



# The Spindrifter

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## Presidents:

Sue Kalish 858-452-2316  
[suekinlj@yahoo.com](mailto:suekinlj@yahoo.com)  
Sue Miller 858-454-8458  
[suem442@me.com](mailto:suem442@me.com)

## Editors:

Lynn Jewell 619-222-6985  
[jewellbox@cox.net](mailto:jewellbox@cox.net)  
Nancy Palmtag 619-224-1523  
[npalmtag@msn.com](mailto:npalmtag@msn.com)  
Susan Starr 858-455-1630  
[susanstarr1@gmail.com](mailto:susanstarr1@gmail.com)  
Deanna Weeks 619-659-8256  
[Deanna.weeks@mac.com](mailto:Deanna.weeks@mac.com)

## EBlast:

Gail Dill 619-466-8922  
[gaildill@cox.net](mailto:gaildill@cox.net)

## Webmaster:

Sara Carpenter: 858/344-5807  
[shoffelt@gmail.com](mailto:shoffelt@gmail.com)

General Meeting  
Thursday, April 22



Business Meeting: 10:00  
Program: 10:30

## EXPRESSIONS IN ART AND FLOWERS 2021 VIDEO PRESENTATION BY *RENÉ VAN REMS*



We are honored to have René van Rems create a presentation for our April meeting. René is a world-renowned ambassador of the floral industry. He also is one of the founders of San Diego's *Art Alive*, another event that interprets art through flowers.

Born in Amsterdam, René learned classical floral design in the Netherlands. He brought those skills to San Diego 40 years ago, introducing San Diego to the luxury of European floral design.

Beginning with his floral, event and design school business, Bloomen International, René went on to represent the California Cut Flower Commission for many years, speaking nationally and internationally. Recognizing his significant contribution to floral design, René has received the Poetker Award from the American Horticultural Society. He also has received (Cont. pg.3)

*~~From the Co-President's Desk~~*

We had a busy March meeting. It was such a pleasure welcoming Shane Looper, President of California Garden Clubs. We also had two fascinating speakers, Kurt Leuschner and Naomi Fraga, who educated and inspired us as we learned about Wildlife Ecology, and Floristic Discoveries and Plant Conservation in The Amargosa River Basin in Inyo County.

April is a special month as there is vitality and anticipation in both our gardens and our Club.

Although in California our change of seasons comes quietly, we see a burst of energy in our April gardens with spring flowers everywhere as the beauty of nature buds out in all its splendor. As a way to enjoy this garden beauty, Susan Starr has made available to our vaccinated members a series of three mini field trips with guided tours of the San Diego Botanical Gardens. See our website for more information. This sense of vibrancy and renewal spills over to our Club.

Expressions in Art and Flowers is a highly anticipated event, and our meetings seem to burst with energy around the preparations. This year “the show must go on” as they say, and we are excited to see how Bonnie and Janet have re-imagined our virtual experience! Additionally, we anticipate voting in our new Slate of Officers for 2021-2022. The survey that random members are participating in now will be very important for their future planning, and we thank you in advance, if selected, for taking the time to let your voice be heard.

Adding to our busy month are membership renewals and new member sponsorships which are due May 1st. Our Club is only as strong as the membership and we value the participation of each and every one of you. We know this has been a different year of membership but anticipate exciting possibilities ahead. Renewing online is most helpful, but forms can be downloaded from our website or picked up at the homes of either Dodie Williams or Sue Kalish. As you fill out your membership renewal we hope you will be thinking of ways in which you can contribute to the success of our club, lending your skills, ideas, and time to our various committees.

Appropriately, our meeting this month falls on Earth Day, April 22nd. The theme this year is “Restore our Earth.” Many people around the globe have devoted this special day to raising awareness about habitat preservation, sustainability, and the health of the planet. We are proud to acknowledge our club for doing its part!

Because we miss seeing all of you, we are going to try a different approach this month instead of a Webinar. After the Expressions presentation, we will divide the meeting into smaller “chat rooms” to give you the opportunity to engage in casual discussions. We’ll send more details as we get closer to the meeting.

