at its feat of performance. The silvery thread it wove spanned my deck like a tightrope, measuring 12 feet across. It was attached to the wall of my house and the other end wove through the clematis that climbs the six foot fence on the other side of the deck. Did the wind carry it such a distance, or do spiders fly?

**Question:** Do you dig up your dahlia tubers every year to store?

**Answer:** Since I've lived on the coast where winters are milder than in the valley, I have left the tubers in the ground. Every three or four years I dig them up in the spring to separate. I divide the clumps, leaving 1" of stalk attached to each tuber, which must have an eye or bud in order to produce a new plant. If you dig up your plants to store, be sure to clean off any soil and bury them in either sand, sawdust or peat moss and store in a cool, dry place. When lifting dahlias to store, wait until the tops turn yellow, cut stalks to about four inches.

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**Question:** How do you winterize tuberous begonias?

**Answer:** In the fall, when the leaves turn yellow and begin to fall, reduce watering. When stems fall off the plant on their own, lift the tuber, shake the dirt off, allow tubers to be thoroughly dry before storing. Contrary to the advice of most garden books, I have left the begonias in the pots of soil they grew in and stored them in my utility room, which stays an even temperature. Do not water the plants; they need to stay completely dry through the winter. After a season's growth, they need a winter's rest. In the spring when I see the first growth, I start feeding the plants with liquid fertilizer. It is important for the plants to have good light when they start their spring growth, but do not place them outdoors until there are no signs of frost, usually the last part of May. Begonias are very tender plants.

Be sure to save all those fallen leaves. They are the best source of carbon to use with debris full of nitrogen, like kitchen vegetable waste, garden leavings, grass clippings, weeds without seeds, as they become available. The compost will cook faster if all debris is chopped fine and a bit of dirt added in between layers. Moist leaves can be packed inside large plastic bags to decompose through the winter, or simply dig the leaves directly into the soil in the fall around your established plants. By spring the leaves will have broken down into rich humus.

Please send your gardening experiences, comments or questions about coastal gardening to:

June's Garden,  
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