



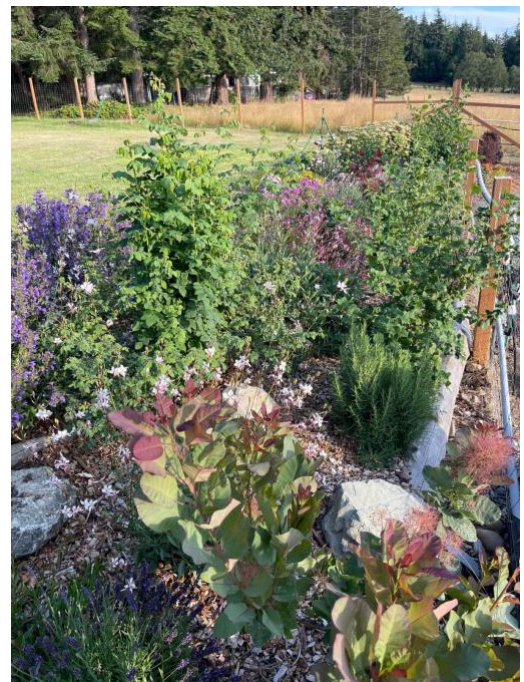
September 2023

Dear Reader,



You may be wondering - what is going on with the property across from the Inn at Ship Bay. A few ideas have trickled in, such as, “She’s planting one of everything! And “pot” or, “the glass building is a new restaurant.” An avid gardener for 30+ years, I never plant one of anything - as evidenced by the 40 hydrangeas, 12 ninebarks, 200 native perennials, 75 roses, 200 iris, 150 peony, 400 lilies, 150 day lilies, 40 orchard trees, 125 grapes, 40 berries and 0 pot plants plugged into an acre in less than a year. After a year of toil, and, this is subject to change, here’s our big idea for The Little Farm on Olga Road, which is directly across the street from the Inn at Ship Bay, but not their new restaurant.

When Allan and I moved to Orcas Island two years ago, we had no intention of developing a farm. We did want to do something with our fallow hay field furiously growing tansy weed in severely depleted soil. Initially we wanted to create a habitat for native bees and birds. Then we met Alex Wolf, who designed and manages the Orcas Christian School’s permaculture garden. Alex and Emmet Wood, a Master Gardener, and both trained at the world-renowned Bullock’s permaculture farm, opened our eyes to a world of possibilities. Over several months, they carefully crafted a plan for our farm; a permaculture vision we never could have imagined on our own. Then I took Floret’s online course for aspiring cut flower



growers, and things shifted towards growing flowers too. One year in, we have absolutely accomplished the goal of creating space for native bees. Our place is positively teeming with birds, bees, and hummingbirds. As we ramp up, we have been able to provide free flowers to our neighbors, the Chamber Music Festival, and the Food Bank.



For now, the Little Farm's focus is on planting and establishing perennials, whether berry, fruit, or flower. All take time to root in and take off, but we are blown away at how fast things are growing. Give us three years and this farm will absolutely transform. In 2024 we will open our farm stand and You Pick Sweet Pea Patch. The stand will offer eggs from our 40 chickens; vegetables; market bouquets and cut flowers; super food berries and fruit; glorious hanging baskets; unique potted containers that include collections of sedums, medicinal herbs, edible flowers like scented geraniums, and other unique perennials; and we want to offer rare plants and trees propagated and grown from seed right here on the farm.

As an avid educator, I am also excited to eventually offer "How To" workshops out of our spectacular barn, where locals and visitors can learn how to: pick and design meadow bouquets, make savory jams, pinot noir jellies from our wine grapes, and learn how to pickle vegetables. Allan and I also want to provide the barn space for local experts to offer informative workshops on how to build and nurture a productive pond, build a chicken coop, manage a greenhouse, utilize beneficial bugs and organic growing practices, weave a basket, and much more.





It's a lot. We know. But Allan and I love hard work and with the passion and skill of Frank Gates, we have come far in building the infrastructure for this project. Most importantly, Allan and I are committed to building something truly special at The Little Farm on Olga Road. Give us a honk of encouragement as you drive by. You will likely see us outside toiling away to build our soil, provide habitat for the bees and birds, growing nutritious food and gathering up gorgeous flowers - all to be a positive contributor to our community and the visitors who come to beautiful Orcas Island.

Carol Wetzel & Allan Tone