Leonard Nimoy, Mr. Spock from Star Trek, said, “A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory.” Not to contradict Mr. Spock, but some of those moments can be preserved in beautiful photographs, as evidenced by the pictures of our members shared during the March meeting. During our May meeting, we would love to share pictures of your garden, what you see on your walks, and what inspires you in nature. Please send your pictures to [suekinlj@yahoo.com](mailto:suekinlj@yahoo.com). We are so fortunate to be surrounded by so much natural beauty. We hope you will share what makes you happy.

Sue and Sue / Sue <sup>2</sup>



the American Institute of Floral Designers Award for Distinguished Service to the Floral Industry. The Los Angeles Flower Market created the René van Rems Award for Excellence in Design Education. René was the first recipient.

We are delighted to have René to speak to us about interpreting art through flowers. René was very active with *Art Alive*. Along with Adrienne Greene, our Village Garden Club of La Jolla founder, René helped establish *Art Alive* at the San Diego Museum of Art. He was honored to design the showpiece of *Art Alive*, the Rotunda, seven times! René is an excellent teacher. He will cover the basics of floral design; what to think about when interpreting a piece of art; as well as mechanical tricks for achieving good results.

In filming our presentation, René interpreted 3 works of art created by our members for the 2020 Expressions in Art and Flowers. Because we were not able to showplace floral interpretations for our March 2020 Expressions meeting due to the beginning of COVID-19 restrictions, we asked three of the artists who had submitted their work to do so again for filming. They were Paige Perkins and *Summertime*; Wendy Watson Diedrich and *Yellow Bird*; Elaine Butz and *Gears*.

During the filming of the presentation, three members were chosen as winners of the arrangements that René created. They were Jocelyn Vortman, Sue Miller, and Ann Craig, (pictured)

With René as your guide, we know more members will be looking forward to entering their own expression of art in flowers next year.



**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS  
ARE AVAILABLE  
ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE

Sue Kalish and Dodie Williams also have forms at their front doors  
**May 1 Deadline**

NEW MEMBER Applications are also due on **May 1**

## BOUQUET OF THANKS

**Tillandsia Wrap Up.** Originally scheduled for March 10, our workshop was postponed a week due to the forecast for inclement weather. On March 17, the sun came out, and Sandy Small, Susie Johnson, Judith Johnson, Bonnie Sipe, and new member, Paula McGraime, met at Annette Ritchie-Buis's house to assemble Tillandsias, shells and driftwood into 118 delightful decorations for the VA Hospital. Annette, who has graciously chaired this workshop for three years now, was appreciative of all the enthusiastic volunteers and especially of Sandy and Susie, who stayed to help clean up and repack supplies.



**Kalanchoe Baskets.** Our final workshop of the year will be putting together 4" potted Kalanchoes, floral mesh baskets and flags during late May. The resulting patriotic-themed baskets are colorful, lightweight, and easy to care for... perfect for bedside tables and nursing stations.

Thank you to all who have volunteered this year to host and to help in the midst of the pandemic. And thank you to those of you who have so generously contributed funding and materials during the membership renewal and throughout the year. Because of you, we have continued uninterrupted with all of our major projects: Pumpkins for Patriots, holiday cards and poinsettias, Tillandsias, and soon-to-be Kalanchoe baskets. The VA Hospital patients and staff have been especially grateful this year for our donations, which have helped brightened their days in an especially challenging year. A common refrain when we deliver is, "You have no idea how much this means to me..."



Julia Sheldon, Chair

# Kudos

Our April Kudos go to Janet Evans and Bonnie Sipe for their creative abilities in re-imagining Expressions in Art and Flowers to avoid disappointing the membership and continuing our nearly 20-year tradition. Tasked with thinking outside the box due to pandemic restrictions, this team put their creative abilities to work combining the artistic expression of some of our members with floral interpretation from well-known designer and educator, Rene Van Rems, AIFD. Don't miss this must-see event during our April 22nd meeting.

## The Nominating Committee Announces Slate for 2021-2022

Bonnie Sipe and Penelope West, Co-Chairs, thank their committee: Ann Craig, Gaynor Pates, Mary Rogondino, and Suzanne Ward for their participation in preparing this slate.

As announced at the March Club meeting, the Nominating Committee is pleased to propose the following slate of officers for the 2021-2022 Club year:

**Co-Presidents: Susan Harris and Roz Bradley**

**1<sup>st</sup> Co-Vice Presidents: Jean Collins and Kim Devoe**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Vice Presidents: Elaine Butz and Jeanne Smith**

**Recording Secretaries: Susan Starr and Jean Thomas**

**Corresponding Secretary: Leslie Dupree**

**Treasurer: Cindy Lococo**

Though the vote confirming the new slate is normally held by voice vote at the April Club meeting, this year we will vote electronically via an e-blast. Please watch for the e-blast with instructions on how to register your vote in approximately a week's time. *Please note, only Active and Life members are eligible to vote.*

Since we are unable to meet in person, we have asked each nominee to write a brief bio to introduce herself:

### **SUSAN HARRIS, Co-President**

Susan Harris joined the VGCLJ in 2018 at the invitation of friends who knew that she loves everything about flowers and floral design. Until recently she owned a family farm with her siblings but readily admits that she is most comfortable caring for potted plants and trees on her patio. Her introduction to service in the club was through Schoolyard Gardens and the Refreshment Committee. During the past two years, she has enjoyed working with Sheryl Lester to provide live and online educational programs that reflect the broad interests of the club. She wholeheartedly embraces both the objectives of our club and its impact on the community, and she will be honored to assist in steering it forward into the future.

### **ROZ BRADLEY, Co-President**

Roz was born in the UK, where she lived until she was 25. She learned to love gardening by helping her mother nurture her rural English garden. After moving to California, she lived in Los Angeles and Pasadena for many years before moving to San Diego in 2002 when she and her late husband, Bill, were both recruited to UCSD's Radiology Department. Following retirement, she joined the VGCLJ in 2014 and has been active on both the Bouquet of Thanks Committee and the Magazine Library Committee. She also assisted with the Alice Waters "Meet the Masters" luncheon by organizing reservations and co-chaired the last Marine Room Holiday Luncheon. She looks forward to being actively involved in our club for many years to come and hopes to get together with everyone again soon.

**JEAN COLLINS, 1<sup>st</sup> Co-Vice President for Programs**

Born in North Carolina, Jean has called San Diego home for over fifty years. During that time she and her husband, Mike, raised three daughters, and Jean worked as an ASID interior designer and volunteered with the Junior League. Last year she served as President of The Wednesday Club of San Diego. Her favorite hobby is oil painting, especially portraits, and she aspires to becoming an educated gardener.

**KIM DEVOE, 1<sup>st</sup> Co-Vice President for Programs**

An East Coast transplant, La Jolla has been my home for many years. I have three grown sons, and I am a retired physician. I currently work part-time as a bookseller at Warwick's, and I have recently been volunteering at the PETCO and Sharp Coronado vaccination centers. Being a member of the Village Garden Club for the past few years has been a wonderful experience, and I have participated in refreshments, programs, and guest registration. I am excited to be working on our speaker program for the upcoming year with Jean Collins.

**ELAINE BUTZ, 2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Vice-President for Workshops**

My interest in horticulture and the arts goes way back to my early years growing up in Pacific Beach. I was introduced to gardening and horticulture by my aunt, Ottilie Bennett, who owned and operated Bennett's Garden Center in La Jolla. I worked there many summers doing floral arrangements and plant maintenance. My interest in gardening led me to Cal Poly Pomona where I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in ornamental horticulture. After college, I taught horticulture and floral design in the Los Angeles Unified School District before returning to my native San Diego. I have been a member of the Village Garden Club since 2010. My main focus has been in the Expressions in Art and Flowers Committee for several years and, along with Suzanne Barclay, co-chaired the event in 2019. I am a lover of nature and the outdoors. Gardening is one of my favorite hobbies. Planning adventure travel offering unique outdoor experiences is also on my list of "love to do." I have been drawn to our club because of its community involvement, outstanding programs, and interesting membership. I am looking forward to serving as the 2nd Co-Vice President of Workshops along with Jeanne Smith. Our goal is to plan fun and unique workshops for our members.

**JEANNE SMITH, 2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Vice President for Workshops**

On any given day you will find Jeanne in her backyard art studio painting and listening to classical music while, at the same time, baking something yummy and delicious in her kitchen which is only a few steps away! Along with baking and art she loves ballet, photography, and family time. For several years, Jeanne conducted various design workshops along with fellow member, Melody Petersen. They also published a quarterly Petersen-Smith newsletter that included recipes, garden tips, and fun facts. Jeanne has been a member of the VGCLJ since 1996. She has conducted several VGCLJ workshops and served on many of the committees. She has also been a participant and MC for our Expressions in Art and Flowers event. She is enthusiastically looking forward to this coming year.

**SUSAN STARR, Co-Recording Secretary**

Susan moved to San Diego in 1980 with her husband and two children. When she retired in 2007 from a career directing libraries at UC San Diego, club member, Irene Allison, encouraged her to join the Village Garden Club. An avid gardener, Susan is a docent at the San Diego Botanic Garden and a Master Gardener. She loves all things gardening, especially the Village Garden Club. She is looking forward to another year as Club Secretary.

**JEAN THOMAS, Co-Recording Secretary**

Jean is a La Jolla native who returned to the area in 2015 after 30 years working near New York City in brand management at Nabisco, Kraft, and Wyndham. She joined the Village Garden Club in 2016 and is enjoying learning more about gardening after many years when the weather wasn't too kind to gardens. Jean works part time as a consultant and remarried two years ago. She enjoys travel, volunteer activities, cooking, and reading, and she and her husband are learning to sail.

**LESLIE DUPREE, Corresponding Secretary**

Born in Berkeley, it was in my family's backyard garden where my dad shared his love of nature, large and small, with his four daughters. We spent hours together pruning the grape vines and snacking on radishes. Today, gardening is my little sanctuary. Ultimately, I landed in San Diego for college and a career in education. When my husband and I started our family, I left education. From there my two sons' activities led me to numerous community groups which I thoroughly enjoyed. I served on the board of Rady Children's Hospital for a number of years, including being President in 2020. Other interests I enjoy include cycling, hiking, cooking, reading, traveling, golfing, and time with family and friends. I joined the VGCLJ in 2013 at Kitty Spence's invitation and have enjoyed being on committees for Meet the Masters, May Luncheon, Holiday Bake Sale, and Expressions. It is a pleasure being a part of this dynamic membership with all its talented and knowledgeable members with our mission to educate and beautify the community. I'm looking forward to another year with the VGCLJ.

**CINDY LOCOCO, Treasurer**

My sister, Linda Morse, introduced me to the VGCLJ. She had wonderful things to say and encouraged me to join. My gardening skills at that time were average, just what I had learned from my mother growing up. Now I would say they are a bit above average and my garden has improved so much. My skills are more in the accounting field, so I have been the Treasurer for the last few years. I really enjoy looking after the finances and hope to continue until someone arm wrestles it away from me (or until it is no longer fun)!

*Editor's Note:*

What an awesome slate of officers.

Thanks to all the ladies who asked and to all the ladies who said yes!

## APRIL 2021 CALENDAR

by Pat Park

San Diego is currently in the red zone with zoos, parks, some museums, outdoor and some indoor dining open following COVID directions. I have included suggestions for places to walk that have gardens to see. **Famous San Diego Tourist attractions are now open but MOST REQUIRE RESERVATIONS. Depending on the rate of infections, San Diego may be moved to a less restrictive level. Please keep that in mind and check with the venues.**

### PLACES TO GO

**Point Loma Native Plant Garden** - Walk the trails and enjoy the flowering plants. Open 24 hours. Enter using pedestrian gate to the right of the big gate. 4444 Green Street SD, 92107, off Voltaire St. More information, [www.sandiegoriver.org](http://www.sandiegoriver.org) or 619-297-7380.

**San Diego Zoo and Safari Park** - for Reservations, tickets, and more information:

<http://www.SanDiegoZoo.org/Reservations> and <http://www.SDZSafariPark.org/Reservations/org>.

**Sea World** - For reservations, tickets, and more information <http://www.Seaworld.com>

**San Diego Botanic Garden** - Open Wed – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For reservations, tickets, and more information: <http://www.sdbgarden.org>

**San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden** - Daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Garden cherry trees are blooming now and soon the trees will be leafing. Go soon. Please review reopening policies and restrictions regarding COVID 19 including some bridges in Balboa Park at: <http://www.niwa.org>

**Seven Bridges Hike.** - An easy 6-mile urban hike (or walk) starting in Balboa Park with 7 bridges taking you through beautiful neighborhoods, including eateries, museums, and watering holes in case you want a break. The walk can be broken into several smaller walks. For information about the bridges and maps of the walk: <https://hannahunbound.com/post/the-seven-bridges-hike/>

### ACTIVITIES

**April 2 – May 2** - Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and selected dates. **Seven Seas Food Festival** at Sea World- Park -admission - Festival hours - 11:00 a.m. to Park Close. Food and Beverage Sampler Tasting Lanyards :10 samples \$60; 15 samples \$75. More information <http://www.Seaworld.com>

### ORGANIZATION WEBSITES TO INVESTIGATE

[San Diego Epiphyllum Society https://www.sandiegoepi.org](https://www.sandiegoepi.org)

[San Diego Botanic Garden http://www.sdbgarden.org](http://www.sdbgarden.org)

[San Diego Bonsai Club https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

[San Diego County Orchid Society http://sdorchids.com](http://sdorchids.com)

[California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter http://cnpssd.org](http://cnpssd.org)

[San Diego Floral Association http://sdfloral.org](http://sdfloral.org)

[Friendship Garden of San Diego http://niwa.org](http://niwa.org)

[San Diego Rose Society http://sdrosesociety.org](http://sdrosesociety.org)

[Ikebana International Chapter 119 of San Diego http://ikebanasandiego.org](http://ikebanasandiego.org)

[San Diego Bromeliad Society http://sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

[San Diego Master Gardener Association http://mastergardenersd.org](http://mastergardenersd.org)





## Over the Garden Gate Betty Sipe



Born in Arkansas, raised in Indianapolis, I was married and lived 6 years on Chicago's South Side, then 2 years in Palo Alto. We moved to La Jolla in 1974 when my husband joined the medical faculty at UCSD. A few years later he joined Scripps Clinic where he practiced and did research until his retirement. My college major was biology and I worked in research labs until our first son was born. After landing in San Diego, I went back to school at SDSU to receive an interior design degree. I was involved in design work at Bishops while our sons attended, at St James Church where we have been members, and at The Athenaeum where I served on the Board.

I have been a VGCLJ garden club member forever! Although I was working full time as an interior designer, I joined the club with my mother, Maisie Power, in 1997. Gardening and a garden club had been an important part of my mother's life in Indianapolis. Now that she had purchased a home in La Jolla, I hoped that membership in a local garden club would introduce her to potential like-minded new friends. The meetings at that time were held on Helen Dawson's back patio with about 20 members in attendance.

After attending a few meetings that year, I had a hemorrhagic stroke. Then followed 8 months of intensive therapy and a sabbatical year spent in Milan and London. I returned to membership in the club in 2001 and boy had it grown! By this time we were meeting at Torrey Pines Christian Church with more than 200 members.

I have been involved in Expressions as a floral designer, serving as Chair twice. I have been a member of the Healing Garden, the Jacaranda committee, and Schoolyard Gardens. Absolutely the best position was as Speaker Chair. Our garden club has a marvelous national reputation and a budget that permits us to invite a large selection of interesting and informative guests. It has also been a privilege to serve as Co-President with Penelope West.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

## Tree Planting Program

As you know, we have steered this committee to expand from solely Jacaranda trees to include habitat trees. Understandably, that has led some members to ask: What does a habitat tree look like? Our initial thinking centered on California natives such as the Engelmann Oak and the Western Redbud. However, our thinking has since evolved to include trees recognized by the city as beneficial for the environment by having some of the following characteristics:

- Provides year-round shade and serves as a green oasis in the built environment;
- Offers habitat for animals and insects, especially pollinators;
- Scores well on the carbon sequestration spectrum, helping to cool the planet;
- Is considered drought tolerant;
- And, most importantly, creates beauty and/or future landmark trees.

Without any images, it may be difficult for members to visualize what such trees might look like. So, we are including images of two trees that score high with these desirable features.

Co Chairs Devonna Hall and Penelope West



New Zealand Christmas Tree



Red Gum Tree



## FRIENDS AND ENEMIES

## Flea Beetles

By Arthur Dawson

Flea beetles are small, most species measuring 1/16 to 1/8 inches across, and are equipped with powerful posterior legs enabling them to jump like fleas. There are thousands of species, but the one of interest to us is *Epitrix fuscula*, the eggplant flea beetle. It feeds on a variety of solanaceous plants, but for us it is a troublesome pest only on eggplants. Its depredations produce a characteristic pattern of punctures on the leaves which, when severe, leave them looking like lace curtains. You'll find plenty of images on the Internet showing the typical stigmata. The damage threatens the health of the plants mainly when they are seedlings less than six inches tall. The beetles don't seem able to jump up to the new growth of larger plants and also are less evident later in the season.

The eggs overwinter in the soil, and the larvae feed on the roots of the plants where they don't seem to affect their growth very much. A few adults on even small seedlings aren't a problem, but they can appear in scores with results that can be from severely stunting to lethal.

They prefer eggplants to other hosts though they do attack tomatoes, potatoes, and other vegetables of the nightshade family. I've seen minor damage on tomato seedlings but never on peppers. The only other vegetable that suffers significant damage from flea beetles in our garden is okra. There the perpetrator belongs to a different genus, probably *Nisostra* or *Podagrica*. The former genus is reported from Asia and Africa and the latter from Europe, but I've found no specific identification of a flea beetle attacking okra in North America. We've had trouble with them only occasionally, probably because we grow no other vegetables of the mallow family, and our crop rotation is effective for them, whereas it is impossible for our many plantings of the nightshade family.

Recommendations for protecting eggplants from flea beetles include surrounding the plants with a 'trap crop' like radishes. The idea is that the pests will be appeased with the radishes and will not move on to the eggplants. I believe that the writers offering this suggestion are confused. Another species of flea beetle, *Phyllotreta cruciferae*, is an important pest attacking radishes, broccoli, and other crops of the mustard family. *E. fuscula* is fussy about its host, and I have never seen any sign of flea beetle damage on any of our cole crops.

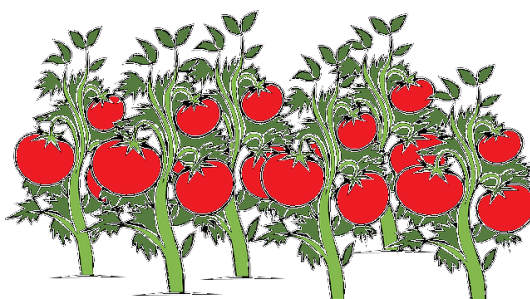
Most sources recommend protecting young seedlings with row cover. I don't think that's going to work in our garden because the soil in all of our beds probably contains plenty of eggs. If you do use row cover, it's important to inspect the plants frequently to be sure they are not being attacked. This is so for any type of physical barrier, because once pests get inside it they can feast undisturbed and protected from their natural enemies.

In years past we treated young eggplants with a single dusting of rotenone or carbaryl (Sevin). Both were very effective. Rotenone has not been available as an agricultural pesticide for at least a decade, and the sale of carbaryl to California consumers was discontinued last August. Spinosad is recommended to treat flea beetles on eggplants though it is acknowledged to be "only 50% effective." That is consistent with my

experience. I've seen surviving beetles on the plants even after several applications. It's really surprising to see government websites advising spinosad for flea beetles. Killing 50% of the most sensitive individuals, leaving the less susceptible to breed, is a sure-fire way to encourage resistance in a population.

OK, Doc. You've told us about all of the treatments that aren't likely to work. What should we do to protect our eggplants? Well, if you're new to vegetable gardening, you probably won't have to worry too much about pests and diseases. Go ahead and enjoy growing heirloom tomatoes for a year or two. The most important measure against flea beetles is to be sure that the plants are up to perhaps 8 to 10 inches in height before setting them out, whether you grow them from seed, as we do, or buy them from a nursery. I will use row covers for a week or two, being careful to inspect the plants for evidence of attack every few days. If they are attacked, I'll remove the row cover, taking comfort in the fact that they've reached a size where damage to the lower leaves shouldn't affect their health too much.

grow



**DON'T MISS OUT!!!!**

Join our closed Facebook page to.....share gardening tips.....learn about gardening events.....donate surplus food and veggies.....ask plant care questions.....and much more!

**Log into your Facebook Page, search VGCLJ Chat Room**

Happy



Everyone!